

WTTG-TV/Channel 5  
Program Information Report  
Second Quarter 2016

Short-Form Programming

The following contains information on locally produced public service announcements as well as a list of community organizations and government agencies that addressed local issues through public service announcements.

Public service announcements that aired included but were not limited to the following issues:

Community  
Crime  
Education  
Environment  
Government  
Health  
Substance Abuse  
Youth

Public service announcements provided by the following organizations:

American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons  
America's Family Physicians  
Arbor Day Foundation  
Ask About the Curve  
Avocados from Mexico  
Boards of Pharmacy  
Child Fund International  
Disabled American Veterans  
EPA PSA  
Foster Grandparents  
Hepatitis C  
Iraq and Afghanistan Vets of America  
Just Play  
LLS Light the Night  
National Insurance Crime Bureau  
National Park Foundation  
National Pest Management  
National Runaway Safeline  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Partnership for Drug-Free Kids  
Salute4Vets  
Scam Awareness/Stop IRS Scams

**St. Jude Hospitals**  
**USA Swimming Foundation**  
**US Veteran's Affairs**  
**Vet Tix**  
**Veterans Crisis Line**

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### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT**

Micheline Bowman- April 6, 2016- to serve as a panelist/guest speaker at the 1<sup>st</sup> Mid Atlantic College Media Arts and Communication Conference at Prince George's Community College

Micheline Bowman- April 6, 2016- to serve as the speaker for the Prince George's Community College Interpersonal Communications class

Allison Seymour- April 23, 2016- MC 5k Run/Walk to raise money for Ellie's Cure at 8am located at Abingdon Elementary School in South Arlington, VA

Allison Seymour-April 29, 2016- to serve as a guest speaker at the Career Day for Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy Elementary school. The event runs from 830am to 1130am

Wisdom Martin- May 5, 2016- to host the Annual Charity Roast honoring legendary NBA sport agent David Falk

Allison Seymour – May 25, 2016- to serve as guest speaker for the eighth grade Center City Public Charter Luncheon- 1pm at Maggiano's

Allison Seymour- May 25, 2016- to serve as the emcee for the Annual Service Awards Ceremony for the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning- Montgomery Division from 10am-12pm

Allison Seymour- June 9, 2016- to serve as the Career Day Guest Speaker at her former school- Brightwood Education Campus from 9am-3pm

Ronica Cleary- June 10-11, 2016- to serve as a judge for the Miss Delaware Pageant

Allison Seymour- TBD- to serve as a guest speaker at T.C. Williams High School- date is open to fit her schedule

Wisdom Martin-TBD- to serve as a guest speaker at the John Poole Middle School Eighth Grade Career Day



## BUZZR E/I Programming Descriptions

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### Animal Rescue

Each episode of *Animal Rescue* shows real life, in-the-field experiences of professional and ordinary people taking care of, treating, and helping various animals, as well as exhibiting good social responsibility and promoting strong personal and community values.

### Dog Tales

Each episode of *Dog Tales* includes dog safety and care tips, as well as lessons for teenagers on the responsibility of owning a dog. The show also provides informative segments on various dog breeds and showcases various veterinary experts explaining different issues affecting canines.

### Stanley on the Go

*Stanley on the Go* is a weekly educational program that showcases the importance of learning about various historical places around the world. The series visits museums, castles, monuments, and other interesting places across the United States and throughout Asia and Europe.



## ON THE HILL

FOX5 News on The Hill is a ½ live political show featuring FOX5 Political Reporters Tom Fitzgerald & Ronica Cleary, along with The Hill's Editor in Chief Bob Cusack as hosts. The show airs each Sunday at 8:30am. The hosts report and analyze the big headlines and stories from the campaign trail, along with political news from the White House and Capitol Hill.

### Episodes 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2016:

- Sunday, April 3
- Sunday, April 10
- Sunday, April 17
- Sunday, April 24
- Sunday, May 1
- Sunday, May 8
- Sunday, May 15
- Sunday, May 22
- Sunday, May 29
- Sunday, June 6
- Sunday, June 12
- Sunday, June 19
- Sunday, June 26

WTTG/Channel 5

Program Information Report



*Fox 5 Morning News at 4:25am* – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 4:25-5:00am and covers local, national and international stories; weather, traffic and sports updates; interviews with local and political leaders.

*Fox 5 Morning News* – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 4:30-10:00am and covers local, national and international stories; weather, traffic and sports updates; interviews with local and political leaders.

*Fox 5 News at Five* – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 5:00-6:00pm and covers news headlines, provides sports and weather information and gives updates on local news stories.

*Fox 5 News Edge at Six* – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 6:00-6:30pm and covers news headlines, sports, weather and local news.

*Fox 5 News at Ten* – A daily one hour news program that airs from 10:00-11:00pm featuring local, national and international news headlines as well as in depth local stories, investigative reports, sports and weather information.

*Fox 5 News Edge at Eleven* – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 11:00-11:30pm featuring local news, weather and sports.

Origination: Local

Issues addressed:

1. Crime
2. Local politics
3. National politics
4. Health
5. Education
6. Community
7. Housing
8. Transportation
9. Environment
10. Children

*Fox News Sunday* – A one hour weekly program, airing Sundays from 9:00-10:00am that looks at the most pressing issues of the week from the White House, Congress and Capitol Hill, the Supreme Court and various government agencies and conducts interviews with political newsmakers.

Origination: Network

## **2nd Quarter 2016 FOX News Sunday Quarterly Report**

**April 3, 2016- June 26, 2016**

### **April 3**

**2016**

Donald Trump (R), Presidential Candidate

**2016/State of the GOP**

Reince Priebus, GOP Chairman

### **April 10**

**Obama Presidency**

President Barack Obama

### **April 17**

**2016**

Corey Lewandowski, Trump Campaign Manager

**Zika Virus**

Dr Anthony Fauci, NIAID DIRECTOR

### **April 24**

**2016**

Paul Manafort, Trump Campaign Manager

**2016**

Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Democratic National Committee Chair

### **May 1**

**2016**

Donald Trump (R), Presidential Candidate

**2016**

Sen Ted Cruz (R-TX), Presidential Candidate

### **May 8**

**2016**

Paul Manafort, Trump Campaign Manager/Trump Strategist

**NC & HB2**

Pat McCrory (R), North Carolina Governor

## May 15

### **2016/Trump**

Reince Priebus, RNC Chairman

### **2016/Trump**

Newt Gingrich, Former House Speaker/Fox News Contributor

Rep Tim Huelskamp (R-KS), House Freedom Caucus

## May 22

### **TSA**

Jeh Johnson, Homeland Security Secretary

### **Terrorism**

Rep Michael McCaul (R-TX), Chairman Homeland Security Committee

### **Terrorism/2016/Trump**

Sen Jeff Sessions (R-AL), Chair, Trump National Security Committee

## May 29

### **2016**

Corey Lewandowski, Trump Campaign Manager

### **HRC Emails**

Rep Adam Schiff (D-CA), Ranking Member, Intelligence Committee

Sen James Lankford (R-OK), Intelligence Committee

## June 5

### **2016**

John Podesta, Hillary for America Campaign Chair

### **2016**

Newt Gingrich, Former House Speaker/Fox News Contributor

## June 12

### **2016/Trump**

Sen Jeff Sessions (R-AL), Chair, Trump National Security Committee

### **2016/HRC**

Sen Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Hillary Supporter

## June 19

### **Orlando/Guns**

Loretta Lynch, U.S. Attorney General

### **2016/Trump**

Sen Jeff Sessions (R-AL), Chair, Trump National Security Committee

**June 26**

**2016/Trump**

Newt Gingrich, Former House Speaker/Fox News Contributor

**2016/HRC**

Robby Mook, Clinton Campaign Manager

# SAMPLE OF ISSUE RESPONSIVE NEWS PROGRAMMING

2Q 2016

*HEALTH*  
*JUNE 2016*

## **DC announces new lead standards after dangerous levels found in school water**

By: Lindsay Watts

**WASHINGTON** - D.C. has announced new standards to prevent high lead levels in school drinking water after new testing showed 6% of water sources had dangerous levels of lead.

"Deputy City Administrator Kevin Donahue announced that the Department of General Services will move to incorporate a 1 PPB (part-per-billion) action level for lead tests on drinking water sources in District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) and Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) centers. The effort comes on the heels of last week's report by the American Academy of Pediatrics, *Prevention of Childhood Lead Toxicity*, that lead testing resulting in a reading of more than 1 PPB should be immediately remediated," reads a press release provided to FOX 5.

The prior standard was 15 PPB.

Additionally, district officials said they will start installing filters on all drinking water sources at public schools, public libraries and rec centers, at a cost of \$2 million at the onset and \$1.5 million annually. Implementation is expected to be completed this calendar year.

"Lead exposure in children is preventable, and we will be working diligently to set policy at our facilities that goes far beyond EPA standards," said Kevin Donahue, Deputy City Administrator. "By investing the time, training, and resources to follow the new recommendations outlined by the American Academy of Pediatrics, we will ensure that the District continues to do everything it can to protect our children, and limit students' exposure to lead."

This comes after public officials apologized for failing to take proper steps after high levels of lead were discovered at multiple D.C. schools. At that time, a nationwide expert on lead exposure told FOX 5 he believed the district should either put filters on all fountains or go to a bottled water policy.

The Department of General Services began testing all water sources in every school and rec center last month.

Donahue revealed to FOX 5 Tuesday night that testing is now complete and about 6% of water sources tested had lead levels of 15 PPB or higher. Donahue said that includes 35 drinking fountains out of the 2,400 tested.

Donahue said the recent report by the American Academy of Pediatrics saying no amount of lead exposure is safe for children clarified the standard D.C. should hold itself to.

“It catalyzed and clarified that decision we were leaning toward already,” Donahue said.

This policy is slated to be included in Deputy City Administrator Donahue’s testimony before the Council of the District of Columbia’s Committees on Education and Transportation and the Environment on Wednesday, June 22. For more information on lead testing and exposure in the District visit [www.oca.dc.gov/lead](http://www.oca.dc.gov/lead).

## *EDUCATION*

*JUNE 2016*

### **First student with Down syndrome graduates from DC Public Schools**

By: Laura Evans

**WASHINGTON** - It is that time of year as 2016 graduates are receiving their diplomas. On Tuesday, graduates at Woodrow Wilson High School gathered at American University's Bender Arena for their big day.

But it was an especially big day for one graduate in particular who made history on this day. Madison Essig said walking across the stage with her diploma was a proud moment for her.

“I’m so happy I’m graduating,” she said. “I have come so far in what I have done.”

Essig is the first student with Down syndrome to graduate from Wilson High School with a full diploma. She is also likely the first student with Down syndrome to graduate from a D.C. Public Schools with a full diploma.

“When Madison was born, we were told she would walk, but there was no guarantee that she would ever read or write,” said her mother Kimberly Templeton.

Madison and her mother said the biggest obstacle in her development wasn't Madison's ability – it was the education system. Schools were reluctant to give her access to the full curriculum because they told her it simply hadn't been done before. So Templeton pushed.

“What I wanted was her not to be labeled as a kid with Down syndrome, but just be a kid who had the opportunity to achieve,” she said. “Until she proves she can't do it, let's not stop her now.”

Essig not only proved she could do it, but she rose to the top. She graduated as a member of the National Honor Society with a 3.7 grade point average.

“I hope Madison serves sort of as an example that it is possible for someone with Down syndrome to reach their full potential if given the opportunity,” said Templeton.

*CRIME*

*JUNE 2016*

## **DC family still seeking answers about death of 19-year-old reportedly shot 22 times by police**

By: Tisha Lewis

**WASHINGTON** - A Northeast D.C. family wants answers about their loved one's death. Police reportedly shot the teenage boy 22 times nearly three years ago. Since then, the family said efforts to find out what happened have been ineffective.

Darius Murphy was fatally shot outside of his grandmother's home. FOX 5 has learned police killed the 19-year-old after suspecting he had a gun. There was also an altercation between Murphy and police. An officer was also shot during the confrontation, but survived.

Murphy's family retained an attorney and filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to learn more about the confrontation, but there are still no answers.

That FOIA request was apparently filed in January after years of unanswered questions.

"I just want to know why it happened, what was the reason for it happening," said Julianne Murphy-Geddie, Darius' mother. "Me and my brother have been working together trying to find out what's been going on."

Calvin Murphy said that in addition to his nephew being shot 22 times, "He also had an eye socket that got kicked out when he was underneath the vehicle."

The shooting happened just steps away from Calvin's front porch on December 3, 2013.

"We're still waiting with respect to that request," said Calvin.

He said a FOIA report would reveal more about what happened to his nephew. The report would include officers' sworn statements, forensic evidence and witness accounts.

"I recently talked to my attorney and we're just waiting," Calvin said. "We don't know what's going on."

"I just want some answers," said Murphy-Geddie.

Darius Murphy was reportedly on his way to school when police confronted him.

"He was on his way to school when all of this happened because he always stopped past his grandmother's house in the evening on the way going to school to get his GED," said Julianne Murphy-Geddie.

Nearly three years later, the family's attorney, Edward Leyden, said the four police officers involved in the shooting were cleared of any criminal charges, but an internal investigation is underway.

FOX 5 reached out to D.C. police for a response about Murphy's FOIA request and they said they are working on providing an update.

## *TRANSPORTATION*

*MAY 2016*

### **Metro GM Paul Wiedefeld addresses system crisis, safety, riders' concerns in live interview on FOX 5**

By: Fox 5 DC Staff

**WASHINGTON** - Metro General Manager Paul Wiedefeld appeared live in the FOX 5 DC studios on Monday morning-- which was also another challenging morning on the rails. For over 26 minutes without interruption, Wiedefeld fielded questions from FOX 5's Steve Chenevey, Tom Fitzgerald, Holly Morris and Melanie Alnwick, who was in the field covering Metro's Monday morning issues, as well as dozens of FOX 5 viewers.

Hundreds of people submitted questions on social media using the hashtag #AskMetroGM, During the interview, Wiedefeld addressed issues from safety to smoke incidents to what has led to the demise of the rail system, and communication about the realities of the system's problems.

ust Friday, Wiedefeld unveiled the transit system's plan to repair the failing rail system-- a year-long plan that includes closures and lengthy single-tracking periods on all six lines, beginning in early June.

One of FOX 5's viewers tweeted a question for Wiedefeld, pointing out that she's now carrying a survival kit-- including a scarf, water and flashlight-- when she rides the train each day. Wiedefeld said passengers shouldn't have to. As he's said on several occasions, Wiedefeld said decades of issues have led to the current state of Metrorail, and he's trying to address those issues.

During the interview, FOX 5 showed Wiedefeld a portion of an emotional interview reporter Bob Barnard did with Dr. Lilian Pitts, who was on the train during the deadly smoke incident at L'Enfant Plaza. It took place at an NTSB hearing on Metro, one Pitts had to leave because emotionally, she couldn't take it. After watching Pitts' reaction, Wiedefeld said it was terrible to see.

"That's why the actions I've been taking, and the actions I need to take in the future is trying to obviously make sure that we never have to do that again-- that nobody ever has to experience that again," Wiedefeld said.

### **SAFETRACK: THE NEW PLAN TO FIX A SYSTEM IN CRISIS**

The comprehensive SafeTrack plan unveiled Friday by Wiedefeld condenses five years of work into one year. One of the big things that is different about this approach, he said, is the long periods of single-tracking, some of which will be for weeks on end. That, he said, along with the planned shutdowns on every line, makes the plan different than the approaches that have been used in the past to fix the rail system, without success.

"Historically we've been trying to do this while maintaining a level of service that is just not sustainable," Wiedefeld explained.

As it stands, Metro's maintenance crews have 33 hours a week to do work when trains aren't in service, but Wiedefeld explained the amount of time for "true work" is much less than that, considering it takes an hour and a half for crews to get in to the track areas and set up, and then the same amount of time to get out. That means crews only get about two hours of work on a regular night-- and that's not cutting it.

"If we don't do this, in my estimation, we continue the path we've been on for decades, and as the system gets older by the minute and the conditions are getting worse by the minute, in my estimation you're not going to get there, and that's why I've come up with this plan," Wiedefeld explained.

### **RIDERS ASK: WHY ARE WE PAYING THE SAME FOR LESS SERVICE?**

Ahead of this interview, FOX 5 viewers submitted a flood of questions for Wiedefeld using the hashtag #AskMetroGM. One of the most-asked questions related to the price of service, especially when the level of service is, so obviously, unacceptable. Should riders really be paying full fares for service they're not really getting?

Wiedefeld said he's heard the question, and he certainly understands why it gets asked.

"We have to remember that all of the work you're seeing is paid primarily-- or a good portion of it-- is from the local jurisdictions, and from the fare box," he said.

"That's the financial challenge that we face," Wiedefeld added.

## **COMMUNICATIONS BREAKDOWNS**

With the new SafeTrack plan will come many changes and service adjustments, and plenty of information that all riders will need to have access to. But that isn't as easy as it should be, especially recently. Video from several incidents has first appeared on one DC station-- WRC-- before other stations, and in some cases, only on one station. But as FOX 5 reporter Tom Fitzgerald pointed out to Wiedefeld, regardless of which station they watch, every citizen needs the information about safety, and they need to see it everywhere.

From his perspective, Wiedefeld said he tries to spread himself as far and wide as possible when it comes to appearing in the media, and he will continue to do so. But in cases of video or information being selectively distributed, Wiedefeld said he agrees that the information needs to be made available to everyone-- regardless of which station they might turn on.

"From what I control, yes, but there's lots of other sources of some of this stuff," Wiedefeld said.

Last Thursday, for instance, two fires on the tracks at Federal Center Station SW forced Wiedefeld to shut down the station so all of the third rail insulators could be replaced. Video of one of the fires that morning near the platform inside the station-- taken from a Metro security camera-- made it to WRC, but when FOX 5 asked for the same video, we were first told it wasn't from Metro. Later, we were told it wasn't available. Many hours later, it was finally distributed to the other TV stations in the area, and the Washington Post.

With regard to that particular incident, Wiedefeld said, "I'm not certain how that first video got out."

## **INSIDE METRO: CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION**

Wiedefeld says his direction for the future is something he's clearly communicating to all employees at WMATA. In fact, he said last week, he sent a note to all of Metro's 650 managers reinforcing his priorities. He also says he reminded them that they are at-will employees, and that everyone has to be held accountable across the board.

On Tuesday, Wiedefeld also revealed, he will hold what he believes to be the first-ever meeting with every one of Metro's 650 managers to cover his priorities-- and his expectations. His first expectation, he told FOX 5's Steve Chenevey, is about safety, and he says it's not something that should have to come all the way to him before it's addressed.

"That's something that as people see something, they need to do something about it," Wiedefeld said.

But is Wiedefeld the system's only real decision maker?

"What I'm trying to do is get people to understand that they have to make these decisions, and not bring all these decisions to me," he said, adding that it's a cultural issue, and in terms of management and safety, it hasn't been there.

Starting now, Wiedefeld is getting some help with those safety issues. Metro's new Safety Chief, Patrick Lavin, starts today, and Wiedefeld said he brings something important to the table: 30-plus years of experience in New York City's transit system.

"The safety business shouldn't be doing investigations and what went wrong," Wiedefeld said. "It should be in the business of preventing things from going wrong, and that's basically what he will be doing-- and that's his focus."

### **WIEDEFELD: FIXING METRO IS A 24/7 JOB**

Metro's recent issues have had riders calling for change. During the recent day-long shutdown, many passengers expressed their support for Wiedefeld's decision to take action and address the problems-- even if it meant they were inconvenienced. But even the shutdown didn't stop Metro's issues, many of which are the result of arcing insulators on the third rail, which cause smoke and in some cases fires on the tracks.

After seeing and hearing about the many issues plaguing Metro's system, one might ask: Did he know what he was getting into when he took the job? FOX 5's Holly Morris asked just that question. He says he did.

"The depths of it may be a little bit deeper than I thought," Wiedefeld said, "but this is a 24/7 job."

Wiedefeld added that being responsive at all times and dealing with this crisis is the nature of the business, but he also pointed out that he's inspired by the many employees who share his desire to right the ship.

"There are a lot of people working extremely hard every minute to get the system working, to deal with the issues they have to deal with," adding that he's amazed by the commitment he sees from those employees.

## *ENVIRONMENT*

*JUNE 2016*

### **Md. college student wins environmental fight on the streets of South Baltimore**

By: Paul Wagner

**BALTIMORE** - A college student from South Baltimore has won a major environmental prize for blocking the construction of a huge trash incinerator in her working class neighborhood. It is a section of the city that is already home to scrap yards, oil tanks and smoke stacks.

Destiny Watford was just 17 years old when she decided to take on the mayor, the governor and the state. As a senior in high school, she saw an injustice and decided to fight.

It is a battle that took her to City Hall, Annapolis and the Maryland Department of the Environment – a place where there were protests and arrests.

Watford's quest took years, but it ended up in sweet victory.

Watford grew up in a neighborhood located in a small pocket of South Baltimore called Curtis Bay. It is where trucks come to dump, deliver and haul while smoke stacks spew waste into the sky.

It is also a place where people live, and as Watford learned, she seemed resigned to the fact they would have to live in a polluted community.

"When we started learning about the incinerator, we learned that it would have been burning 4,000 tons of trash every day," Watford said. "It was permitted to release 240 pounds of mercury every single year and 1,000 pounds of lead every year. This was before the Flint crisis had made national news. But we have always known how detrimental lead can be to our health and when we heard about these things, we were outraged that this was happening."

The project, the nation's largest trash incinerator, was to be built here. It was not more than a mile from where Watford lived and went to high school.

"So we reached out to the community in trying to see, 'Hey, maybe the community knows more about this,'" said Watford. "Spoiler – only a handful knew about the project, and almost immediately after we spoke to them about some of the facts of the incinerator or of the project, they were immediately against it.

There was resistance. Watford said some residents wanted the jobs that came with the project and there were powerful allies.

Chief among them were the mayor and Maryland's governor.

But it all started to crumble when Watford learned "that the Baltimore public school system would be buying energy from the incinerator and we had this huge, amazing demonstration in front of the Baltimore City school board."

That is where she said they received a standing ovation from the board, and before long, all of the agencies that had lined up to purchase energy from the project pulled out.

Everything was falling into place, but there was one last fight with the Maryland Department of the Environment. The years long battle would come down to one state agency.

"So I got it through an email, I just read the headline and I screamed," she recalled. "I was so happy."

As were many in the Curtis Bay community where Watford's work paid off.

"Curtis Bay is always thought of as a dumping ground, so they have supported this issue and they united and it was something that we all stood against," said community activist Rodette Jones.

As for Watford, now a rising college senior student, her work isn't done. She and her group, Free Your Voice, have plans to do more work looking out for human rights.

Watford is one of five people from around the world to win the environmental prize and is the only one from the United States.

The Towson University student said she hopes to use the \$175,000 in cash that comes with the award to continue her work in human rights.

## *COMMUNITY*

*APRIL 2016*

### **Walk for Wishes raises nearly \$100,000 for Make a Wish Mid-Atlantic**

By: Fox5DC Staff

**WASHINGTON** - #FOX5DCcares partnered with Make a Wish Mid-Atlantic for their Season of Wishes campaign in December, but we love highlighting the great work that they do all year long!

On Sunday, participants from around the nation's capital gathered on the National Mall to walk three miles in support of Make a Wish Mid-Atlantic's incredible work.

Many walkers helped to raise funds for the organization, which helps grant "wishes" to children battling and recovering from life-threatening illnesses and conditions. Funds raised through the event will go toward helping Make a Wish bridge the gap between children waiting for a wish and those who are eligible to receive one.

Approximately 600 local children are currently waiting for their wishes to be granted.

Make A Wish raised nearly \$100,000, well above their event goal of \$95,000. The event's most successful fundraiser was 4-year-old Cyrus Behnam, of Maryland.

Cyrus lives in Bethesda with his parents and sister, Frankie. His parents say they want him to understand the concept of giving and compassion early, and this is his second year participating in the walk.

The inspiring 4-year-old was even able to double his fundraising numbers from the 2015 event!

If you missed today's walk and still want to get involved, Make A Wish Mid-Atlantic has upcoming walks in Annapolis and Northern Virginia.

## *LOCAL POLITICS*

*MAY 2016*

### **Va. Gov. Terry McAuliffe talks to FOX 5 about the federal investigation into campaign contributions**

By: Fox5DC Staff

**ALEXANDRIA, Va.** - A day after news broke that the FBI and the Justice Department are investigating donations to Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe's 2013 campaign, the Democratic governor sat down with FOX 5's Ronica Cleary.

One of the donations that drew the interest of investigators was \$120,000 from a Chinese businessman. In the one-on-one interview, McAuliffe answered questions and commented on the recent accusations against him.

"Listen, I'm carrying on my schedule as Governor. No one's alleged I've done anything wrong. And you just got to continue to do. I'm governor; I'm out doing what I need to do to help the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia. I would never cancel," McAuliffe said after learning that many people thought he would cancel his interview with FOX 5 due to the recent accusations.

Does he understand why some people might say that the \$120,000 donation might be one that he shouldn't of accepted, because of his former status as a delegate to China's National People's Congress?

"Well, as I say, he's a major contributor to Harvard," said McAuliffe. "He sits on the board of New York University. Two of our most prestigious universities. He's very active. Everybody takes his money."

"I'm really baffled by the whole story in the first place," he added.

McAuliffe does believe he is somewhat being targeted.

"Well, I'll be honest with you, if I was sitting in the private sector and I was governor, I don't think someone this would have risen to the level, but we'll see," he said. "It's okay. You get in this business. You open yourself up and I'm fine doing that. When you're confident you haven't done anything wrong."

Gov. McAuliffe continued to say that he is not sure he has even met the man who made the donations. He also called the investigation the "price of being in politics today."

When FOX 5 asked him if he thinks Bernie Sanders should stay in the presidential race, he answered saying he believes that Sanders is entitled to go right to the end, just as he did when he was on Hillary Clinton's campaign in 2008.

The governor explained that he would consider working in the cabinet if Clinton became president, but isn't sure the work fits his personality. He also said, "I can unequivocally tell you I will never be a United States senator."

## *NATIONAL POLITICS*

*MAY 2016*

### **Biden on lack of vote for Supreme Court nominee: Republicans are acting against Constitution**

By: Laura Evans

**WASHINGTON** - It has been three months since Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia died leaving a vacancy on the highest court in the land. The White House is increasing pressure on Republicans to give their nominee a chance and the court a deciding vote. Now, a new poll shows Americans overwhelmingly support a hearing and vote on Merrick Garland's nomination.

FOX 5 sat down with Vice President Joe Biden for an exclusive interview to discuss several issues including this one.

Garland is President Barack Obama's pick to fill the Supreme Court vacancy. The announcement was made on March 16 at the Rose Garden of the White House. Since then? The Republican-controlled Senate has taken no action to pursue confirmation hearings.

Biden, once the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said Republicans are not doing their job.

“You don't have to vote for Merrick Garland,” Biden said. “You have a responsibility to have a vote.”

But Senate Republicans say they don't have to, citing what they now call the “Biden Rule” – Biden's own words he said in 1992 when he was chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and George H.W. Bush was president.

Biden said back then, “It's my view that if a Supreme Court justice resigns tomorrow or within the next several weeks or resigns at the end of the summer, President Bush should consider following the practice of the majority of his predecessors in not naming a nominee until after the November election is completed.”

We asked Biden why should Republicans in this case act or feel any differently.

“That is not what I said. I said unless he is going to consult, and I went on to say that he should send someone up,” Biden told us.

If you listen to his entire statement back in 1992, Biden goes on to say that if a president “presses an election year nomination ... The Senate Judiciary Committee should consider not scheduling confirmation hearings until after the campaign season is over.”

“I've presided over more Supreme Court nominees than anyone living,” Biden said to FOX 5. “Every single one got a hearing. Every single one got a vote in the committee. Every one of them got a vote on the floor of the United States Senate and they did it in presidential election years. So that's the Biden rule. It's called the Constitution.”

Valerie Jarrett, senior advisor to President Obama, said the president has fulfilled his constitutional responsibility. It is time for Republicans to fulfill theirs.

“For the Republicans to take this unprecedented stand over this issue sets up a slippery slope for what is next,” she said. “The fact that on the evening that Justice Scalia passed away, [Senate Majority] Leader [Mitch] McConnell said that there would not be a hearing no matter who the president nominated because he wanted the people to weigh in is ridiculous.”

Don Stewart, deputy chief of staff to Sen. McConnell (R-Ky.) said, “The White House is now dropping all pretense that this is about anything other than a campaign issue. The problem for them, of course, is that despite coordinating millions of dollars in special interest ads, none of our members have been moved from their principled positions.”

The bottom line when it comes to Biden's statement in 1992 – there was no Supreme Court vacancy to fill, there was no nominee to consider and the Senate never voted to adopt a rule to delay hearings until after the election.

According to SCOTUS blog, no president in the past century has had a Supreme Court nominee go unconfirmed on the grounds that it was an election year.

The vice president said Republicans are acting against the Constitution and it is affecting the highest court. Since Scalia's death, the justices have deadlocked 4-4 on three cases so far.

## *HOUSING*

*JUNE 2016*

### **Middleburg residents clean up after being hit hard by storms**

By: Alexandra Limon

**MIDDLEBURG, Va.** - The D.C. region was hit by severe storms on Thursday and the hardest hit area was in Middleburg in Loudoun County. There was a tornado warning issued in the area during the storm and it dropped hail the size of golf balls in the area.

A day later, residents are cleaning up after the storm left many vehicles with broken windows, shattered windshields along with numerous dents caused by the large hail. A tow truck driver in Middleburg told FOX 5 that they have about 300 to 400 cars waiting to be towed because of the damage.

Also in the storm aftermath were uprooted trees, fallen branches and other debris completely covering the roads and walkways.

Businesses and homes also encountered some sort of damage to siding, roofs and windows. One of the worst hit places was a historic home that is the second-oldest building in Middleburg. It is a pre-Civil War building that is now being used as a business. Unfortunately, there were items inside that were damaged as well as 15 original hand-blown glass windows.

“When I spoke with the insurance company this morning, the gentleman was very upset because he said although we can replace windows, we can’t replace the hand-blown glass,” said Pam Scott.

“It got pretty bad,” said Middleburg resident Candace Holsinger. “They were the size of golf balls. Some were a little bit bigger. The wind was blowing pretty hard, so as far as being in your house, it seemed like someone was trying to rip the roof off. It was like everything was shaking. It got pretty rough, pretty violent.”

The Middleburg Police Department said there were no serious injuries as a result of the storm. However, police said three of their vehicles are essentially totaled due to the storm damage.

*CHILDREN*

*JUNE 2016*

## **Fairfax Co. school meeting becomes heated over debate on transgender nondiscrimination policy**

By: Lauren DeMarco

**FALLS CHURCH, Va.** - At a regularly scheduled school board meeting in Fairfax County, a number of parents and citizens came out to speak about pushing forward with transgender policy in schools -- with the debate in particular about bathroom use. Several people were opposed to any changes and it was a heated meeting with people on both sides very passionate about this issue.

On one side, you had transgender children talking about being uncomfortable using the bathroom at school along with heartbreaking stories of bullying.

"I think it's kind of unfair that transgenders shouldn't be able to use bathrooms and it may not seem like a big deal to those who aren't transgenders, but to me, it is a big deal," said Fairfax County student Victoria Johnson.

"In addition to being an FCPS alumnus and coach, I am also a transgender man," said Tyler Engleman. "When I was an FCPS student, I experienced firsthand the kind of harassment that children get from their peers."

But on the other side, there were parents expressing concern about their children being forced to accept these changes as the "new norm."

"I have a little child and she is afraid of boys and now she's got boys coming in the bathroom," said one father who stormed out of the meeting upset that he was not able to speak at the meeting. "It's not just the bathroom. It's the showers. It's the locker rooms. They could basically be stripping down. And it's not just children. Adults can go in there."

The group who gathered to speak before the board Thursday night came to thank Fairfax County for adding to its policy last May that it will not discriminate on the basis of gender identity. But they are asking that regulations now be put into place to enforce that policy.

They want school records to be adjusted so that the preferred pronoun is used for students without any medical proof required – particularly on diplomas. They are seeking training for staff and teachers to make sure all students are treated with dignity and fairness. They also want students to be able to use bathrooms and locker rooms that correspond with their gender identity.

Kayden Ortiz, a senior from Robinson Secondary School who identifies as a young man, talked about how he is encouraged by the changes he already sees at school.

“It just makes a whole difference for the whole community because they feel accepted and there is less likeliness of suicide, less likeliness of self-harm and things like that,” said Ortiz.

A parent who was in opposition of the transgender regulations yelled out and interrupted Engleman, a transgender coach, as he spoke at the podium. Some others also expressed their disgust and also left the meeting.

There are also several lawsuits underway in Virginia regarding gender identity. Those who are for transgender rights, they are concerned that the school administration is going to wait until those lawsuits are resolved to put in place any regulations involving schools in Fairfax County. They fear that could take years and they want it to happen sooner.