

FCC ISSUES REPORT – **4th Quarter 2017**
Oct-Dec
KABC-TV

ABC7 -CORE ISSUES
4th Quarter 2017

CORE ISSUES

ABC7 gave significant coverage to the following community issues and concerns arising in the fourth quarter of 2017:

- 1. Wildfires**
- 2. Politics**
- 3. Police Pursuits**
- 4. Public Safety**
- 5. World Series**

The station's coverage of these core issues is detailed in the next section of this report.

ABC7 - CORE ISSUES COVERAGE

4th Quarter 2017

WILDFIRES

***Eyewitness News.* Air Dates: October 1, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 27, 28, 29. December 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 30. Total Coverage: 2 Days 13 Hours 27 Minutes**

ABC7 Eyewitness News reported extensively on a number of devastating wildfires that raged through Southern California in October and December, resulting in loss of life and property. Thousands of people were displaced, many of whom had to be evacuated for days at a time. KABC-TV devoted over a total of two and a half days coverage in fourth quarter, and broadcasted 29 hours of emergency coverage when wildfires hit Los Angeles and Ventura counties on Tuesday, December 4 and Wednesday, December 5 alone. One of those covered in those two days would come to be known as the Thomas Fire. The Thomas fire has now grown to be the largest fire in modern California history. Many Farms and Ranches were in the path of the Thomas fire and while many animals were rescued, many others were lost in the fire, trapped in pens and barns and unable to escape. KABC covered a number of the fires continuously as mandatory evacuations were being ordered and fire fighters were battling the blazes.

All of the broadcast coverage was simulcast on abc7.com as well as ABC7 Facebook. As part of the comprehensive coverage, KABC-TV broadcast and live streamed all of the press briefings conducted by emergency management officials and political leaders. Fire officials let us know they were monitoring live feeds from the station's helicopter Air7HD, and especially appreciated the exclusive SkyMap7 real-time mapping software which helped them identify the affected areas through the smoke to help make decisions on fire fighting and evacuations. A significant portion of the on-line coverage included constantly updated lists of road closures and evacuation orders posted on abc7.com, Facebook and Twitter. Due to the high winds, it was extremely difficult to use microwave transmission. As a result the station made good use of satellite, bonded cellular as well as live streaming throughout the event. Audiences on TV and on-line were very appreciative of the station's emergency coverage efforts, especially the use of SkyMap7. In addition to the non-stop coverage, KABC-TV partnered with the American Red Cross and the Ventura County United Way to solicit money for the Thomas Fire Relief Fund and the station also conducted an unplanned "Spark of Love Toy Drive" in Ventura County that collected a semi-tractor trailer full of toys for families impacted by the fires.

POLITICS

***Eyewitness News.* Air Dates: October 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. November 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 27. December 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 15, 18, 19, 20, 26, 30.**

Total coverage: 4 Hours 30 Minutes

ABC7 Eyewitness News reported on a variety of political issues at the local level. Airtime was devoted to covering Senator Diane Feinstein's announcement in running for another Senate term, as well as on her opponent Democratic state Senate leader Kevin De Leon's bid. Both made several visits to Southern California. Coverage was also given to the upcoming California gubernatorial race, including Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's decision not to run for Governor.

Attention was also given to conservative political activists Milo Yiannopoulos and Ben Shapiro, whose appearances at an Orange County speaking engagement and UCLA respectively, resulted in protests and demonstrations outside the venues. Violence had occurred at a number of both of their speaking engagements in other California cities.

ABC7 also reported on the growing homeless population in Los Angeles. Legendary Homeless Advocate Andy Bales and Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger sat with Reporter Adrienne Alpert to discuss LA's enormous Homeless Population problem, and various proposed political solutions to permanent housing and mental health treatment.

ABC7 continued to report on President Trump's policies/comments and reactions at the local level. Southern California residents voiced their opinions/concerns on how the new Federal Tax Plan would impact them. The station also conducted interviews with experts on understanding the new Tax Proposal and what it could mean for Californians.

POLICE PURSUITS

Eyewitness News. **Air Dates: October 4, 5, 19, 30. November 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 23, 29, 30. December 1, 9, 12, 16, 21. Total Coverage: 6 Hours 2 Minutes**

ABC7 Eyewitness News reported on several police pursuits, offering live continuous coverage and multiple follow up stories to law enforcement pursuits on local streets and highways. One such pursuit resulted in the death of 28-year-old landscaper Juan Castillo, who was struck by a pursuit suspect on the Pacific Coast Highway while working in Malibu, taking out the trash. The 22-year-old behind the wheel hit three parked cars and a truck traveling on PCH. He was trapped inside the reported stolen vehicle, which was in flames, and was rescued by deputies. That driver was hospitalized and in law enforcement custody.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Eyewitness News. **Air Dates: October 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. November 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29. December 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 27. Total Coverage: 14 Hours 41 Minutes**

ABC7 Eyewitness News devoted a significant amount of airtime covering the numerous public safety issues that pertain to the Los Angeles area, including the mass shooting in Las Vegas, especially since over two thirds of the victims were from California. Many questions arose about a man's ability to buy so many guns and so much ammo without setting off alarm bells. Local coverage included the death and survival stories of the many Las Vegas shooting victims who hailed from Southern California, and were injured or killed at the Las Vegas music festival. Interviews were also conducted with security and trauma experts.

In addition to reporting on the numerous sexual harassment allegations that not only plagued those in the entertainment industry in Hollywood, such as Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey and Louis CK, ABC7 also reported on the local politicians who were affected as well. Local Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra of Pacoima was accused of sexual harassment, and eventually resigned, resulting in a special election to replace him. Local State Senator Tony Mendoza was also accused of sexual harassment. The Sacramento Bee reported that he fired aides who knew about the alleged inappropriate behavior with a young female employee. Mendoza denied the allegations, but more surfaced and he eventually resigned as well.

ABC7 Eyewitness News also reported on the horrific case of child abuse exposed after the death of eight year old Gabriel Fernandez at the hands of his stepfather, Isauro Aguirre and the boy's natural mother, Pearl Fernandez. At the trial, prosecutors said the little boy suffered a fractured skull, broken ribs and burns. They said the child was shot with a BB gun and also bound and forced to sleep in a cabinet while his brothers and sisters watched. "The defendant admitted that he hit Gabriel harder than he hit anyone else. He admitted hitting him 10 times in the head. This is a 6-foot-2, 270-pound man. (He hit him) 20 times in the body. He admitted that he lost count," said Jonathan Hatami, deputy district attorney. Many questions were raised about the multiple reports of abuse to Department of Children and Family Services, and why DCFS couldn't protect Gabriel from his abusers and save his life.

WORLS SERIES

***Eyewitness News* Air Dates: October 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. November ½**

Total Coverage: 3 Hour 3 Minutes

ABC7 Eyewitness News devoted noteworthy airtime on the Los Angeles Dodgers as they played against the Houston Astros in the World Series for the first time in twenty-nine years. Coverage was given to the fan frenzy surrounding the series, upticks in merchandising and the outrageous

ticket prices from scalpers. The average asking price for tickets to games in Los Angeles was \$3,164 a ticket, the second-highest asking price of any team in the ticket resale era, according to TicketIQ, a ticket market tracking firm. Only the Chicago Cubs last year, with an average asking price of \$3,480 for games at Wrigley Field, surpassed the prices being asked for by those with tickets at Dodger Stadium.