

**FCC ISSUES REPORT – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2017**  
**Apr-Jun**  
**KABC-TV**

ABC7 -CORE ISSUES  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2017

**CORE ISSUES**

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

1. Politics
2. Public Safety
3. Immigration
4. Terror
5. L.A. Riots 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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

ABC7 - CORE ISSUES COVERAGE  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2017

**POLITICS**

***Eyewitness News*. Air Dates: April 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28. May 2, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 24, 25, 26, 31. June 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 26, 27, 28.**  
**Total coverage: 4 Hours 47 Minutes**

*ABC7 Eyewitness News* reported on the various political issues at the local level. Airtime was devoted to covering the race to fill California Congressional District 34, finally won by Democrat Jimmy Gomez. The seat was vacated by Xavier Becerra when he was appointed the state's Attorney General. Another topic of interest included Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti hosting the International Olympic Committee on a visit and tour of proposed sites for L.A.'s bid for the 2024 Games. The IOC is suggesting that L.A. may have to wait until 2028. Mayor Garcetti also laid out his vision for the upcoming year for the City of Los Angeles and released his 2017-2018 budget.

ABC7 also covered several different political protests. There was the Science March, where Los Angeles joined cities around the world in marching to highlight the role of science in improving health, the environment and the economy. Marchers were anxious about the rejection of established science such as climate change and vaccine safety. Another march covered was the Armenian Vigil, a massive march and rally to commemorate the Armenian Genocide. The Armenians continue to ask that the U.S. government recognize the genocide as well ask Turkey for reparations. The station also reported on the annual L.A. Pride Festival, which has been replaced this year with a Resist March. Organizers say the political climate and increasing hostility towards their community inspired the Resist March.

ABC7 continued to report on the concerns about the health care issue. As the Health Care bill worked its way through Congress, the station gathered reaction from elected officials and people who will be impacted by any changes. One of the biggest concerns regards coverage for pre-existing conditions. Interviews on the topic included guest Congressman and Dr. Raul Ruiz, who discussed the future of health care and the possible effects that the new plan could have if passed.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

***Eyewitness News.* Air Dates: April 3, 7, 10, 12, 18, 22, 23, 27 . May 2, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31. June 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30. Total Coverage: 4 Hours 17 Minutes**

*ABC7 Eyewitness News* devoted a significant amount of airtime covering the numerous Public Safety issues that pertain to the Los Angeles area. One story involved the LAPD Cadet program, which was under review and had Chief Beck under fire after two connected scandals. Seven Cadets were arrested for taking police cruisers and equipment, leading police on a chase and may have made traffic stops using the stolen cruisers. An LAPD officer was under arrest, accused of having an inappropriate relationship with one of the arrested cadets. Another story involved a San Bernardino man who filed a lawsuit for battery, assault and violation of civil rights against the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department. He is an ex-con who believed that he was targeted because of his prior record. Despite the confrontation he was never charged with anything.

ABC7 reports also included a man who got into a gun battle with LAPD officers and streamed it live on Facebook. Detectives were serving a warrant against four gang members, when one of them led them on a pursuit. The suspect was in custody and the officer was expected to recover.

An ABC7 Eyewitness News investigation uncovered an unusual amount of money being spent by the L.A. County Sheriff's Department to standardize their logo on all cars with new stickers. The Peace Officers Association say they need more deputies not decals.

## **IMMIGRATION**

***Eyewitness News.* Air Dates: April 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 17, 26. May 1, 8, 9, 25. June 2, 3, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 26, 29, 30. Total Coverage: 2 Hours 10 Minutes**

*ABC7 Eyewitness News* reported on the continuing controversy of the Trump administration's policy on immigration and the travel ban, and how it is affecting Southern Californians. The number of people living in fear of deportation is on the rise in LA County. 37% of LA County residents fear that they or a friend or a relative will be deported. The fears are not just limited to minority groups. Thousands marched to L.A. City Hall and held a rally for immigrant rights and against Trump policies on May Day. Trump supporters also participated. But overall it was a peaceful day. The station also reported on the limited version of Trump's travel ban going into effect. Travelers from six majority Muslim countries are now banned from entering the United States if they don't have a "bona fide relationship" with someone in the U.S.

ABC7 covered the story of Gurmukh Singh, a Garden Grove taxicab driver who was detained by ICE an hour after he spoke to the media. Singh applied for asylum in the U.S. in 1999 and was asking for a stay of removal to remain in the country. Another story involved Roman Avelica, who was arrested by ICE while dropping off his daughters at school in February. Family and friends support him while he goes to court to vacate a decades old conviction on a minor offense.

## **TERROR**

***Eyewitness News.* Air Dates: April 1, 7, 17. May 4, 22, 23. June 2, 3, 4, 14, 21, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29. Total Coverage: 1 Hours 25 Minutes**

*ABC7 Eyewitness News* covered the local concerns to the terror-related attacks around the world. There were renewed travel concerns about traveling to Europe in the wake of terror incidents in France and England. Steve Gomez, formerly of the FBI and counter-terrorism expert and military terrorist expert, retired Lt. Col Hal Kempfer, were interviewed to discuss the attack on London Bridge and Borough Market in England.

ABC7 also reported on how new screening measures on overseas flights headed to the U.S. will impact travelers at LAX. In reaction to the news that U.S. Intelligence suggested that terrorists have their hands on airport screening equipment, passengers from selected countries must check all electronic devices larger than a cellphone. Members of the House Homeland Security Committee toured the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to discuss security and its impact on trade. Also locally, security was stepped up at venues in Southern California after the deadly attack at the Ariana Granda concert in Manchester, England. Certain venues such as the Hollywood Bowl have installed permanent measures like metal detectors.

#### **L.A. RIOTS 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

***Eyewitness News* Air Dates: April 7, 8, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30. May 19, 20. June 8.**

**Total Coverage: 1 Hour 35 Minutes**

Twenty-five years after the riot that followed the verdict in the Rodney King Beating Trial, *ABC7 Eyewitness News* looked back at the conditions that led to the civil unrest, the communities involved and what has changed and what has remained the same in Los Angeles. The station marked the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the L.A. Riots with special weeklong broadcast coverage leading up to the April 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Everyone remembers Reginald Denny, but the station also chose to focus on another victim of the violence at Florence and Normandie who is often overlooked. The station obtained an exclusive interview with Fidel Lopez – the man known as the “forgotten victim”. Among the other locally produced stories was Anchor Marc Brown’s report on the recollections of three current KABC photographers – Stephan Coleman, Dave Busse and Shawn McCarthy – all of whom played pivotal roles in covering the rioting and aftermath.

KABC-TV’s *Eyewitness News* also collaborated with Oscar winner John Ridley and his team on the theatrical and broadcast release of “Let It Fall”. It made its theatrical debut the week of April 24<sup>th</sup> and the TV documentary aired on ABC7 Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. KABC also provided significant support in research and video to the documentary. John Ridley was a guest on the 3pm newscast ahead of the theatrical premiere.