

WEAF/1130am
ISSUES AND ANSWERS QUARTERLY SUMMARY
April - June 2022

Ascertainment Issues

Ascertainment respondents listed the following topics as community issues of concern:

Career

Business Management

Human Resources

Technology

Science

Addiction

Mental Health

Opioid Epidemic

Addiction Treatment

Medical Research

Conflict

Charitable Giving

War

Global Issues

Humanitarian Aid

Refugee Crisis

Climate Change

Ascertainment Answers

WEAF answers to issues submitted included, but were not limited to; producing and airing the programs listed addressing the identified topics.

WEAF Radio
April - June
:60 Daily

WEAF aired 300 Public Service Announcements from government agencies concerning local, regional and national information.

WEAF Radio
April 1st-30th

WEAF produced a :30 promo series that spotlighted information concerning "Autism" During "Autism Awareness Month". The :30 features feature aired Monday-Sunday 6am-10pm.

WEAF Radio
May 1st-31st

WEAF produced a :30 promo series that spotlighted information concerning "Mental Health" During "Mental Health Awareness Month". The :30 features feature aired Monday-Sunday 6am-10pm.

WEAF Radio
May 1st-31st

WEAF produced a :30 promo series that spotlighted information concerning "Black Music" During "Black Music Month". The :30 features feature aired Monday-Sunday 6am-10pm.

WEAF Radio
June 1st-30th

WEAF produced a :30 promo series that spotlighted information concerning "Mens Health" During "Mens Health Awareness Month". The :30 features feature aired Monday-Sunday 6am-10pm.

The Urban Scene with Don Frierson
:60 minutes

Don Frierson hosts The Urban Scene daily at 12noon. The Urban Scene features information and analysis of local issues, government, health, community resources and community events. The program utilizes interviews, guest discussions, social media interaction as well as ZOOM and listener phone calls to explore social, economic and cultural themes relative to residents in our coverage area.

Quarter highlights included:

Guns, gun violence and mass shootings were the predominate topics for the Urban Scene in this Quarter. Events on the national level were amplified by a mass shooting at a local high school graduation celebration and the murder of a 14 year old by a convenience store clerk. Additionally, the Urban Scene devoted air time to ongoing attempts to pass strict, new abortion laws in South Carolina; the community project to tackle the growing problem of gang violence; and, the growing impact of Artificial Intelligence.

Issues Covered: Gun Violence, Mass Shootings, Abortion, Politics, Gang Violence, Artificial Intelligence

The Urban Scene continued its format of Weekly Segments devoted to community, law enforcement, government and community services. In these segments, guests/co-hosts spends the entire 60 minutes of the program disseminating information and answering listener questions. These regular segments include:

Former Columbia City Council member Tameika Issac-Devine – The topics in this Quarter covered multiple issues and challenges facing the community and several initiatives designed to meet those challenges. A member of the State Legislature joined Ms. Devine to outline for listeners the impact of the Legislature on their daily lives and why it is important to interact with your representatives. Another show focused on the abortion rights debate in South Carolina and its specific impact on African American women. Another show brought in a guest who outlined a project to mentor young black males. There was also a show with the Columbia Fire Chief talking about efforts to recruit fire fighters and other public service personnel.

Issues Covered: State Legislature, Abortion Impact of Black Women, Young Black Males, Public Service Jobs

Insight with Antjuan Seawright – In this Quarter, Antjuan reported and hosted multiple shows live from Washington, D.C. – including coverage of the negotiations, debate and passage of the Debt Ceiling legislation; debate and passage of the Parents Bill of Rights; and, the legislation ending the National Covid-19 Emergency. In South Carolina, Seawright hosted shows highlighting a local initiative to curb the growing gang violence; benefits to South Carolina in the Biden Administrations economic initiatives; and, a show dedicated to the impact of autism – particularly in minority families and communities.

Issues Covered: Politics, Voting, National Budget, Covid-19, Gang Violence, Local/State Economy, Autism

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott – In this Quarter, Sheriff Lott talked directly to listeners and callers regarding the mass shooting at Meadowlake Park in Columbia. He announced arrests quickly and promised to insure that anyone responsible would be held accountable. The Sheriff also took an aggressive law enforcement stance on the

release of a convicted murderer after he cooperated with investigators in another case. The Sheriff immediately arrested the convenient store clerk who killed a fourteen year old boy as the young man was running away. The Sheriff also promoted and participated in several initiatives targeting gang presence in our community. In each of his visits, he answered all questions and told listeners when and where he thought the Judicial System failed the community.

Issues Covered: Mass Shootings, Gangs, Youth Crimes, Gun Control, Crime Prevention, Community Safety, Judicial Reform

Other Urban Scene Highlights include:

April 3rd

Ann Mickle was the co-host for a discussion with Insurance Company owner Dell Harris. The guest discussed the importance of Life Insurance, how to use Life Insurance as a Legacy and the potential of a career selling insurance. Callers asked about the various forms of insurance and how to know what insurance policy to buy and also about the challenges of a career in the insurance business.

Issues Covered: Insurance, Retirement

April 14th

Ida Thompson, a member of the Association of Retired Teachers in Richland County discussed the importance of teachers and the challenges teachers face in the current environment of Critical Race Theory and limitations of race discussions and book banning. Audience members called in to discuss what should be the response from the African American Community relative to these issues.

Issues Covered: Education, Teacher Shortages, CRT, Racism

April 26th

Tameika Isaac Devine cohosted along with host Don Frierson. The guest was Kerry Able with the office of Student Engagement for Richland School District One. He discussed the new mentoring program for boys in the School District. Audience members called in to discuss the requirements for volunteers, why is it difficult to attract men to serve as volunteers and how much time would volunteers have to commit.

Issues Covered: Mentoring, Education, School Volunteers

May 5th

Richland County Sheriff Leon was the guest. He gave listeners an update on the recent shootings at Meadow Lake Park which resulted in eleven young people being shot. The Sheriff said two people had been arrested and the investigation is ongoing. The listeners called to ask how young people acquire guns and what the Community can do to solve the issue of gun violence and young people. Some people suggested that poor parenting is to blame.

Issues Covered: Mass Shootings, Gun Violence, Teenagers with Guns

May 9th

Eau Claire Community leader Christie Savage was the guest. She shared information on an Electrical Training Program for young people in the 29203 zip code area. Savage told listeners that the program is designed for six months and is tuition free with young people being employed upon completion of the program. Listeners called in to get information about the program such as age requirements, location of the class and whether having a criminal record serve as an impediment to the program.

Issue Covered: Youth Employment, Job Training

May 15th

Members of a group called Gangs and Peace were the guests. They discussed their work in the Community to tackle the problem of gang violence. Many members of this organization were former gang members and the guest discussed how being a former member of a gang enables them to reach children who are in gangs. Audience members called into inquire why children get involved with gangs, how bad is the gang problem in Richland County and how parents can tell if their child is in a gang.

Issue Covered: Gangs, Gun Violence, Parenting, Mass Shooting, Bond System

May 25th

Today's show was Insight with Antwan Seawright. Mr. Seawright hosted from Washington D.C. with an update on the Debt Ceiling battle taking place in Congress. Callers wanted to know what programs would be affected if the Republican proposals were adopted and what were the benefits included in the Biden administration plan

Issue Covered: National Budget, Taxes, Debt Ceiling, Politics

June 7th

Ms. Regina Williams was the guest. Ms. Williams is the Outreach Coordinator for the St. John Baptist Church Career Center. She gave listeners information on the various programs offered by the Career Center and its outreach efforts in the Community. Ms. Williams also discussed an upcoming program involving the Richland County Sheriff's Department, The Columbia police department and the Richland County Fire Department. That initiative is a collaborative effort to encourage young people to apply for public service jobs. The audience called in to ask about the Career Centers resume program and its job outreach program conducted in partnership with the State of South Carolina.

Issue Covered: Job Training, Employment Resources

June 13th

Ann Mickle and Brandolyn Pinkston of the Links, Inc. co-hosted and former NBA player, Columbia native Alex English was the guest. English shared about his charitable work in the community and why he felt it was important to give back. Also on the program was the oldest son of Mr. English who discussed his involvement with film making in Hollywood and offered tips on how to succeed in the business. Many listeners called

into congratulate Mr. English on his former NBA team (Denver Nuggets) winning the NBA championship.

Issue Covered: Community Service, Community Role Models, Sports

June 23rd

Pastor Thurmond Bowen and Dr. Thaddeus Bell were the guests. They told listeners about the upcoming health fair at Trinity Baptist. Dr. Bell, a presenter at the program, discussed health care disparities and Pastor Bowens discussed the importance of the Church getting involved in issues such as health care disparities. Listeners called in to ask questions relative to the high morbidity rate among pregnant black women. A lively discussion was also held with the listeners regarding the traditional skepticism of African Americans and the health care system.

Issue Covered: Health Care, African American Health Disparities

“The Sunday Urban Scene”

WALD’s Public Affairs Program. The Urban Scene airs weekly on Sunday evenings at 6pm. The Urban Scene A weekly program providing information and analysis about local issues. The program utilizes an interview and discussion format to explore political, social, economic, and cultural themes relative to the Area.

April 2nd

30 Minutes

Issues Covered: Health, Covid-19

Conversation about the continued effects from Covid-19 with Practicing Physician, Thaddeus John Bell, Founder and CEO, Closing the Gap in Health Care Inc.

April 9th

30 Minutes

Issues Covered: Community, Faith

Conversation with Pastor Thurman Bowens about the Easter Season and its current meaning to the church and world.

April 16th

30 Minutes

Issues Covered: Community, Education

Conversation with Educator Donna Primus about the Circle Rest'e, and opportunity for educational workers to gather and recharge. This event is done in partnership with Columbia International University.

April 23rd

30 Minutes

Issues Covered: Community, Education

Conversation with Bonita Clemmons known for being a women farmer in South Carolina. She talks about being named the Black Woman farmer of the year.

May 7th

30 Minutes

Issues Covered: Community

Conversation with Adrine Gaymon and Tina Jenkins about "Carolina For All" an initiative that focuses on voter registration, education, and empowerment in communities.

May 14th

30 Minutes

Issues Covered: Community

Conversation with Gayle Glover the first African American to be admitted to a white dance studio in Columbia. He spoke about that challenge and how things have changed since then. She's also started an after school program to help the community children in the area of dance.

May 21st

30 Minutes

Issues Covered: Sports, Community

Conversation with Anthony Washington, Track and field Coach at Newberry College in Newberry, SC about influencing teens and the community through sports.

May 24th

30 Minutes

Issues Covered: Parenthood, Community, Finances

Learn financial security for mothers and kids at Moms & Money online seminar with Certified Finance Specialist, Darryl Boyles.

June 4th

30 Minutes

Issues Covered: Community

Conversation with Larry Sally, Executive Director of the Columbia Community Relations Council about the council's 59th anniversary. The council celebrates persons in the midlands that help make the quality of life in Columbia better.

June 18th

30 Minutes

Issues Covered: Community, History

Conversation with Jim Felder about the origin of "Juneteenth" and its importance to the African American Community.

June 25th

30 Minutes

Issues Covered: Community, Gun Violence

Conversation with Bruce Tresvant about Project Unity and an upcoming event focusing on the amount of gun violence in the state of South Carolina and way to stop it.

The P.A. Bennett Show

:60 minutes

The P.A. Bennett show airs Monday through Thursday at 6pm. The program features information and analysis of local issues, government, health, community resources and community events. The program utilizes interviews, guest discussions, social media interaction as well as ZOOM and listener phone calls to explore social, economic and cultural themes relative to residents in our coverage area.

Quarter highlights included:

Multiple shows focused on gun violence and mass shootings. There were several national incidents that drew local attention because of hints of that the shootings were racially motivated. Several more shootings involved children – including one shooting at a Christian school. The ongoing debate over gun control and gun laws sparked active on air conversations from listeners responding to legislative inaction, political grandstanding and community indifference. The issue grew more intense following a mass shooting at high school graduation gathering in Columbia and the shooting death of a local teenager by a convenience store owner. Other shows of note this Quarter focused on the South Carolina Legislature's efforts to pass new abortion laws; safety and procedures at area day care centers after a five year old wanders away without being noticed; and, several shows centered on the Critical Race Theory debate after a local teacher is admonished for a book she assigned her class to read.

Issues Covered: Gun Violence, Gun Laws, Mass Shootings, Politics, Community Safety, Abortion, Child Care, Critical Racy Theory

Other P.A. Bennett Show Quarter Highlights include:

April 6th

Regular contributor James Shadd joins the show to talk about what the response should be to students found or caught with weapons on school grounds. The legal ramifications and safety considerations dominated the discussion and responses from callers. The host, again, lamented on the apparent opposition from many local and national lawmakers enact gun control laws. A segment of this show also update listeners and got caller input on the expulsion of three members of the Tennessee State Legislature for leading a protest for gun control legislation on the legislative chambers.

Issues Covered: Gun Violence, Education, Guns in Schools, Politics, Racism

April 18th

In this show, callers led the discussion of gun violence centered on the shooting of a 16 year old boy who knocked on someone's door and was shot without provocation. Much of the discussion focused on racism because the victim was black and his assailant was an older white man.

Issues Covered: Gun Violence, Racism

April 20th

Today's show brought listeners news of another arrest in the shooting at an Alabama birthday party that left four dead and more than 30 people injured. Callers reflected on the indifference some young people show towards their peers and law enforcement as well as the need to carefully plan and monitor events for your teenage children. A portion of this show also focused on more news of possible impropriety on the part of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, whether or not his judicial impartiality is compromised and measures that are possible to hold him accountable.

Issues Covered: Gun Violence, Teenage Violence, Community Safety, Politics

April 27th

Regular contributor attorney James Shadd was the guest for part of this show offering some clarification of legal issues at the center of a case where a Circuit Court Judge commuted the sentence of a convicted murderer, the State Supreme Court overturning the order and Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott offering a reward for information leading to his apprehension. Callers asked Shadd to explain how the judge could legally commute the sentence with dozens of years left to serve and how the judge could take that action on his last day in office.

Issues Covered: Court System, Sentencing, Judicial Power, Crime

May 1st

Mass shooting, gun violence and safety for young people was the focus of another show following an incident at a high school graduation event. More than 11 young people were injured when teenage gunmen opened fire at the event. One child was injured by a vehicle during the chaos that followed the shooting. Callers, once again,

drove the discussion with many questions regarding the mentality that leads to shooting into crowds and the indifference shown by some teenagers. Two 16 year old brothers were among the first arrested.

Issues Covered: Mass Shootings, Gun Violence, Teen Safety

May 4th

This show centered on the laws and conditions under which people can be released on bond. The discussion is prompted by the release of one of the young people arrested in the mass shooting that happened at the high school graduation event. The discussion centered on the qualifications of local magistrates and their authority in various legal and criminal matters.

Issues Covered: Courts, Magistrate Qualifications, Bond Hearings

May 17th

Host P.A. Bennett gives listeners information on a public hearing scheduled in Columbia on solutions to violent crime. The public forum participants included local law enforcement, community stakeholders and neighborhood leaders. The forum moderator is Ja'Ron Smith who is founder of Public Safety Solutions for America. Callers and the host questioned Smith's ties to the Trump Administration and conservative viewpoints that many people feel created the environment for some of the violent crime happening locally and nationally. Additionally, a segment of this show featured regular contributor T.S. Mitchell who made listeners aware of recent developments with the FDIC that could result in an increase of fees charged to customers by their banks.

Issues Covered: Crime, Violent Crime, Community Safety, Politics, Bank Fees

May 23rd

Today's show garnered local input on the banning of a book of poetry by Amanda Gorman who performed her work at President Biden's Inauguration. Callers announced outrage that a complaint from one parent in the Miami-Dade School District led to the ban. Some callers suggested that politics and racism factor in too many decisions that impact children and education. In another segment of this show, a caller sparked the discussion about justification of violence and that some victims of violence are often maligned by the media and legal system. The discussion focused on the Daniel Perry – the man who killed Jordan Neely inside a New York subway system.

Issues Covered: Book Banning, Education, Racism, Politics Violence, Criminal Justice System, Victims Rights

May 30th

This show focused on the murder of 14 year old Cyrus Carmack-Belton by a convenience store owner. Some initial reports said the store owner accused the 14 year old of shoplifting. Surveillance video and law enforcement investigation disproved the store owners' claim and he was arrested for murder. Many callers announced outrage at

what they called 'war' on young African American boys whom they say are targeted as suspects even when not committing any crime. Callers also led discussion on how public perception or stereotyping impacts African American boys.

Issues Covered: Gun Violence, Racism, Mental Health

June 5th

This show focused on procedures, staffing and regulation of area day care centers. The discussion was sparked by the incident of a 3 year old who was left unsupervised and wandered off from the center. A Columbia police officer found the child and contacted the Department of Social Services and her parents. The discussion took on a very personal note because one of the callers was the child's great-grandmother who is a regular listener and participant on the program. She was able to bring factual input to the discussion and, to a degree, offer some defense of the community day care center involved.

Issues Covered: Child Care, Day Care Center Regulations and Staffing

June 13th

This show gave listeners the opportunity to have a locally focused discussion on the national debate surrounding 'Critical Race Theory'. The host updated listeners on the GOP effort in the South Carolina Legislature to make CRT illegal in state schools. Much of the discussion with callers focused on Chapin High School teacher using a non-fiction book in one of her AP Courses. Most callers expressed the sentiment that opponents of CRT are disguising efforts to remove subject matter that focused on African American History

Issues Covered: Critical Race Theory, Politics, Book Bans, African American History

June 22nd

This show focused on reports that the Professional Firefighters Association of South Carolina leveled allegations against Columbia Fire Chief Aubrey Jenkins. That association accused Jenkins of neglect, staffing issues, equipment deficiencies and delayed response times. The host reported to listeners on the support Jenkins got on the same day from the Columbia City Manager, Council Members and Police Chief. They all called the PFA allegations disgusting. Callers to the show also voiced support for Chief Jenkins with several callers citing exceptional response and care from the fire department in instances that involved them or the neighborhoods where they lived.

Issues Covered: Fire Safety, Politics

June 29th

This show gave local listeners the opportunity to voice their opinions on the Supreme Court ruling prohibiting race based consideration in college admissions. The 'affirmative action' ruling sparked multiple calls with nearly all voicing opposition to the ruling, many folk talking about any possible alternatives to the ruling and most indicating that they felt

the ruling could have even further implications in business, government and society in general.

Issues Covered: Affirmative Action, Education, Politics, Business, Employment