



**WAGT-CD, AUGUSTA, GEORGIA
QUARTERLY FCC COMMUNITY PROBLEMS
ASCERTAINMENT RULE 1, 526 (A) 9**

**Current Ascertainment and List
Of Community Problems, Needs and Concerns
July 1 through September 30, 2016
Prepared October 7, 2016**

1. CRIME AND SAFETY

Friday, July 1, News 12 This Morning: FORMER AUGUSTA FIRE MARSHALL JASON BEARD NOW IN PRISON. According to the Federal Prison's website, Jason Beard has turned himself in, and will now start serving a three and a half year jail sentence. The Former Augusta Fire Marshall was found guilty bock in February of bribing local nightclubs for money to stay quiet about code violations. 1:52 minutes

Tuesday, July 5 News 12 @ 6P: AUGUSTA COMMISSIONER SAYS RIVERWALK SHOOTING WILL LEAVE A BAD STIGMA. "It was huge, I mean I was down there earlier till about 8 o'clock and it was packed as many people as I ever seen down there," Commissioner Sean Frantom said. One Commissioner says as many as 15,000 people were on the Riverwalk watching the fireworks, soon after they were done hundred were sent running from gunshots. "Just disappointment, you know we already have a stigma in downtown Augusta of not being safe," Frantom said. "It's a different world we live in than when I was young," Frantom said. Commissioner Sean Frantom is a new father, he's been thinking of all the families and people who now have this memory. "It's affecting my family, I mean my wife is shook up by the events and just having a new child I mean what is this country going to be like in 18 to 20 years when he's down there at the Riverwalk," Frantom said. He says the city can change and do an even better job of promoting Augusta. He thinks everyone in the area plays a part. 2:32 minutes

2. FAMILY/YOUTH/SENIORS

Friday, September 23, News 12 @ 11P: FAMILIES COME TOGETHER TO REMEMBER CHILDREN MURDERED. It's a shared sense of loss that bring them all here to the gym at May Park. Bleachers filled with parents who lost a child, and that's why Von Daniel's started Angel Hearts Support Group in 2013. It's a chance for parents to grieve and support each other through tremendous loss. 1:13 minutes

3. EDUCATION

Thursday, July 14, News 12 @ 11P: TEACHER EVALUATIONS IN GEORGIA WILL FOCUS LESS ON STUDENT TEST SCORES. The way teachers are graded in Georgia is changing. There will be less focus on test scores and more focus on the classroom environment. With a high school student, middle schooler,

and a son in elementary school, LaRhonda Coleman knows all about the classroom. On top of her own kids, she also worked as a paraprofessional for three years, and she's going back to school to be a teacher. "I just want to make a difference. I want to be one of those teachers that a child can come to," Coleman said. Next year, there will be a big difference in the classroom. On Thursday, the Georgia State Board unanimously to change the way teachers and school leaders are graded. Before, students' scores on annual statewide tests made up half of a teacher's evaluation. Now that will only be 30% of a teacher's grade. The teacher's growth through the year will count as another 20%, and the other half of the evaluation will be based on classroom observation. "It's not that they don't know the information, but they may not be able to articulate, or write it down, but it doesn't mean they don't know the information," Coleman said. When it comes to School leaders, test scores made up 70% of the evaluation for principals and vice principals, now that drops to 40%. Now 10% of their grades will focus on school climate, or the quality of the school for students, parents, and teachers. The other 50% will come from things like school observations and CCRPI scores. The changes in evaluations will start this coming school year. The Georgia Department of Education says teachers will get a new handbook detailing the changes. 3:01 minutes

Friday, September 23, News 12 This Morning: GA BILL HELPING MORE STUDENTS GET A JUMP-START ON COLLEGE. It's now easier for Georgia high school students to take classes on college campuses with the 'Move on When Ready' Act. It's already increasing dual enrollment at colleges in our area. The program gives high school students free college credit at all of our local Georgia colleges and universities. Because of the 'Move on When Ready Act', high school students accepted to a college or university are able to take classes on campus for free – as long as they meet their high school requirements. This lets them "move on" to the next level sooner. The Act went into effect on July 2015 – and colleges have seen an increase in dual enrollment ever since. "They graduate sooner and are farther ahead than their peers in terms of college credit, and they haven't had to pay for any of it," said Missie Usry, Enrollment Manager at Georgia Military College. 2:03 minutes

4. RELIGION

Friday, July 8, News 12 @ 11P: LOCAL FAITH LEADER TRIES TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT. Three days, three cities, seven lives lost. "It's been a very long week it almost feels like this week had ten days in it," Reverend Paul Bush said. Reverend Bush was planning a vigil for Orlando, now he'll add Alton Sterling, Philando Castille, and five Dallas police officers to their prayers. "Five lives were lost yesterday because one life was taken the day before," he said. A violent response he says is never the answer. "We understand the confusion we understand the anger but we can't allow it to blossom into hatred and resentment," the reverend said. Now he's focused on bridging the community, with the people sworn to protect them. "Have to engage with law-enforcement, law – enforcement has to engage with citizens but we have to find a better way of doing it," Reverend Bush said. Much of that he says boils down to mutual respect. He's working on that already as a member of Aiken Public Safety's Review board. 2:33 minutes

5. HEALTH

Friday, July 1, News 12 This Morning: PICKING A GOOD SUNSCREEN THIS SUMMER. Many people have started claiming sunscreens are toxic. People fear some of the ingredients, specifically oxybenzone, can affect growth of hormones. But one local dermatologist says there's no real evidence that show this is a problem. However, she says there is proof that sunscreens protect against getting sunburned and lower your risk in getting skin cancer. She says skin cancer is obviously a big problem because it is the most common type of cancer. Sunscreens or sunblock can come in either the chemical or mineral form. Most are chemically filtered. The chemicals they contain, including oxybenzone, are what people fear can affect the hormones. Although a local dermatologist says that's nothing to worry about, these chemicals have been known to cause allergies. This is why children's sunscreens normally have fewer fragrances and chemicals, and are instead mineral based. 2:27 minutes

6. RECREATIONAL/CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, September 7, News 12 This Morning: ARTS IN THE HEART OF AUGUSTA FESTIVAL. The 36th Annual Arts in the Heart of Augusta Festival is set for September 16-18 in Downtown Augusta which features 120 local and regional musicians, dancers, and entertainers. 3:15 minutes

7. ECONOMY

Tuesday, August 9, News 12 @ 6P: RICHMOND COUNTY BOE APPROVES SMALL PROPERTY TAX DECREASE. Richmond County home owners could be paying a little less on property taxes. These dollars impact how much money goes to your child's education. Richmond County's Board of Education tentatively approved decreasing the millage rate by about .2 mills. This year's \$250 million budget included a four percent employee pay raise. It also allows them to hire fifteen new teachers. 2:02 minutes

8. TRAFFIC

Monday, July 4, News 12 This Morning: Both the Georgia Department of Transportation and South Carolina Department of Transportation are restarting construction after the Fourth of July holiday. In Georgia, it will pick up again at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, July 5. In South Carolina, construction will resume on Sunday, July 10, at 10 p.m. For more information about travel information along highways and state routes in Georgia and South Carolina, you can call 511 or visit 511ga.org. 1:22 minutes

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Tuesday, July 12, News 12 This Morning: COMMISSION MEETING TO DISCUSS FUNDING, SAFETY, AND REGENCY MALL. Augusta Commissioners are meeting Tuesday with a packed agenda, including safety regulations after a recent shooting at the Riverwalk. Commissioner Sean Frantom has asked the public safety committee to look into how to improve safety during large downtown events, like last week's Fourth of July celebration. The Richmond County Sheriff's Office tells News 12 NBC 26 that after the shootings in Orlando, they adjust the number of deputies they deploy based on the amount of people at certain events. Last week, we also learned the sheriff's office scrapped plans to open up a substation on the Riverwalk. Also, on the agenda today, the city will get an update on the efforts to eliminate a major eye sore in South Augusta, the old Regency Mall property. The price has been an issue, listed at \$50 million at last check. Commissioners say the property is stunting growth in parts of Gordon Highway and Deans Bridge Road. Eminent domain is being considered to take the property over, but will be a last resort. 2:33 minutes

10. ENVIRONMENT

Monday, July 11, News 12 This Morning: AUGUSTA CITY LEADERS BREAKING GROUND ON NEW SOLAR PROJECT. Augusta city leaders will be breaking ground on a new solar project. The event, hosted by Augusta Mayor Hardie Davis, will be happening Monday July 11 on Lock Dam Road. Georgia Power and Inman Solar representatives will be joined by the Augusta Commission for the ceremony, along with invited members of the Georgia Public Service Commission and the Augusta-Richmond County Legislative

Delegation. The city hopes to welcome in a new era of energy efficiency. Earlier this year, Augusta Commissioners approved adding solar panels to several places up for discussion, such as the old library building downtown. The groundbreaking ceremony begins 9:30a.m.Monday. 2:00 minutes

Through ascertainment interviews with community leaders and general public, the following list represents the most prevalent problems, needs, and concerns of the Augusta community. While the first five are in order of importance, the remaining are in no particular order:

1. Crime/Safety
2. Family/Youth/Seniors
3. Education
4. Religion
5. Health
6. Recreational/Cultural Activities
7. Economy
8. Traffic
9. Local Government
10. Environment