

FCC ISSUES REPORT – 1st Quarter 2018

Jan-Mar

KABC-TV

ABC7 -CORE ISSUES

1st Quarter 2018

CORE ISSUES

ABC7 gave significant coverage to the following community issues and concerns arising in the first quarter of 2018:

- 1. Public Safety**
- 2. Weather**
- 3. Politics**
- 4. Immigration/DACA**
- 5. Sexual Harassment**

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

ABC7 - CORE ISSUES COVERAGE

1st Quarter 2018

PUBLIC SAFETY

***Eyewitness News*. Air Dates: January 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. February 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28. March 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. Total Coverage: 17 Hours 40 Minutes**

ABC7 Eyewitness News devoted a significant amount of airtime covering the numerous public safety issues that pertain to the Los Angeles area, but the two stories in this category that dominated the station's airtime in first quarter were in regards to the school shooting at Salvador Castro Middle School and the case of the thirteen siblings held captive and tortured by their parents in Perris, California.

The station had continuous coverage of the shooting at Salvador Castro middle school campus. Several adjacent school campuses, including Belmont High School, were also locked down. Two people were shot. One person in the arm, the other had a wound to the head. It turned out that a young female student brought a gun in her backpack, and it went off, striking the two students. Parents rushed to the campus and as did hordes of police and SWAT. A classroom by classroom search was conducted until the campus was deemed safe. *ABC7 Eyewitness News* interviewed psychologist Dr. Lori Baudino to ask her expert opinion on a variety of related topics, including what can anxiety look like in children (i.e. withdrawal, avoidance, or tantrums, acting out), can anxiety look like other symptoms (i.e. we see children with OCD tendencies, sensory processing differences, attentional issues, learning challenges, phobias) and tips on how to support the child under such trauma (i.e. notice body sensations, timing and environment, sensory and emotional needs).

The other story of interest the *Eyewitness News* covered involved the thirteen Turpin siblings. One of the children escaped from the home to seek help and authorities say they found shocking conditions inside the family home. The parents are accused of holding the children captive and depriving them of adequate food, while allegedly eating freely in front of the malnourished children, leading to many questions about community safety, and the safety of children being homeschooled. The 17-year-old victim who alerted authorities had been working on the escape plan for two years. She and another sibling broke free by climbing out of a window. The other sibling turned back out of fear, but the teen persisted and called 911. Authorities said the house smelled of human waste and evidence of starvation was obvious. The case drew international attention and shocked neighbors who said they rarely saw the couple's children in the neighborhood. Those who saw the children recalled them as thin, pallid and reserved. According to investigators, the abuse went on for so long that the children's growth was stunted. The couple allegedly shackled the children to furniture as punishment and kept them on a nocturnal schedule. The parents, David and Louise Turpin, face up to life in prison if convicted of a combined 78 charges, including torture, false imprisonment and child endangerment. They are each being held in lieu of \$12 million and have pleaded not guilty.

WEATHER

***Eyewitness News.* Air Dates: January 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31. February 3, 4, 7, 11, 19, 21, 26, 27, 28. March 1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26. Total Coverage: 11 Hours 20 Minutes**

ABC7 Eyewitness News reported extensively on heavy storms that wreaked havoc along Southern California, triggering numerous mudslides as well as multiple freeway closures. The mudslides were a direct result of the wildfires that ravaged Southern California late last year. Widespread storms that inundated many California communities in January through March, called for mandatory evacuations and caused major property damage as well as some loss of life. The Thomas Fire, the largest and most destructive in California history, triggered the virtual destruction of Montecito, an affluent community in Santa Barbara County. When a powerful winter storm struck the Southland in January, it inundated fire-scarred hillsides, especially those affected by the Thomas Fire above Montecito. A 30-foot tall wall of mud and rocks was unleashed on the small coastal community. The station reported on the devastation, as well as on the subsequent cleanup efforts of not only Montecito, but also other storm affected areas in Burbank, Topanga Canyon and La Tuna Canyon. The Montecito mudslides alone have caused more than \$421 million in damages, and the deaths of twenty-one people.

POLITICS

***Eyewitness News.* Air Dates: January 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 30, 31. February 1, 2, 3, 8, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 25, 27. March 1, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28. Total Coverage: 6 Hours 43 Minutes**

ABC7 Eyewitness News reported on a variety of political issues at the local level. Airtime was devoted to covering the number of new laws that went into effect at midnight, January 1st. One topic that received a significant amount of coverage involved the impact of legalizing recreational marijuana in California.

ABC7 interviewed Reggie Jones Sawyer, California Assemblyman 59th District, to discuss the topic of California putting up a united front against U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions and his federal directive targeting legal marijuana. Jones-Sawyer wants to revive a proposal that would make California a so-called “sanctuary state” for marijuana. He said Sessions’ decision to allow federal prosecutors to crack down on marijuana growers and sellers, just as California’s recreational use law took effect, prompted the need for protection from what he called the “outdated federal war on drugs.”

ABC7 also continued to report on President Trump’s policies/comments and reactions at the local level. Coverage included the President’s visit to Southern California. He talked to troops at Miramar Air Station, visited border wall prototypes at Otay Mesa and attended a fundraiser in Los Angeles. President Trump also bashed California sanctuary city policies and the immigrant population in the state, and threatened to remove ICE agents from California. Los Angeles Mayors usually greet and welcome visiting Presidents to LA at LAX, but LA Mayor Eric Garcetti did not because he had not been invited to do so, nor to meet or interact with Mr. Trump at any time during his SoCal visit.

IMMIGRATION

***Eyewitness News.* Air Dates: January 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27. February 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 22, 26, 28. March 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 26, 27, 28, 29. Total Coverage: 3 Hours 49 Minutes**

ABC7 Eyewitness News reported on the continuing controversy of the Trump administration's policy on immigration and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and how it is affecting Southern Californians. There are more Dreamers in California than any other state.

At the local level, supporters of DACA held a series of protests in front of the offices of 4 SoCal Republican members of Congress. Protesters gathered at Senator Diane Feinstein's Los Angeles office pushing for Dream Act Action. Dreamers were demanding that lawmakers work together and make a lasting DACA deal resolution.

ABC7 also covered the government shutdown triggered by the DACA debate. President Trump had unveiled his immigration plan, which included a path to citizenship for Dreamers, tighter immigration rules and billions of taxpayer dollars for a border wall. The President had urged people to start pushing Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats to work out a DACA fix. A bipartisan deal on DACA emerged from the Senate but was quickly dismissed by a Trump Tweet because it did not include full funding of his proposed border wall. Nancy Pelosi talked for eight hours on the house floor about the Dreamers saying she would only support a budget deal if Speaker Ryan would commit to a vote on protecting DACA recipients. The Senate began an open-ended discussion on possible legislation that could impact the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S., but was unable to come to a resolution.

ABC7 Eyewitness News also reported on the dozens of people that were arrested in ICE raids in the Los Angeles area. ICE said the sweep targeted people who posed a threat to National Security. A three day sweep led to the arrest of more than 150 people across CA who had criminal convictions and are in the US illegally. ICE had arrested more than 200 in the LA area earlier the month in an earlier sweep.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

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

ABC7 Eyewitness News reported on the sexual harassment issue that continues to plague the country and on a local level, in Hollywood and Sacramento. Some of the most powerful women in Hollywood are banded together and launched an anti-harassment campaign called #TIMES UP. At the Golden Globes, many men and women wore black to protest and stand in solidarity with #METOO and #TIMESUP.

ABC7 Eyewitness News interviewed labor law attorney Angela Reddock-Wright to discuss having more diversity and inclusion in the entertainment business to help combat sexual harassment and foster pay equity between men and women. Oscar winner Frances McDormand ignited a new discussion at the Academy Awards this March when she mentioned all her future work contracts would contain an "INCLUSION RIDER". Reddock-Wright discussed what does that would mean, and how will it bring more diversity to Hollywood and impact the power structure in Hollywood businesses, etc.

ABC7 also reported on several members of the California State Capital accused of sexual misconduct. Local Assembly women Christina Garcia who had been a figurehead of the #METOO movement in Sacramento herself faced allegation of sexual harassment. A former staffer said he was fired for refusing to play spin the bottle with Garcia. The Bell Gardens politician continued to deny all allegations and was placed on an unpaid leave of absence. California Senate member Tony Mendoza suddenly resigned in the face of multiple allegations of misconduct. He called the investigation farcical and said he planned to sue the Senate and would possibly run for office again in the future.