

FCC ISSUES REPORT – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2017  
Jul-Sep  
KABC-TV

ABC7 -CORE ISSUES  
3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2017

CORE ISSUES

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

1. Politics
2. Public Safety
3. Immigration
4. Wildfires
5. Olympics

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

ABC7 - CORE ISSUES COVERAGE  
3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2017

**POLITICS**

***Eyewitness News.* Air Dates: July 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30. August 3, 8, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 29, 30. September 7, 12, 13, 14, 16, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28.**

**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 candidate for Governor and State Treasurer John Chiang's endorsement by Congressman Brad Sherman and LA City Councilman Bob Blumenfield in the race against Gavin Newsom and former LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, while Congresswoman Karen Bass endorsed Villaraigosa. Coverage was also given to the Mar Vista Community Council as it spoke out against the street changes along Venice Blvd that removed one traffic lane in each direction and the widening of the bicycle lane. Attention was also brought to the city of Anaheim as it declared a health and safety state of emergency in response to the city's growing homeless population.

ABC7 also covered several different political protests. There was the impeachment march, as thousands of demonstrators took to the streets of Downtown LA calling for the impeachment of the President, including local Congressman Brad Sherman. Another march covered was the one in Downtown Los Angeles, where hundreds of people gathered to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Coverage also included protestors holding a mock funeral outside the Orange County office of Congressman Ed Royce, urging him to withdraw his support for the Republican healthcare plan.

ABC7 continued to report on President Trump's policies/comments and reactions at the local level. The station spoke with transgender service members and veterans, the ACLU and the LGBT Center and got their reactions to President's announcement on a ban on transgender people in the military, including people who are already in the service. The station also covered protests in Santa Ana, Laguna Beach and Los Angeles in response to the violence in Charlottesville and Trump's reaction to it. The President had blamed "both sides" for the violence in Charlottesville. Local reactions to his comments were covered from both sides. Attention was also given to a rally in opposition to the violence in Charlottesville in Liemert Park. The station also spoke to experts who explained what President Trump's plan to make sweeping changes to the nation's tax code will mean to Californians.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

***Eyewitness News. Air Dates: July 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28. August 1, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 28. September 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 27. Total Coverage: 7 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. One story involved a ten year veteran of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department being arrested on allegations of criminal misconduct while on-duty in the county jail system. He was charged with two counts of rape and two counts of oral copulation both under the color of authority. Another report involved former LA County Undersheriff Paul Tanaka's hearing in appeals court after being convicted in a scheme to hide an FBI informant and derail a federal investigation.

*ABC7* also reported on the increase in property crime and violent offenses leading to the foothill communities banding together and sharing resources to be more effective in fighting crime. It started with three cities – Arcadia, Glendora and Monrovia – and has grown now to thirty cities.

*ABC7 Eyewitness News* continued to report on the numerous officer involved shootings, including a man who was shot and killed by California Highway Patrol officers on the I-5 Freeway. He had been walking on the northbound lanes and when the officers showed up, he pulled a knife. Another story was about a Huntington Beach officer who opened fire on a man in a struggle and killed him outside a convenience store and all was caught on camera, but the police chief said the video didn't tell the whole story.

*ABC7 Eyewitness News* also reported on several police pursuits. One such pursuit involved a patient in an ambulance who hijacked the vehicle and led Westminster police on a wild ride. Police said the patient, 24-year-old Christopher Crisanto of Cypress, became hostile and aggressive and threatened an EMT in the ambulance with a pair of shears. That prompted the driver to pull over to help, but while the driver and the EMT were outside, Crisanto jumped into the driver's seat and took off. The pursuit lasted about 15 minutes until the suspect stopped on a dirt lot beneath the 405 and 605 freeways. Police arrested him on suspicion of carjacking and reckless driving.

## **IMMIGRATION**

***Eyewitness News.* Air Dates: July 28. August 1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 20, 22, 25, 29, 30, 31. September 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27.**

**Total Coverage: 3 Hours 24 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. President Trump initially rescinded the DACA program and gave Congress six months to find a legislative solution. Southern California legislators and law enforcement gave their opinions. There are nearly 200,000 DACA recipients in California, or one in every four live in California. When President Trump met with Democratic Congressional leaders, they claim to have a deal to keep DACA. The next morning, Trump tweeted that there wasn't a deal yet. ABC7 covered many of the Southern California legislators' reactions. Before Trump's announcement to rescind DACA, hundreds of protestors showed up at the Downtown Federal Building to say that families would be destroyed with the program's end. LA City Council members took steps to protect immigrants in the wake of President Trump's DACA decision.

ABC7 covered President Trump's announcement of a new travel ban effective October 18, as the previous one ends. He has expanded the ban to two more countries beyond the original ban of six Muslim countries to include Venezuela and North Korea. A bill making California a Sanctuary State cleared the State Senate, after being approved by the Assembly. Groups and people from all sides of the argument spoke out.

ABC7 also reported on the story of the case of a 48 year old undocumented father arrested by Immigration officials after dropping off his daughter at school. He has lived in the US for 38 years, and faced deportation for misdemeanor charges from twenty years ago.

## **WILDFIRES**

***Eyewitness News.* Air Dates: July 3, 4, 5, 14, 19, 21. August 18, 27, 28. September 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 25, 26, 27. Total Coverage: 4 Hours 11 Minutes**

*ABC7 Eyewitness News* reported extensively on the numerous wildfires that rages through California in July through September. High temperatures and dry brush increase fire risk all over Southern California. After a number of small fires, the emphasis is on prevention and safety. Los Angeles County Fire Department received air power reinforcements for this fire season. Two Super Scoopers are being leased from Canada. Over 7,200 acres burned in the La Tuna Canyon fire that threatened homes and drove residents from their homes, while a Burbank brushfire burned over 5,000 acres and drove residents from their home as well. ABC7 also covered the fire that broke out near the 91 Freeway, started by strong winds fanned the over 2,000 acres. 600 hundred homes were evacuated and three structures were damaged.

## **OLYMPICS**

***Eyewitness News* Air Dates: July 5, 11, 31. August 1, 11, 12. September 13, 14, 18.**

**Total Coverage: 1 Hour 28 Minutes**

*ABC7 Eyewitness News* devoted airtime on Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's push and eventual win for Los Angeles to host the 2028 Summer Olympics. Mayor Garcetti's originally bid was for the 2024 Olympics, but the International Olympic Committee (IOC) granted those games to Paris and for the first time, also gave the rights to the 2028 Olympics. The announcement has its critics. The protest coalition NOLYMPICSLA pledges to step up its campaign as transportation officials assure commuters that new infrastructure already funded by taxpayers will provide options for threading through traffic like never before. Unlike any Olympics bid in history, this one is ordained by the International Olympics Committee 11 years before the event, providing more than ample time to prepare. Detractors say the lead time only adds risk, opening up time for bad things to happen, such as earthquakes, terrorist attacks, or using facilities they plan to use no longer being up to code. While many factors can change in the coming years, veteran observers say certain figures are firm.