

FCC ISSUES REPORT – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2019  
Jul-Sep  
KABC-TV

**ABC7 -CORE ISSUES**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2019**

CORE ISSUES

ABC7 gave significant coverage to the following community issues and concerns arising in the third quarter of 2019:

1. Public Safety & Crime
2. Community
3. Politics
4. Health
5. Immigration

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

**PUBIC SAFETY & CRIME**

***Eyewitness News. Air Dates: July 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. August 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. September 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.***

**Total Coverage: 3 Days 6 Hours 24 Minutes**

*ABC7 Eyewitness News* devoted noteworthy airtime on Public Safety and Crime issues during the third quarter of 2019. One particular story of great interest to Angelenos concerned a former USC gynecologist, George Tyndall, who was accused of sexually assaulting more than a dozen patients over a seven-year period when he worked at the university's on-campus health center.

The station covered his arraignment, where he was being held on more than 2-million dollars bail and faced 29-felony counts for allegedly assaulting at least 16 female students. He pleaded not guilty to the charges and had appeared in court wearing a suicide-prevention vest. He posted bail and released from jail after nearly two months after his arrest in late June. The 72-year-old is scheduled for a preliminary hearing on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Over the past year, more than 380 women have reported misconduct by Tyndall. He's facing a separate 215-million dollar federal class-action settlement. More than seven hundred women have also filed lawsuits against Tyndall and USC.

The other story that ABC7 reported extensively on concerned the mass shooting at the Gilroy Garlic Festival in Gilroy, California, on July 28, 2019. The gunman, Santino William Legan, killed himself and three others, and wounded 17 people. The 19-year-old gunman who opened fire at the three day Northern California food festival was said to be "kind of a loner" and much of his life was shrouded in mystery, according to the FBI. Investigators discovered a so-called "target list" while going through Legan's digital media. On the list were things like religious institutions, courthouses and both major political parties. A motive for the attack -- which killed 3 people and injured 13 others -- is not yet known. Legan's family released a statement saying they were deeply shocked and horrified by his actions.

*ABC7 Eyewitness News* reported on how on the day of the attack, Legan urged his Instagram followers to read a 19th century book popular with white supremacists on extremist websites. He also complained about overcrowding towns and paving open space to make room for "hordes" of Latinos and Silicon Valley whites. He posted a photo from the festival minutes before opening fire, saying, "Come get wasted on overpriced" items. His since-deleted Instagram account said he was Italian and Iranian.

The station provided information on the three victims: Stephen Romero, age 6, who attended the festival with his mother and grandmother, and who were both hospitalized; Keyla Salazar, the 13-year-old who would have celebrated her 14th birthday one week from the shooting; and Trevor Deon Irby, the 25-year-old who graduated with a biology degree from Keuka College in 2017. His girlfriend Sarah, who he considered his fiancée, was with him during the shooting and escaped.

## COMMUNITY

***Eyewitness News.* Air Dates: July 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. August 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. September 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.**  
**Total Coverage: 1 Day 9 Hours 21 Minutes**

*ABC7 Eyewitness News* reported on community happenings that affected the station's viewing area in the third quarter of 2019.

ABC7 devoted significant airtime to the death of Los Angeles Angels pitcher and southern California native Tyler Skaggs. The 27-year-old Skaggs was found dead in his hotel room in the Dallas area July 1st before the start of what was supposed to be a four-game series against the Texas Rangers. The first game was postponed. An autopsy later show that Skaggs died while under the influence of drugs and alcohol and fatally choked on his own vomit. The official cause of death was listed as "Mixed ethanol, fentanyl and oxycodone intoxication with terminal aspiration of gastric contents." A moment of silence was held for Skaggs prior to the first pitch in the July 2 game against the Rangers. All teammates stood in silence with the No. 45 placed on their jerseys over their hearts. The No. 45 was also painted on the back of the mound where his teammates played their first game since the pitcher's death.

Skaggs was born in the Woodland Hills neighborhood of Los Angeles and went to high school in Santa Monica. Though his high school was just across town from Dodger Stadium, he grew up rooting for the Angels. He was drafted by the Angels in 2009 out of high school but was then traded to the Arizona Diamondbacks before making his Major League Baseball debut. He returned to the Angels in a trade in 2013.

ABC7 reported on how hundreds of friends, family and teammates paid their respects to Tyler Skaggs at a memorial at a Catholic church in his native Santa Monica. The mourners remembered Skaggs as a beloved son, husband, teammate and friend whose upbeat personality brought joy to everyone around him. The altar was flanked by two large, red-and-white floral arrangements prominently featuring No. 45, Skaggs' uniform number. His wife Carli ended the ceremony, talking about the love she and Tyler shared. After the service, mourners were greeted by a catering truck from In-N-Out Burger, a Southern California institution and one of Skaggs' favorite places to eat.

## **POLITICS**

***Eyewitness News*. Air Dates: July 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30. August 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. September 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.**

**Total Coverage: 16 Hours 15 Minutes**

*ABC7 Eyewitness News* reported on a variety of political issues at the local level. Significant airtime was devoted to the Trump administration's attempts to revoke part of California's authority to set its own automotive emissions and fuel economy standards. California has had that power for decades under a waiver from the federal 170 Clean Air Act. The White House wants to relax mileage standards nationwide. California officials said that if the administration was serious about pollution it wouldn't attack the state's authority to regulate emissions and pollution from cars.

ABC7 covered how California was leading a lawsuit by 23 states to stop the Trump administration from revoking California's authority to set emission standards for cars and trucks. Then, the Trump administration revoked that waiver. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said that action fails to respect states' authority to protect public health. Four automakers have said they would voluntarily follow California's standards. Now, the federal government has launched an anti-trust investigation and informed state authorities they may be violating the law in a deal with the four automakers for tougher emission limits.

Meantime, Governor Gavin Newsom blasted President Trump's announcement to revoke California's authority to set its own auto emission standards. Newsom, who was in New York where the UN was holding the climate summit, said he was embarrassed and humiliated by the President's announcement. The governor says fighting climate change should not be a partisan issue.

The station informed its viewers on how the Trump administration was threatening to block California from receiving federal highway grants if it did not revise plans to address air pollution, saying the state has more cities that don't meet pollution limits than any other in the country. Twenty-three states have filed a lawsuit to stop the Trump administration from revoking California's authority.

The Environmental Protection Agency has warned California it could lose federal highway funds if the state does not clean up its air. The EPA says the state has the worst air quality in the country with 34 million people living in areas that do not meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The EPA is calling on state officials to work with it to come up with workable plans -- or risk highway funding cuts and other penalties.

## HEALTH

***Eyewitness News*. Air Dates: July 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31. August 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. September 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.**

**Total Coverage: 6 Hours 46 Minutes**

*ABC7 Eyewitness News* covered at length on the various health topics that interest its Southern California audience. One major topic covered was the growing concern that vaping may be more dangerous to one's health than originally thought.

ABC7 reported on how the government looked into the possible link between vaping and seizures. Health officials in at least fifteen states say they've seen more than 120 cases of lung disease that "could" be linked to vaping. That is according to a CNN Survey of state health departments. In many cases, patients were hospitalized, but health experts cannot be certain vaping is directly responsible for the diseases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention asked doctors to collect samples of what similar patients were vaping. The long-term effects of vaping have not been well studied. The CDC is investigating nearly 200 cases of severe pulmonary illnesses linked to vaping in 22 states, including California.

Locally, Ventura County Health officials said two people have suffered lung injuries possibly linked to vaping. California Health officials are investigating the two cases. Across the state, officials have identified 37 cases of acute lung disease among people with a recent history of vaping, with some of them having vaped unregulated cannabis products. Recently the first death linked to E-cigarettes was reported in Illinois. For its part the CDC says it's currently investigating nearly 200-cases of severe pulmonary illnesses linked to vaping in 22 states.

## **IMMIGRATION**

***Eyewitness News*. Air Dates: July 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. August 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 28. September 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 15, 18, 19, 26, 27.**

**Total Coverage: 3 Hours 11 Minutes**

*ABC7 Eyewitness News* reported on the continuing controversy of the Trump administration's immigration policy, particularly on the "Close the Camps" demonstrations that were held over many Southern California cities.

Protests were held in the Los Angeles area and across the country calling for the government to close migrant detention facilities. Criticism from activists comes amid reported squalid conditions inside the immigration centers. Protesters urged lawmakers, like California Congressman Adam Schiff, to shut down the facilities and protect the safety of migrants.

The "Close the Camps" protests came a day after a congressional delegation visited several Customs and Border Protection facilities and reported migrants being held in unsanitary and inhumane conditions. California Congresswoman Judy Chu toured some of the centers, which she described as "appalling" and "disgusting." She said in a video posted on her Twitter page that she spoke with detainees who said they did not have access to running water, and one migrant woman who claimed a border agent told her to drink water from a toilet. There were also accounts of children being denied soap and toothbrushes, and crowded into unsafe conditions.

*ABC7* covered the several demonstrators who met with Chu, among them were several people who were recently released from a camp. Nicky Caballero said she is a transgender woman and was attacked a number of times in her native Honduras. She came alone to the U.S. to escape and spent several months in two camps.

The mobilizations nationwide followed the death of a Honduran migrant who died in the custody of federal immigration agents after falling ill at a Houston detention facility. According to a statement by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 30-year-old Yimi Alexis Balderramos-Torres died in a suburban Houston hospital after he was found unresponsive in his dormitory.

Organizers called on Schiff to support the repeal of Section 1325, which makes unauthorized border crossing a crime and allows for families to be separated at the border.