

*NBC Nightly News with Tom Llamas*

09/19/25

6:30:26 p.m. [TEASE]

32 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Drive By Shooting at ABC Sacramento Station]

TOM LLAMAS: Tonight, breaking news. Shots fired at an ABC station in Sacramento. Officers now on the scene. At least three bullet holes seen fired into the ABC building. Authorities say nobody was injured. Demonstrators supporting Jimmy Kimmel were seen outside the station just yesterday.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Jimmy Kimmel's Future Unclear]

This coming amid rising tensions after Kimmel was suspended indefinitely with questions still swirling about his future. Top Republican Senator Ted Cruz breaking with President Trump, suggesting the FCC's tactics were right out of the movie *Goodfellas*.

(...)

6:32:03 p.m.

3 minutes and 58 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Shots Fired at ABC Station]

LLAMAS: We are coming on the air tonight with breaking news that just came in moments ago. Someone fired at least three bullets into the ABC affiliate in Sacramento, and then drove off. You can see the bullet holes right here and police are now on the scene. The motive is still unknown, but demonstrators had gathered outside the station yesterday, protesting the suspension of Jimmy Kimmel by ABC. Police aren't sure whether the events are connected at all, but it comes at a time when tensions are high and the spotlight is on the Kimmel suspension. While the move to bench the TV host following his comments in the wake of the killing of Charlie Kirk has been praised by someone, others have raised flags over free speech concerns. That includes Disney's former CEO as well as frequent Trump ally, Senator Ted Cruz calling some of the language used by the FCC pushing for his removal that of a "mafioso." It has all sparked intense debate over the First Amendment, cancel culture, and safety, and what's funny, and what's not. Liz Kreutz begins our coverage tonight.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Shots Fired at ABC Station in Sacramento]

LIZ KREUTZ: Tonight, gunshots fired at an ABC affiliated television station in Sacramento. Bullet holes seen in the window of the lobby. An employee of the Tegna-owned station telling NBC News someone pulled up, fired into the lobby, and drove off.

SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT's ANTHONY GAMBLE: We're not going to stop

looking for you. This is unacceptable behavior and this is not going to be tolerated in Sacramento.

NBC's Liz Kreutz, during her report on Friday's 'Nightly News,' talking about the drive-by shots fired at the ABC Sacramento station and the Jimmy Kimmel suspension: ""

KREUTZ: At least one person was in the lobby at the time, according to the station employee. Police say nobody was injured. While the motive is unknown, it comes amid backlash to the decision by Disney, ABC's parent company, to suspend Jimmy Kimmel's late night show following the comments he made about Charlie Kirk's alleged assassin. Today, as ABC remains silent, criticism growing over the company's decision and how the head of the FCC appeared to pressure ABC. In a rare break from the Trump administration, Republican Senator Ted Cruz joining those criticizing FCC chairman Brendan Carr.

SENATOR TED CRUZ [on *The Verdict with Ted Cruz*, 09/19/25]: It's fine to say what Jimmy Kimmel said was deplorable, it was disgraceful, and he should be off air, but we shouldn't be threatening government power to force him off air. That's a real mistake.

KREUTZ: President Trump tonight responding —

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: I think Brendan Carr is a great American patriot, so I disagree with Ted Cruz on that.

KREUTZ: — and also again suggesting revoking licenses from broadcasters that air unfavorable coverage of him.

TRUMP: They'll take a great story, and they'll make it bad. See, I think that's really illegal, personally.

KREUTZ: Meanwhile, outside Disney —

DISNEYLAND PROTESTER: Free speech is under attack!

KREUTZ: — protests growing from New York to L.A. For a second day in a row now, supporters of Jimmy Kimmel are gathering outside Disney's headquarters calling for him to be put back on the air. Many telling us they're now boycotting the company.

PRO-KIMMEL PROTESTER: Canceling Hulu. I'm not going to watch Disney, and I'm going to avoid their advertisers like the plague.

KREUTZ: Former Disney CEO Michael Eisner also now weighing in writing on X: "If not for university presidents, law firm managing partners, and corporate chief executives standing up against bullies, who then will step out for the First Amendment?"

STEPHEN COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 09/18/25]: Jimmy, just

let me say, I stand with you and your staff 100 percent.

KREUTZ: With Kimmel still off the air, fellow late night hosts standing up for him.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 09/18/25]: That is blatant censorship.

JON STEWART [on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*, 09/18/25]: In America, we have a little something called the First Amendment, and let me tell you how it works.

FALLON [on NBC's *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, 09/18/25]: I don't know what's going on, and, and no one does, but I — I do know Jimmy Kimmel, and he's a decent, funny, and loving guy, and I hope he comes back.

LLAMAS: Liz joins us now live. I want to go back to that shooting in Sacramento. Do we know anything about what happened?

KREUTZ: Tom, police just gave an update, and they said this is a preliminary investigation. They do not know right now if this was a random or targeted attack. They have not identified a suspect, but we do know that yesterday there were protesters gathered outside that station in response to ABC's decision to pull Kimmel off the air.

LLAMAS: Liz Kreutz with that breaking news tonight. Liz, we thank you.