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School Bus Driver Charged With Trafficking Cocaine

Wednesday, Nov 28, 2007 - 11:18 PM

Photo Video



Tiawanna Scott

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By Tristan Tully E-mail

A First Student bus driver is suspended from duty tonight after news of a drug arrest comes to light.

A mom called NEWS 3 concerned after she heard about it.

Tiawanna Scott was arrested on August 23rd on charges of trafficking cocaine. Her trial was supposed to begin tomorrow, but for now it's been extended. Police say she also has a misdemeanor charge for obstruction back in 1989, but no specific information was available on that charge.

First student says the company suspended Scott today, when they found out about the arrest. But that's not good enough for one

concerned mother who talked to us tonight.

Rochelle Hines was stunned to learn that the woman who drives her son's school bus Tiawanna Scott had been arrested yet until Wednesday she had still been behind the wheel, "To put kids in that type of danger is - it's undescrivable. I can not understand how that even took place."

She feels that she should trust her children are safe on the bus, "It's hard enough that parents have to go to work and leave their kids in the hands of other people hoping their taken care of."

Randy Samples with First Student agrees with Hines in that the children's safety comes first, "We just want to make sure that the parents understand, the public understands that we do take things like this seriously so we appreciate the fact that we had a concerned citizen enough to bring this to our attention."

Samples also says First Student takes employee records and background checks seriously, "Any report of any wrong doing, we do dig into and investigate and if it comes out to be that it warrants disciplinary action, we take disciplinary action against our employees."

Hines says that she just wants her child to be able to go to school and not have to worry about whether the driver has a record, "My child goes to school to learn, to feel safe. To just be a kid - now to have my son in fear - that's not what life is about."

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Randy Samples with First Student says at this point there is no notification process with local police for the company to be alerted when a driver is arrested.

We also asked about First Student's background checks to find out why Scott's arrest didn't come up. Samples says the company does background checks quarterly. The last ones were conducted in early August. Scott's arrest was on the 23rd, just missing the background check. He says the next round of checks actually started this week.

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Reader Reaction:

Do you think First Student do background checks more frequently? [Click this link to post your comment](#)

Posted November 29, 2007 @ 09:19 AM by hwolf2507

O.M.G This is exactly why i take my 3 children to and from school every day!! What on earth is this world comming to? I am even afraid to let my 14 yd old to go to the movies with friends!!! I am fortunate enough that i dont have to work, and am able to be at home with my children!! It's not only in god's , hands but my own also! let's keep our chilren safe!!!

Posted November 29, 2007 @ 06:03 AM by Anonymous

No I don't think they should check records more often, when records are checked and things show up on the initial hiring but when doing checks later and minor things come up doesnt mean that driverscant do their job well. Bus drivers are human also. Some employers only check once you are hired and never again. I think once is enough enless something comes up that will interfere with them doing your job. The only thing they need to do often is drug test