

## St. Hilaire, Amanda

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**From:** Stacy Tapp <stacy.tapp@rusd.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 20, 2019 12:02 PM  
**To:** St. Hilaire, Amanda  
**Subject:** Re: [EXT] Re: FOX6 interview request

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

They notified us on Jan. 24.

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**Stacy Tapp**  
Chief of Communication & Community Engagement



[3109 Mount Pleasant Street | Racine, WI 53404](#)  
**Tel: 262.631.7057 Cell: 262.939.2240**

*Raising Racine, Together.*

On Wed, Mar 20, 2019 at 11:48 AM St. Hilaire, Amanda <[Amanda.St.Hilaire@fox6now.com](mailto:Amanda.St.Hilaire@fox6now.com)> wrote:

Thank you. How and when did RUSD become aware of the safety violations? Did Durham self-report?

Amanda St. Hilaire

Investigative Reporter

WITI-TV FOX6 News

414-587-2963

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**From:** Stacy Tapp <[stacy.tapp@rusd.org](mailto:stacy.tapp@rusd.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 20, 2019 11:46 AM  
**To:** St. Hilaire, Amanda <[Amanda.St.Hilaire@fox6now.com](mailto:Amanda.St.Hilaire@fox6now.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Re: FOX6 interview request

EXTERNAL EMAIL

Hi Amanda. My apologies for the slow response. I have the cold/flu that seems to be hitting everyone pretty hard right now. However, I can provide you a response to your questions on behalf of the District:

When RUSD became aware of the safety violations, we immediately contacted Durham. Durham provided documentation to demonstrate that each of the safety issues had by that time been addressed. This year, our transportation services contract is up for renewal. We are currently reviewing proposals from several school transportation providers for the 2019-2020 school year. As we go through this process, we will also be revising our contract to include additional accountability requirements to ensure this situation does not occur in the future.

My assumption is that MPS contracts with multiple companies because of their size and the number of students they transport each day. Our number of student bus riders does not require us to utilize more than one bus company.

Best regards,

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**Stacy Tapp**  
Chief of Communication & Community Engagement



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***Raising Racine, Together.***

On Mon, Mar 18, 2019 at 2:46 PM St. Hilaire, Amanda <[Amanda.St.Hilaire@fox6now.com](mailto:Amanda.St.Hilaire@fox6now.com)> wrote:

Hi Stacy,

I'm doing a story about school district contracts with school bus companies. Specifically, my story will mention that Racine Unified School District only contracts with one bus company (as opposed to Milwaukee Public School district, which contracts with several), and that company was recently found to be operating school buses that State Patrol ordered out of service for safety violations. Here's the link to the initial story on that:

<https://fox6now.com/2019/02/04/fox6-investigation-defective-school-buses-continue-to-transport-students-despite-warnings/>

I'd like to talk to someone from Racine Unified School District on camera about how the district holds its bus company accountable, what the district response is to the recent findings about Durham School Services buses operating when they were supposed to be out of service, and whether there are any future plans or consideration for diversifying the school bus contracts.

My deadline is this Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. For scheduling purposes, I would need to know the availability for an on-camera interview by Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you,

Amanda St. Hilaire

Investigative Reporter

WITI-TV FOX6 News

414-587-2963