



Press Information

For Immediate Release
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RIPTA Board Investigates Felons at the Wheel. ASC Testifies

Cranston: On Monday, November 21st, 2011, a hearing was held by the Board of the RI Public Transit Authority – RIPTA. The subject at hand was the recent revelation that early-release prisoners from the ACI had been hired to drive the smaller RIDE busses that provide targeted transportation to the elderly, inform, and disabled.

Questions for the board included how these recent inmates had received their jobs ahead of existing applicants and whether or not it was proper for the state to bond them against damages and to provide the Transit Authority with the funds needed for their salaries.

For complete WPRI Channel 12 News Coverage, [Click Here](#).

During the public comment section of the hearing ASC-RI Executive Director, Carolyn Medeiros, spoke on behalf of her organization. The text of her remarks follows:

Members of the Board; my name is Carolyn Medeiros. I am the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Non-Profit Alliance for Safe Communities. The Alliance mission is to work with communities to achieve a safe environment promised to them by government. We work with legislators, local and state police law enforcement, the Attorney Generals Office, Media Networks, and most importantly Rhode Island residents who call this state home.

Mr. Obimge, it is not my intention to pick on you, however the best of intentions often fall short of achieving their goals. That being said, I believe this decision to employ individuals with excessive records including but not exclusive of violent crimes was wrong. RIPTA serves some of the most Vulnerable Population. The consequences could

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prove to be disastrous following through with this decision. The elderly, and developmentally disabled would be put at risk.

I am confident moving forward that this board is aware of this fact and will come to the right conclusion and take corrective action.

I thank you for allowing me to testify today and address these issues.

ASC-RI is a non-profit dedicated to assisting Communities to achieve the promise of a safe environment that is made to them by government.

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