

Eddie Cathey

Sheriff of Union County

3344 Presson Road
Monroe, North Carolina 28112



Telephone: (704) 283-3789

FAX: (704) 292-2700

Email: eddiecathey@co.union.nc.us

NEWS RELEASE

March 6, 2018

For Immediate Release

Union County Public Schools Bus Driver Charged with Posting Social Media Threats

A bus driver for the Porter Ridge Schools cluster has been arrested in connection with posting a threatening Facebook message early Friday morning. The message targeted Porter Ridge Middle School but disparagingly mentioned several members of the school staff by name as well as “immigrants” living in Suburban Estates.

Lashauna Hooker Beachum, age 32, of 7128 Wallace Road, Charlotte is in the Union County jail this afternoon facing two felony charges of Making False Reports Concerning Mass Violence on Educational Property. The initial post appeared on a local Facebook page, *What's Up Indian Trail*, around 2:00 am Friday morning but disappeared before being posted a second time a few hours later. Numerous citizens reported the concerning messages to the Union County Sheriff's Office as well as to Union County Public Schools. Sheriff's deputies immediately began investigating the source of the message and ensured extra patrol was provided for Suburban Estates. Moreover, several additional deputies were on Porter Ridge campuses Friday.

Detectives worked throughout the day Friday attempting to determine the source of the post. Late Friday afternoon, deputies confirmed the post originated from a residence on Wallace Road in Charlotte and later linked the post to Beachum. Detectives continued the investigation into the weekend and took Beachum into

custody early this afternoon. The motive behind the two messages allegedly posted by Beachum is not clear. However, detectives do not believe Beachum had the means or intention of acting on the threat.

Sheriff Eddie Cathey praised the work of all deputies, detectives and school officials involved in this investigation. He stated, "The safety of our kids and schools is one of our highest priorities. Any comment, rumor or social media post mentioning violence on school property is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. I really appreciate all the hard work that the detectives, deputies and school officials put into this case to get it resolved."



BEACHUM

Point of contact for this press release is Chief Communications Officer Tony Underwood, 704-292-2707.

Citizens with information concerning criminal activity are encouraged to call:

Union County Sheriff's Office at 704-283-3789

Or

Union County Crimestoppers at 704-283-5600

