



# DREAM CITY ACADEMY

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## PRESS RELEASE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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### Daycare Immediately Self-Reported Abuse by Former Employee

On May 23, 2019, a former employee was recorded on the daycare video camera system committing reprehensible acts against a number of students. Because Dream City Academy values the safety and security of the children entrusted to our care and seeks to operate with honesty and integrity, the leadership of the daycare, **Susan Graham, Managing Director; Brooke Vick, Director; and Yolanda Tomlinson, Office Manager**, made prompt and precise decisions after viewing the video recording. The employee was confronted, questioned, and fired on the very same day that the incident occurred. The daycare leadership then immediately self-reported this awful incident to the Department of Children and Families, the Florida Abuse Hotline, and the Ormond Beach Police Department.

The leadership of the daycare went out of their way to answer all questions by the agencies listed above and the parents of the children involved. Numerous meetings, text messages, and phone calls took place to ensure that a full accounting of the incident was documented. We have since begun the process of adding and upgrading our video cameras as well as enhance our protocols to ensure this will not happen in the future.

Numerous news and media organizations have reached out to us looking for a comment, but we have decided to limit our communications as to not infringe on the rights of the former employee or impede the investigation of the Ormond Beach Police Department.

Dream City Academy is fully equipped with high-end, full range video surveillance cameras in our classrooms, hallways, offices, playground spaces, kitchen, and storage facilities. This added measure assures our parents, staff, and state agencies that our center is a safe-haven for all children.

I echo the sentiments expressed by Susan Graham via a letter to the parents about this incident. *"While the actions that I have taken may seem extreme to some and may have attracted unwanted press coverage for our school, I WILL NOT APOLOGIZE FOR PROTECTING YOUR CHILDREN AT ALL COSTS."* We stand by the decisions and actions we took in response to this repulsive incident and will allow the Ormond Beach Police to conduct their investigation.