

HUMAN PERFORMANCE ATTACHMENT Motorcoach Driver's Wife Interview Transcript Flushing, NY

HWY17MH015

(12 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Investigation of:

NY MTA TRANSIT BUS AND MOTORCOACH *

CRASH IN FLUSHING, NEW YORK * ACCIDENT NO.: HWY17MH015

SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

Interview of: WONG SUET WONG

Thursday, November 2, 2017

APPEARANCES:

KENNETH BRAGG, Highway Accident Investigator National Transportation Safety Board

ELAINE CHAN, Safety Investigator Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)

MARCUS CHEUNG, Attorney
The Law Office of Steven Louros, Esq.

<u>INDEX</u> <u>ITEM</u>	PAGE
Interview of Wong Suet Wong:	
By Mr. Bragg	4

1	<u>INTERVIEW</u>
2	(1:19 p.m.)
3	MR. BRAGG: Today is Thursday, November 2nd. It is 1:19 p.m.
4	Eastern Standard Time. My name is Kenny Bragg. I'm an
5	investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board, and
6	this interview is regarding the crash which occurred in Flushing,
7	New York in October 2017.
8	Do you want to state your name?
9	MS. CHAN: My name's Elaine Chan. I'm a safety investigator
10	for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.
11	MR. BRAGG: Can you spell your last name, please?
12	MS. CHAN: Last name is Chan, C-h-a-n.
13	MR. BRAGG: Thank you.
14	MR. CHEUNG: Hi. My name's Marcus Cheung, Law Office of
15	Steven Louros, 1261 Broadway, Suite 1100, New York, New York
16	10001.
17	Just for the record, I heard that the crash occurred in
18	October. I believe it was September 18th. So I just wanted to
19	make sure that date is
20	MR. BRAGG: Oh, absolutely. Thank you.
21	MR. WONG: My name is Wong Suet Wong.
22	(Whereupon, Ms. Chan interpreted for Ms. Wong.)
23	INTERVIEW OF WONG SUET WONG
24	BY MR. BRAGG:
25	Q. (Through interpreter) Okay. And you're married to Raymond,
23	(Infough interpreter) Okay. And you re married to r

- 1 correct?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. How long have you been married?
- 4 A. Eleven years; 10 or 11 years. Since 2005.
- 5 Q. And how long have you known him?
- 6 A. I've known him since 2002.
- 7 Q. And do you guys have any kids?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. How old and how many?
- 10 A. We have one daughter who is 11 years old.
- 11 Q. And you all reside together?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. How long has he been driving buses?
- 14 A. Many years. I'm not sure. I don't know exactly how many
- 15 years.
- 16 Q. Was he driving buses when you guys met?
- 17 A. Yes, he was.
- 18 Q. Do you remember when he worked for MTA?
- 19 A. I don't remember the exact date. He worked there for about 3
- 20 years.
- 21 Q. And after he worked there, where did he work next?
- 22 A. He was a truck driver for produce.
- 23 Q. And this is after MTA?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. How long did he drive a truck?

- 1 A. I don't remember.
- 2 Q. Ask her, does she know the name of the company?
- 3 A. I suddenly couldn't remember.
- 4 Q. What type of truck did he drive? Was it a tractor trailer?
- 5 A. Those kind of trucks for vegetables and produce.
- 6 Q. Ask her did it have a trailer or was it just one truck?
- 7 A. No, it doesn't have a trailer.
- 8 Q. Okay. When did he start driving for Dahlia?
- 9 A. Last year.
- 10 Q. He started last year? Do you remember what month, what time
- 11 of year?
- 12 A. No, I couldn't remember.
- 13 Q. And did he have another job besides driving the bus?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. When did he usually work?
- 16 A. It's not fixed schedule. If there's a job there, they will
- 17 | call him.
- 18 Q. Did he work overnight sometimes?
- 19 A. Because sometimes he drive a tour bus, he spend the night
- 20 outside. He drove the tour groups and spend the night out.
- 21 Q. How did he like working for the bus company?
- 22 A. He likes it.
- 23 Q. Did he ever complain about the company?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. The day that the accident happened, what did he do the day

- 1 before?
- 2 A. Normal day. He didn't do anything. Just like normal days.
- 3 I don't feel anything strange.
- 4 Q. Did he work the day before?
- 5 A. I remember he worked on Saturday and Sunday. He came home
- 6 early Sunday. He came home early at around 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- 7 Q. What time did he go to bed?
- 8 A. Around 9 p.m. We had dinner with the daughter and we went to
- 9 bed.
- 10 Q. And what time did he get up to go to work Monday?
- 11 A. Five a.m. the alarm clock rang and he got up.
- 12 Q. And was she up or did she get up with it?
- 13 A. Yes, I got up when the alarm clock rung and -- yes, I did get
- 14 up with him.
- 15 |Q. And what did you guys do?
- 16 A. I boil some water to make mint tea.
- 17 O. And did he drink it at the house?
- 18 A. He didn't. He never drank those tea. He put the tea in a
- 19 thermal bottle. Every time he did it. He brought the tea with
- 20 him when he goes to work.
- 21 O. And describe the thermal --
- 22 A. A thermal bottle, keep it warm.
- 23 Q. What color was it?
- 24 A. Silver, whitish.
- 25 Q. What was it made out of, metal or plastic?

- 1 A. Not plastic. It's made of metal. He didn't drink the tea.
- 2 He probably haven't drank any from the bottle.
- 3 Q. Has she ever ridden with him on the bus?
- 4 A. No. Many -- a long time ago, I did that.
- 5 \mathbb{Q} . Where would he keep the tea on the bus?
- 6 A. I don't know. He left it on the bus.
- 7 Q. So let's go back to Sunday. She said he got home about 7
- 8 p.m. What time did he go to work Sunday?
- 9 A. He went out on Saturday, came back on Sunday.
- 10 Q. So what time did he leave on Saturday?
- 11 A. The normal 5 a.m., around that time.
- 12 Q. And so he had a overnight trip on Saturday?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And what time did he come back?
- 15 A. A little bit after 7 p.m.
- 16 Q. Where was the trip going to?
- 17 A. I don't remember.
- 18 Q. Don't remember. Did he work on Friday?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. What did he do Friday?
- 21 A. He was at home with the kid and me.
- 22 Q. What time did he get up Friday morning?
- 23 A. If he didn't go to work, he will sleep late until around 10
- 24 a.m.
- 25 Q. And what time did he go to bed Friday night?

- 1 A. Very early, around 9 p.m. He used to go bed very early when
- 2 | it's a school day.
- 3 Q. Okay.
- 4 A. We have two kids who have to go to school so we go to bed
- 5 really early.
- 6 Q. What time -- scratch that. Did he work on Thursday?
- 7 A. No. No, he didn't go to work.
- 8 Q. And so was he home all day with you -- with her on Thursday?
- 9 A. Yes. We are like that. If he didn't go to work, he's at
- 10 home.
- 11 Q. Okay. How does he sleep? Does he sleep well?
- 12 A. He sleeps okay.
- 13 Q. Does he get up in the middle of the night ever?
- 14 A. He wouldn't.
- 15 Q. Does he take anything to help him go to sleep?
- 16 A. He doesn't need it. None of us does that.
- 17 Q. What's his health like?
- 18 A. Okay. He never complain about anything.
- 19 Q. Where does he go to the doctor at?
- 20 A. I'm not sure.
- 21 O. Ask does he have health insurance?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. What company?
- 24 A. He still has the health insurance policy with MTA.
- 25 Q. And he doesn't have a regular doctor?

- 1 A. I'm not sure.
- 2 Q. When was the last time that she's known that he had went to
- 3 the doctor?
- 4 A. I really don't know.
- 5 Q. Ask her does she have any idea what may have happened in the
- 6 crash?
- 7 A. I want to know why my husband, something happened to him.
- 8 It's been a -- I still don't know.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. Right now I don't know anything.
- 11 Q. I understand.
- 12 Why did he leave work for MTA? Why did he stop working
- 13 there?
- 14 A. I'm not sure.
- 15 Q. Has she ever known her husband to have any other crashes?
- 16 A. He told me something about an accident but I don't know much.
- 17 Q. Okay. Has her -- was her husband upset about anything before
- 18 | the crash?
- 19 A. No. He has a very good relationship with the daughter. The
- 20 daughter still miss him.
- 21 O. I bet.
- MR. BRAGG: I don't have any other questions. Thank you.
- Okay. This concludes the interview at 1:36 p.m.
- 24 (Whereupon, at 1:36 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: BUS CRASH IN FLUSHING, NEW YORK

SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

Interview of Wong Suet Wong

DOCKET NUMBER: HWY17MH015

PLACE:

DATE: November 2, 2017

was held according to the record, and that this is the original, complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed to the best of my skill and ability.

Kay Maurer Transcriber