

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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WMATA INCIDENT AT L'ENFANT PLAZA  
STATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.  
JANUARY 12, 2015

Docket No.: DCA-15-FR-004

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Interview of: DEON WHITLEY

Washington, D.C.

Wednesday,  
July 22, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: RICHARD M. DOWNS, JR.  
Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

RICHARD M. DOWNS, JR., Survival Factors Investigator  
Chairperson, Survival Factors Technical Working Group  
National Transportation Safety Board

DAVID BUCAR, Railroad Accident Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

ROBERT "JOE" GORDON, Investigator-in-Charge  
National Transportation Safety Board

DENTON ROURKE, Operations Manager  
Office of Emergency Management  
Metro Transit Police Department

DERRON HAWKINS, Deputy Fire Chief  
Homeland Security Division  
D.C. Fire and EMS

GEORGE GOOD, Rail Safety Investigator  
Federal Transit Administration

FOREST HOLDCROFT, Summer Intern  
National Transportation Safety Board

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I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. DOWNS: Okay. Today's date is July 22nd, 2015, and  
3 the following is an interview being conducted in reference to NTSB  
4 investigation number DCA-15-FR-004, which relates to an accident  
5 involving a heavy smoke release and train evacuations that  
6 occurred in and near the L'Enfant Plaza Station of the WMATA  
7 Metrorail System in the District of Columbia on the afternoon of  
8 January 12, 2015. This interview is being conducted with an  
9 employee of WMATA Metrorail as conducted by the NTSB Survival  
10 Factors Technical Working Group of the investigation.

11 My name is Richard M. Downs, Jr., and I'm a survival  
12 factors investigator with the NTSB, which I also serve in the role  
13 as the Survival Factors Technical Working Group chairperson. I  
14 will preside over this interview, which is being recorded for the  
15 record, which a transcript may also be compiled of the recording  
16 as a permanent docketed record of the interview.

17 Additionally, I'd like to mention that the purpose of  
18 the investigation is to increase safety and not to assign fault,  
19 blame, or liability, and that the NTSB cannot offer any guarantee  
20 of confidentiality or immunity from legal or certificate actions.

21 Further, pursuant to the criteria under 49 C.F.R. 831.7,  
22 the interviewee may have one representative of the interviewee's  
23 choice accompany him or her at this interview, and which the  
24 representative may not testify for the interviewee. It's also  
25 requested that comments of the interviewee's representative be

1 limited and objections expressed by the interviewee's  
2 representative are not on the -- grounds for the NTSB to refrain  
3 from asking questions.

4 Now, to the witness, I'll ask that you please identify  
5 yourself, your employment affiliation and job position title for  
6 the record.

7 MR. WHITLEY: My name is Deon Whitley. I am a storeroom  
8 clerk with Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority.

9 MR. DOWNS: Thank you, sir, for joining us today. And  
10 if you are accompanied in this interview today by an individual,  
11 I'd like to ask that this individual please identify themselves  
12 and their affiliation.

13 So you have no representative today; is that correct?

14 MR. WHITLEY: That's correct.

15 MR. DOWNS: Thank you.

16 I'll now ask that the participants of this interview who  
17 will have an opportunity to present questions to the witness to  
18 please individually identify themselves, their employment  
19 affiliation, and job position title for the record.

20 MR. BUCHER: Dave Bucher, B-U-C-H-E-R, NTSB  
21 investigator.

22 MR. GORDON: Joe Gordon, G-O-R-D-O-N, NTSB investigator-  
23 in-charge.

24 MR. ROURKE: Good morning. I'm Denton Rourke, R-O-U-R-  
25 K-E. I am the operations manager in the Office of Emergency

1 Management of the Metro Transit Police Department, and I'm a  
2 member of the Survival Factors Group.

3 MR. HAWKINS: Good morning. Derron Hawkins, Deputy Fire  
4 Chief, D.C. Fire EMS, Homeland Security Division. Last name is H-  
5 A-W-K-I-N-S.

6 MR. GOOD: Good morning. George Good, G-O-O-D, Federal  
7 Transit Administration, accident investigator.

8 MR. DOWNS: Thank you.

9 And as my first question for the -- oh, sorry.

10 MR. HOLDCROFT: Does it matter?

11 MR. DOWNS: You're present. Go ahead.

12 MR. HOLDCROFT: Forest Holdcroft, H-O-L-D-C-R-O-F-T,  
13 NTSB summer intern.

14 MR. DOWNS: Thank you.

15 INTERVIEW OF DEON WHITLEY

16 BY MR. DOWNS:

17 Q. And my first question for the witness, would you please  
18 briefly describe for us your role or involvement in the event?

19 A. On the day of January 12th, I reported to work at 8 a.m.

20 Q. Excuse me; role in the event. You're a storeroom clerk,  
21 I believe?

22 A. I am a storeroom -- I'm sorry -- I am a storeroom clerk  
23 with the Transit Authority.

24 Q. And you work in the L'Enfant Plaza Station?

25 A. In Room S200, yes.

1 Q. Thank you. And could you please describe for us, in  
2 your own words and to your best recollection, what occurred on the  
3 day of the event relative to your actions and involvement at the  
4 L'Enfant Plaza Station commencing at the time you were alerted to  
5 respond to the site?

6 A. I reported to work at 8:00 a.m. that morning. All was  
7 well until approximately 3:45. I decided to walk outside.

8 Q. 3:45 p.m.?

9 A. That's correct. I decided to walk outside. When I  
10 opened the door at S200, Room S200, that's when I saw the station  
11 filled with smoke.

12 Q. So you had no indication prior to 3:45 that there was  
13 anything -- any unusual occurrences in L'Enfant Plaza Station?

14 A. None at all, no.

15 Q. Okay. Please proceed.

16 A. Then at about approximately 3:45, when I saw the smoke,  
17 I then, in turn, turned around and ran to the back room to alert  
18 Bonnie Moore because she was back there alone.

19 Q. A colleague who works in a different office area in that  
20 same room --

21 A. That is correct. She's an --

22 Q. -- workroom?

23 A. She's an automatic fare collection parts runner, is what  
24 she does. But she was in the back room, so I went back to alert  
25 her what was going on. So when we got back up to the front door,



1 we saw the smoke and, of course, we had to try the best as we  
2 could to get out of there. So I took off running immediately.  
3 When I turned to look behind me, Ms. Moore was stuck, so I had  
4 to --

5 Q. Stuck?

6 A. She couldn't move.

7 Q. She could not move?

8 A. Yeah. She froze.

9 Q. She froze. Okay.

10 A. I had to turn around --

11 Q. And where exactly were you when this occurred?

12 A. In front of S200, Room S200.

13 Q. You had gone out of the room and you were on the  
14 mezzanine level?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Please proceed.

17 A. So once -- I went back and grabbed her by the arm and we  
18 just commenced to run out of the station as fast as we could.

19 Q. So you escorted her out of the station?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And correct me if I'm wrong, your work area, workroom  
22 area is on the mezzanine level of the station.

23 A. That is correct.

24 Q. Is that at the south end of the station opposite the  
25 Maryland Avenue --

1 A. That is correct.

2 Q. -- entrance/exit to the station?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Okay. So you proceeded to exit the station. Which  
5 direction did you go?

6 A. Well, there was a police officer coming up the escalator  
7 on the Greenbelt side of the mezzanine.

8 Q. That would be to your right as you're facing north?

9 A. That is correct, uh-huh. And he just said continue on,  
10 just go straight, and that's what we did.

11 Q. Please continue.

12 A. So we continued straight until we got over to the  
13 Maryland Avenue side. We go out of the escalator coughing, of  
14 course, and that's when we see all of AFC's management, which no  
15 one had alerted us on.

16 Q. AFC's management?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. AFC is the automatic fare --

19 A. Fair collection.

20 Q. -- collection management?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do they work in L'Enfant Plaza Station?

23 A. Their office is on the side of Maryland Avenue.

24 Q. So basically the exact opposite end of the mezzanine  
25 that you're located, they have a workroom area there?

1 A. That is correct.

2 Q. So you saw these management folks there --

3 A. Um-hum.

4 Q. -- and you work basically as their employees?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. And you encountered those management personnel. What  
7 then happened?

8 A. Well, once we encountered them, I then contacted SRML,  
9 which is storeroom personnel.

10 Q. How did you contact --

11 A. On my cell phone.

12 Q. You placed a call to the storeroom personnel office?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Over in Alexandria, Virginia. I called Nicole Williams,  
16 which is my immediate supervisor --

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. -- and just alerted her to what was going on and that I  
19 was going to the hospital to get checked out.

20 Q. At that point you mentioned that there was a lot of  
21 smoke --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- and you were coughing?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You were still on the mezzanine level --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- when you made that call?

3 A. No, no, no, no, no. This is once we got out of the  
4 station.

5 Q. You were able to get up the escalator there and get out  
6 of the station; you then made that call?

7 A. That's when I made the call, yes.

8 Q. Okay. And you alerted the supervisory people in  
9 Alexandria of the problem.

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. Did they have an indication to you that they were at all  
12 aware of a problem in L'Enfant Plaza?

13 A. No, they did not.

14 Q. So it was news to them?

15 A. It was news to them.

16 Q. Okay. And do you have, by chance, the time when you  
17 were able to make that call?

18 A. I don't -- give or take, I would say approximately 4:00.

19 Q. So it was about 4:00. So you indicated you were first  
20 alerted to the smoke in the station when you exited your door at  
21 3:45.

22 A. Um-hum.

23 Q. And you went back and got your colleague, Ms. Moore, and  
24 then you went out of the station and worked your way up to the  
25 opposite end and up the escalator and outside. So that took about

1 15 minutes --

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. -- plus or minus 5 minutes --

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. -- approximately?

6 A. Now, also, please, I need for, I guess, someone maybe in  
7 safety to be advised that the alarms were going off, bells were  
8 ringing --

9 Q. In the station?

10 A. -- but we couldn't hear nothing in that room.

11 Q. Well, that -- I'm going to get to that line of  
12 questioning shortly.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. So let's hold that thought for a moment.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. So you placed a call to Alexandria office?

17 A. Um-hum.

18 Q. How long did the call last roughly, a minute or so?

19 A. Yeah, maybe roughly a minute or so, and that's when  
20 Nicole Williams told me to go to the hospital.

21 Q. So your supervisor instructed you to go to the hospital?

22 A. That is correct.

23 Q. What happened next?

24 A. Well, actually, it was all-out chaos.

25 Q. It was your impression outside, you're saying to us,

1 that there was chaos --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- occurring in that general area?

4 A. Back when I --

5 Q. What did you see?

6 A. When I say it was all chaos, for starters, I tried to  
7 catch a bus to get home or get out of here.

8 Q. A bus? What kind of bus?

9 A. Metrobus.

10 Q. A regular Metrobus?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. This is after you were told to go to the hospital?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Why were you thinking to take the bus to go home?

15 A. Well, actually, I live in P.G. County, so I was going to  
16 go to P.G. County's hospital.

17 Q. Okay. So your thinking at that moment --

18 A. To go --

19 Q. -- correct me if I'm wrong -- was to take a bus to  
20 P.G. and proceed to a hospital proximate to your home.

21 A. That is correct.

22 Q. Would that be a fair characterization?

23 A. Yeah, that would be fair.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did you actually take a bus?

2 A. No, sir, I couldn't get one.

3 Q. What happened? Did you not see any buses or --

4 A. Yes, sir, I saw them. The buses were overcrowded.

5 Q. Overcrowded. So there weren't enough buses --

6 A. No --

7 Q. -- at least the bus that you wanted to take to P.G.?

8 A. Exactly.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. So I ended up walking from L'Enfant Plaza all the way up  
11 to Eastern Market.

12 Q. You walked from L'Enfant to Eastern Market?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So you immediately left L'Enfant Plaza Station entrance  
15 there by Maryland Avenue --

16 A. Um-hum.

17 Q. -- where you characterize it as chaos --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- basically gave up on the bus scenario, and your idea  
20 was to walk to Eastern Market?

21 A. Um-hum.

22 Q. And what were you going to do there?

23 A. Well, Eastern Market, I was hoping to get train service  
24 out of the District.

25 Q. And that's a different line?

1 A. No, no, that's the same line.

2 Q. The same line?

3 A. I was hoping to get services --

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. -- and I did get service from there.

6 Q. So you did successfully walk to Eastern Market?

7 A. Yes, absolutely.

8 Q. Okay. What happened then when you got Eastern Market?

9 A. When I got to Eastern Market, I got on the train and I  
10 went to Cheverly Station, to my car, and drove myself to P.G.  
11 Plaza Hospital.

12 Q. Okay. And the hospital folks did a medical assessment  
13 there?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. We won't get into the medical scenario, but suffice to  
16 say, you spent some time at the hospital?

17 A. Yes, I did.

18 Q. Did you get admitted to the hospital?

19 A. No, I did not get admitted.

20 Q. So you were discharged at some point that --

21 A. The same day.

22 Q. -- same day? Okay, very good. Is that the end of the  
23 activities for that day or were there follow-up activities the  
24 next day or anything?

25 A. No, that was the end of it that particular day.



1 Q. The end of that day. Okay, very good.

2 MR. DOWNS: I'm going to pause for your question right  
3 now. You've addressed that question very well. Thank you. We're  
4 going to start to go around the room and I'm going to get back to  
5 that question regarding the alarm system.

6 So we're going to start first with Mr. Bucher.

7 BY MR. BUCCHAR:

8 Q. Mr. Whitley, Dave Bucher. Do you have any established  
9 protocols for evacuating your work area in an emergency?

10 A. I have not seen any evacuation plan at all, but I am  
11 told that AFC does have something in place. I have not seen it.

12 Q. Okay. And how long have you worked in the storeroom?

13 A. I've been a storeroom clerk about 8 years.

14 Q. Eight years. Okay. Have you ever or recently  
15 participated in an emergency drill in L'Enfant Plaza Station?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. So it's safe to say, in the 8 years, they never had a  
18 drill that you participated in?

19 A. Now, also be advised now, my 8 years as a clerk was not  
20 at L'Enfant Plaza.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. I've been at L'Enfant Plaza approximately 4 years.

23 Q. Four years?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. All right. Thank you.

1           A.    But, no, sir, I have not participated in any evacuation  
2 plan at all.

3           Q.    Okay.  Have you ever had any training from WMATA that  
4 relates to fire drills or anything like that, emergency --

5           A.    I have had some type.  That was when I was back in a  
6 custodial -- as a custodian, I had training as -- with emergency  
7 evacuation.

8           Q.    Okay.  And could you elaborate a little bit, tell us  
9 what that might have -- what that was?

10          A.    Well, it's been a long time, but I do remember the -- I  
11 believe it was the orange bag with the bloodborne pathogen,  
12 something like that, but that was years ago.

13                MR. BUCHER:  Okay.  Okay, I'm going to pass it off to  
14 Mr. Gordon.

15                BY MR. GORDON:

16          Q.    Joe Gordon, NTSB.  I don't want to -- I know Mr. Downs  
17 is going to follow up on the question of, you know, what took  
18 place in the room.  I don't want to get into that lane.  But you  
19 mentioned that at 3:45, you went out of the S200 room --

20          A.    Um-hum.

21          Q.    -- into the station and that's when you noticed the  
22 smoke.  Was there anything inside the room where you were that --  
23 outside of the normal as far as noises or anything like that?

24          A.    The only thing out of the norm was most of the time when  
25 they turn the fans on, I guess, the fans to clean the tunnels out,

1 I guess they do, the noise, that's what prompt me to go out.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Those fans turned on and that's when I was just going to  
4 walk out --

5 MR. DOWNS: And Downs here. Question: Those fans are  
6 located in your workroom area in a cordoned-off, screened-off  
7 area, fenced off area, those --

8 MR. WHITLEY: Yes, sir, they are.

9 MR. DOWNS: -- the fan equipment?

10 MR. WHITLEY: Yes. Yes, sir, they are.

11 MR. DOWNS: Thank you.

12 BY MR. GORDON:

13 Q. Okay. So you did notice those prior to noticing the  
14 smoke? You heard the fans ramping up and then --

15 A. Absolutely, yes.

16 Q. -- that's when you went outside?

17 A. Absolutely. But, I mean, it's not highly unusual. The  
18 fans will come on any time --

19 Q. Right.

20 A. -- but I just get away from the noise.

21 Q. Right. Okay.

22 A. So that prompted me to go out.

23 Q. Okay. All right. I have nothing further right now.

24 MR. GORDON: Pass it, let's pass it on down.

25 MR. DOWNS: Mr. Rourke?

1 MR. ROURKE: Yeah, thanks.

2 BY MR. ROURKE:

3 Q. Denton Rourke from Metro. Were you and Ms. Moore the  
4 only two people in S200?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 MR. ROURKE: And you're going to ask about fire alarms,  
7 so I'll just come back to that in case I got anything on that.

8 BY MR. ROURKE:

9 Q. In your office, do you all monitor the rail radio, rail  
10 radio channels?

11 A. We don't have one, no.

12 Q. Does that -- you don't have a radio?

13 A. No, sir.

14 Q. Does Alexandria? Your Alexandria office, do they  
15 monitor the rail radios?

16 A. I'm not sure. I don't know.

17 MR. DOWNS: I got a -- Downs -- question. I'm going to  
18 interject here.

19 BY MR. DOWNS:

20 Q. Is a radio assigned to you in that work area at all? So  
21 you have no radio capability at all?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. No, sir.

25 Q. Thank you. And you only have a telephone?

1 A. That's it.

2 Q. And your normal -- your Alexandria office would be the  
3 normal communication on a daily basis, work orders and things like  
4 that?

5 A. No, no. I -- all of my communication was with the AFC  
6 management here.

7 Q. At the other end of the mezzanine level?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. And that'd be by telephone routinely?

10 A. Yes. Um-hum.

11 Q. Thank you.

12 MR. DOWNS: Go ahead, Denton.

13 MR. WHITLEY: And I'm sorry; I stand corrected. I do  
14 have a monitor of the door, that's it.

15 BY MR. DOWNS:

16 Q. A monitor of the door, meaning --

17 A. A camera.

18 Q. -- meaning a TV camera view of the door --

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. -- that shows you the image outside the door?

21 A. That is correct.

22 Q. So you can see who's knocking at the door, for example?

23 A. Right at the door only. I can't see out in the  
24 mezzanine.

25 Q. At the door only. So it's a security measure to make a

1 determination if the person outside --

2 A. Absolutely.

3 Q. -- should be admitted? Would that be a correct  
4 characterization?

5 A. That is correct, yes.

6 Q. Thank you.

7 MR. DOWNS: Go ahead, Denton.

8 BY MR. ROURKE:

9 Q. When you -- after you evacuated the station, did you  
10 tell anybody from Transit Police or the fire department that you  
11 were -- had been exposed to the smoke and needed to go to the  
12 hospital?

13 A. No, sir.

14 MR. DOWNS: Question. Downs.

15 BY MR. DOWNS:

16 Q. Did the fire department approach you or EMS approach you  
17 when you were coming up out of the station, did they approach you  
18 in terms of asking you if you needed medical assistance?

19 A. No. The only approach we had was, as I said, on the  
20 Greenbelt side mezzanine -- I mean, on the platform, the --

21 Q. That officer that came up to you --

22 A. -- the transit police officer. I don't know who he was.

23 Q. That came up and first approached you as you left your  
24 office area?

25 A. That is correct. Yes.

1 Q. Very good. Thank you.

2 MR. DOWNS: Go ahead.

3 BY MR. ROURKE:

4 Q. And I just want to make sure we have you captured in the  
5 people that were exposed. You filled out the standard WMATA  
6 paperwork?

7 A. No, sir, I have not filled out anything.

8 Q. For the on-the-job injury, you didn't fill nothing out?

9 A. No, sir, I have not.

10 Q. Okay. But you did notify your supervisor --

11 A. I did notify --

12 Q. -- that you were involved in the incident --

13 A. That is correct, yes.

14 Q. -- and exposed to smoke?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. But you never filled out an injury package?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. Okay. You answered my question about how long you  
19 worked there. Metro had a training program 3, 4 years ago called  
20 MERT, or Managing -- Metro Emergency Response Training, Metro  
21 Emergency Response Training. It could have been at Carmen Turner;  
22 it could have been anywhere else. Did you attend that?

23 A. No, sir, I did not.

24 Q. You did not. Okay, thanks very much. That's all I've  
25 got right now.

1 MR. DOWNS: Chief?

2 BY MR. HAWKINS:

3 Q. Okay, Derron Hawkins. A couple of questions have been  
4 asked already. So you mentioned that when you came outside there  
5 was chaos. Can you explain a little bit more the chaos? Can you  
6 explain to me what exactly that you saw when you came outside?

7 A. Well, when I say the chaos, I mean people were coughing,  
8 just running around in circles, to be quite honest. Nobody knew  
9 which way to go and nobody knew which way to direct you. Even as  
10 far as when we came out of the station, we ran into AFC's  
11 management, which they didn't know anything either.

12 MR. ROURKE: Rourke. This was the Maryland side,  
13 Maryland and --

14 MR. WHITLEY: That is correct, 7th and Maryland.

15 MR. DOWNS: The Maryland Avenue exit to the station?

16 MR. WHITLEY: That is correct.

17 MR. ROURKE: Thanks.

18 BY MR. HAWKINS:

19 Q. Start from the evacuation plan. So tell me a little bit  
20 about the room, Storeroom S200.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. You said you're in there, that you pretty much didn't  
23 hear any notification system that was going on until you stepped  
24 outside.

25 A. Um-hum.



1 Q. Tell me -- describe an environment of that room that  
2 you're in there, in terms of --

3 A. Honestly, the room is pretty much -- I guess you can say  
4 it's soundproof, to be honest with you. We really can't hear  
5 anything on the outside. And even if -- when I look at the  
6 camera, I can only see the door. But there was no smoke at the  
7 door, so that's why I didn't see the smoke until I opened the  
8 door.

9 Q. Okay. So regarding the ventilation system, is there any  
10 time that you may be in the room and smell smoke, something comes  
11 through the ventilation system that you --

12 A. Oh, absolutely, yes. Yes, sir. That particular day, we  
13 smelled nothing.

14 Q. You smelled nothing?

15 A. No, sir.

16 Q. But the fans kicked in and that prompted you --

17 A. The fans kicked in, the noise, and that's when I stepped  
18 out.

19 MR. DOWNS: Downs here. A follow-up question, Chief.

20 BY MR. DOWNS:

21 Q. Has there been prior events where you've smelled smoke  
22 in your work area; have you -- in the past?

23 A. Oh, absolutely. Yes, sir.

24 Q. And to what degree of smoke? Is it real heavy smoke or  
25 just a minor --

1 A. Just a mild smoke.

2 Q. Mild smoke that just enough to say, oh, there's  
3 something --

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. -- unusual here?

6 A. Exactly.

7 Q. Did you investigate those prior events as to what was  
8 the cause of the smoke?

9 A. I did not investigate. The majority of the time, I know  
10 what it is.

11 Q. And what would that be?

12 A. That would be either the technician is repairing the  
13 fans --

14 Q. In your work area?

15 A. In my work area.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Or -- I don't know what you call the area, but there's  
18 an area where the guys go down the steps onto the tracks, and it  
19 may be something that they're doing there.

20 Q. So there is a stairway and steps that go from your work  
21 area directly downstairs --

22 A. To the tracks.

23 Q. -- to the track area.

24 A. That is correct.

25 Q. And your experience has been that somebody would be

1 working down there on the track area which would be the cause of  
2 the smoke?

3 A. That would be the cause, yes.

4 Q. And it would not be a particular degree of smoke that  
5 would be so much of an alarm as a maintenance activity?

6 A. Absolutely. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Would that be a correct way to say it?

8 A. That is correct, yes, sir.

9 Q. Very good.

10 BY MR. HAWKINS:

11 Q. Okay, Derron Hawkins here again. So once you realized  
12 there was smoke outside the room, is there a fire alarm inside the  
13 room (indiscernible)?

14 A. No, sir, absolutely not. No, sir. When I opened the  
15 door, that's when I heard the fire alarms.

16 Q. There's no way to alert for a force -- fire force  
17 station inside the rooms? You're saying there's not one inside  
18 the room?

19 A. If memory serves me correctly, I believe I saw like an  
20 intercom or something in there, but it's not working.

21 Q. Okay, I'm finished. I have no further questions.

22 MR. DOWNS: Name?

23 BY MR. GOOD:

24 Q. George Good, Federal Transit Administration. Let me ask  
25 a two-part question.

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. You said that in Room S200, there was just you and one  
3 other person in there?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. Now, how would you know that it was only those two  
6 people or -- and the second part, are people in and out of that  
7 room?

8 A. Well, the bond that we have is close knit. Most of the  
9 time, I'm in there by myself. When Bonnie Moore comes back in or  
10 any other, they'll knock on my door and say, hey, I'm back. That  
11 way, we know, hey, she's back there. So we have the close knit,  
12 as such.

13 BY MR. DOWNS:

14 Q. Downs. Question: So there's normally only two of you  
15 in that workroom area?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. There are other employees?

18 A. It's me and, I believe, it's four or five parts runners.

19 Q. Four or five total parts runner, of which Ms. Moore is  
20 one of the parts runners?

21 A. That is correct. Yes.

22 Q. And on the particular day of the event, there was only  
23 Ms. Moore present in her work area, which is a little bit  
24 separated from your work area?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. Would that be a correct way of saying it?

2 A. That is correct.

3 BY MR. GOOD:

4 Q. So that -- George Good again. So that is just something  
5 you do amongst that work area is let each other know, but it's not  
6 a written policy to --

7 A. No, sir, it's not a written policy. No, sir.

8 Q. -- account for who's in the room?

9 A. Exactly.

10 MR. GOOD: Okay.

11 MR. DOWNS: End of questions?

12 MR. GOOD: I mean, we were going to do a couple of  
13 rounds or we just keep going?

14 MR. DOWNS: You may continue your questions until you  
15 run out of questions. You'll have an opportunity to ask more  
16 questions later.

17 BY MR. GOOD:

18 Q. When you start your work shift with the group that's in  
19 the room, do you have any kind of toolbox or safety talk at the  
20 beginning of the shift?

21 A. No, sir. I don't --

22 BY MR. DOWNS:

23 Q. Downs here. I think maybe a better way to phrase that  
24 would be, are you given a safety briefing at the end of each  
25 workday?

1 A. No, sir.

2 Q. So there is no safety activity between yourself,  
3 Ms. Moore, and your supervisory folks at the other end of the  
4 station?

5 A. Not with me. On every Wednesday, the automatic fare  
6 collection supervisor comes over and they have a safety briefing.

7 Q. So it's a weekly safety briefing rather than a daily  
8 safety briefing?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. And that supervisor would come over for a few minutes to  
11 your work area and give you that briefing?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 BY MR. GOOD:

14 Q. In that work location, do you have landlines telephones  
15 and do cell phones work in there?

16 A. I have landline. Cell phones are sometimes. It depends  
17 on where you are. If you're in the back room where Ms. Moore was  
18 located, no service at all; no cell phone service, that is. My  
19 phone, because I'm up closer to the front door, mine will work  
20 sometime if I step outside of my room.

21 Q. Within your workgroup and in that environment there, do  
22 you have an emergency contact list where in case of emergency who  
23 you should be contacting and in which order?

24 A. There is a list there. Yes, sir, there is.

25 MR. DOWNS: Is that a posted list on the wall or on the

1 phone? Exactly how is that list set up?

2 MR. WHITLEY: That list was on the wall.

3 MR. DOWNS: On the wall near the phone?

4 MR. WHITLEY: Yes, it's -- what do you call it? Not a  
5 chalkboard -- bulletin board.

6 MR. DOWNS: Bulletin board?

7 MR. WHITLEY: It's on a bulletin board.

8 MR. DOWNS: Thank you.

9 BY MR. GOOD:

10 Q. That bring up a -- is there -- I'm just curious. Is  
11 there also a -- some type of safety bulletin board in that  
12 location?

13 A. There are some safety things on there, but they're -- I  
14 can't remember what they were, to be quite honest with you.

15 MR. GOOD: That's all I have right now.

16 BY MR. DOWNS:

17 Q. Okay, Downs again. Let's get back to my line of  
18 questioning. Mr. Whitley, in your work area, you indicated that  
19 you had absolutely no indication by sound that there was an  
20 emergency occurring in the station proper outside of your office,  
21 correct?

22 A. That is correct.

23 Q. In your work area, are there any fire alarm indicators,  
24 such as we're showing here on the wall, where you have a strobe  
25 that flashes when there's a fire event and there's also a speaker

1 that will announce there's a fire in progress, et cetera, et  
2 cetera, evacuate the building. Is there any feature in your work  
3 area at all?

4 A. There is a speaker in there. If it made an  
5 announcement, we didn't hear it because of the fans were on.

6 Q. So it may be a case that because the fans were on, you  
7 couldn't hear it?

8 A. Absolutely. It could have been that.

9 Q. Has there been prior events where that has gone off and  
10 the fans were not activated where you could hear an announcement?

11 A. It's very faint.

12 Q. Very faint?

13 A. The speaker, the speaker is very faint.

14 Q. Does a speaker have a capability of adjusting the  
15 loudness?

16 A. Now, that I don't know. Because it's high up, I really  
17 can't see any of that.

18 Q. So it's out of reach --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- it's out of reach to make any kind of adjustment --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- if there were an adjustment?

23 A. Exactly.

24 Q. Okay. That addresses the speaker part, but there's no  
25 strobe that would be flashing in the event --



1           A.    Now, I've seen some of those red things in there, but  
2 they didn't work, so --

3           Q.    And clearly -- I think what you're saying here is --  
4 correct me if I'm wrong -- on the particular day of the event, you  
5 saw no flashing strobe whatsoever in your work area?

6           A.    No, sir.

7           Q.    Very good.

8           A.    No, sir, not in S200. There was nothing.

9           Q.    Nothing.

10           MR. DOWNS: Okay, I'm going to continue on, let the  
11 questioning move around.

12           Mr. Buchar?

13           BY MR. BUCCHAR:

14           Q.    Dave Buchar again. I have one more question.  
15 Mr. Whitley, are you aware of any other storeroom type locations  
16 around WMATA like yours that would be set up the same way? In  
17 other words, not being -- I'm not familiar with how you store your  
18 parts or how the stations are totally arranged, but are there  
19 storerooms at other locations that are --

20           A.    Similar to L'Enfant Plaza?

21           Q.    Yes.

22           A.    No, sir. No, sir.

23           Q.    This is the only one that is, like, above the station?

24           A.    This is the most antiquated one, yes.

25           Q.    Okay.

1 A. The other ones are pretty nice.

2 Q. Okay. And you're not aware of any other similar  
3 positions as yours around that would have, like, offices in other  
4 stations that might be separated --

5 A. I'm not --

6 Q. -- I guess, is where I'm looking.

7 A. I'm not really totally sure, but I do believe there's  
8 another one at Mt. Vernon Square, I believe, similar to this one a  
9 little bit.

10 Q. Okay. Mt. Vernon, okay.

11 A. I believe Mt. Vernon Square is. I have not been there  
12 in a long time now.

13 Q. Okay, that's all I have.

14 MR. BUCHER: Mr. Gordon?

15 BY MR. GORDON:

16 Q. Joe Gordon, NTSB. In the S200 room, the unit, so to go  
17 from the main door coming into the location, is there another  
18 emergency evacuation route from that room that wouldn't require  
19 you to come out the door and into the station that you're aware  
20 of?

21 A. Yes, sir. There is another exit. We were supposed to  
22 have been taking a trial run to see where it will exit, but we  
23 never did.

24 MR. DOWNS: Let's go off the record for a moment.

25 (Off the record.)

1 (On the record.)

2 MR. DOWNS: All right, back on the record. Downs here.

3 For the record, we're displaying a photograph that was  
4 taken yesterday in the S200 room. This is a photograph. It's  
5 identified as IMG\_0590. We may have this docketed later on. But  
6 suffice to say, it is a photograph showing what appears to be a  
7 metal door, and it's one of these what we call a smoke lock door,  
8 meaning the door actually rotates within its doorframe, okay? And  
9 the door itself sits up on a platform that appears to be maybe  
10 three steps high. There's a railing next to the door.

11 BY MR. DOWNS:

12 Q. Mr. Whitley, is that particular door the door that  
13 you're referring to, the exit door?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Please tell us about that door.

16 A. That particular door, of course, the rotating door, if  
17 you go through it, make sure you're aware of what you're doing  
18 because you can't get back.

19 Q. It's a one-way door?

20 A. Yes, sir. If it closes, you're in there.

21 Q. Have you been through that door before?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. I'm looking at the picture here and it does not say  
24 emergency exit anywhere in the picture.

25 A. No, sir.

1 Q. So the only way to understand the function of that door  
2 is to have prior instruction in the use of the door?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. Would that be correct?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. All right. When did that prior instruction occur  
7 approximately? Do you remember?

8 A. I really don't. But I've always known that door was  
9 there, and once you go in there, there's a stepladder that takes  
10 you up to the street.

11 Q. Stepladder or a ladder built into the wall?

12 A. Built into the wall, yes.

13 Q. Okay. And it takes you up to the street somewhere?

14 A. Somewhere, yes, sir.

15 Q. Have you -- you've not been up through there?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. So you've never been on the other side of the door. How  
18 do you know there's a ladder on the other side?

19 A. No, I've been on the other side of the door --

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. -- but you make sure that door don't close on you.

22 Q. So you rotated it halfway open, is what you're saying  
23 here?

24 A. Exactly. Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Which allowed you to visualize the other side and the

1 ladder going up to the surface?

2 A. That is correct, yes, sir.

3 Q. But you never went up the ladder?

4 A. No, sir.

5 Q. And you were accompanied by some WMATA management that  
6 showed you this particular door function?

7 A. No, sir. Actually, that was just the employees. We  
8 were being noseey.

9 Q. Just on your own level of curiosity?

10 A. Absolutely.

11 Q. That would be a correct way of saying it?

12 A. Absolutely.

13 Q. Okay. Please continue describing about the door in  
14 terms of your familiarity, to finish your question.

15 A. We were -- and that's just what we're familiar with. We  
16 know about it just by hearsay or just what we visualized.

17 BY MR. GORDON:

18 Q. Okay, but there has been no actual training on how to  
19 use that or where that takes you --

20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. -- and a planned emergency evacuation?

22 A. We've all discussed that we're only -- in that room,  
23 there's one way in and one way out. So the life we save may be  
24 our own.

25 Q. Right.

1 BY MR. DOWNS:

2 Q. Downs here. Question: If you had discovered when you  
3 went out the main entrance door of your S200 office area that the  
4 station was actually full of smoke where you could not have  
5 proceeded, would you have utilized that door as a --

6 A. Absolutely.

7 Q. -- second option --

8 A. Absolutely. Yes, sir.

9 Q. -- of escape?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Yes?

12 A. Yes, sir, I would.

13 Q. Thank you.

14 BY MR. GORDON:

15 Q. Okay. And aside from the door that's being shown -- and  
16 I think you answered this with one way in/one way out. Aside from  
17 that door that's being shown, there's no other emergency route out  
18 of that S200 room that you're aware of?

19 A. Well, there's another door to the left that will go out  
20 on the tracks.

21 Q. Okay. Okay, so the door to the left would take you out  
22 track level?

23 A. It will take --

24 MR. DOWNS: Downs with a question here. Correct me if  
25 I'm wrong, but does that door have an emergency exit sign on it?

1 MR. WHITLEY: No, sir.

2 MR. DOWNS: It does not?

3 MR. WHITLEY: No, sir. No, sir. But we're aware that  
4 if we go down on those tracks, we have a chance of getting back to  
5 the platform.

6 MR. DOWNS: I see. Thank you.

7 BY MR. GORDON:

8 Q. So, I guess, to summarize -- and we've talked a lot  
9 about different doors and everything to come in and out of that  
10 room. The big takeaway that I would like to understand from that  
11 is there has been no planned evacuation route to say, if you're in  
12 an event that you can't exit this room through the plaza, this is  
13 the way that you go?

14 A. After that event, I was told by one of the AFC  
15 supervisors that why didn't we use the plan of evacuation, which I  
16 had never seen.

17 Q. Okay.

18 MR. DOWNS: So -- Downs here. There's no -- again, to  
19 clarify, there's no posted copy available to you --

20 MR. WHITLEY: No, sir.

21 MR. DOWNS: -- in your work area?

22 MR. WHITLEY: No, sir, not at all.

23 MR. DOWNS: Thank you.

24 MR. GORDON: Okay, I have no further questions.

25 MR. DOWNS: Mr. Rourke?

1 MR. ROURKE: No further questions.

2 MR. DOWNS: Chief?

3 MR. HAWKINS: Yes, I have a question. Derron Hawkins  
4 here.

5 BY MR. HAWKINS:

6 Q. So you mentioned the door, door that's on the post --  
7 the door that goes to the street, the ladder goes to the street  
8 somewhere. How do you know that? Did somebody tell you that?

9 A. Well, one of the supervisors did mention that.

10 Q. They mentioned that?

11 A. They said that that door leads up to a manhole. Now, I  
12 don't know whether when you get to the top are you going to be  
13 able to lift that manhole up or not. I don't know. That's what I  
14 was told.

15 Q. Okay. So someone told you that?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Okay. All right.

18 MR. DOWNS: Mr. Rourke, do you have a question?

19 MR. ROURKE: I can provide some clarification if you  
20 want it, otherwise, I don't have a question.

21 MR. DOWNS: Well, we don't allow testimony at this  
22 step --

23 MR. ROURKE: Okay.

24 MR. DOWNS: -- of the process.

25 Chief, anything further?



1 MR. HAWKINS: Yeah, one more question. Derron Hawkins  
2 here.

3 BY MR. HAWKINS:

4 Q. Is there a fire extinguisher in the room?

5 A. Yes, sir, there is a fire extinguisher.

6 Q. Okay. Are you aware of any fire sprinklers in the room?

7 MR. DOWNS: Sprinkler heads like we have in the ceiling  
8 here?

9 MR. WHITLEY: I can't lie. I'm not sure right off.

10 BY MR. HAWKINS:

11 Q. You're not sure?

12 A. Right. I don't --

13 Q. But there is a fire extinguisher in the room?

14 A. There is an extinguisher, yes, sir.

15 Q. Do you know, is it charged or is it out of service? Do  
16 you know the date on --

17 A. No, I know it is in service.

18 Q. It's in service?

19 A. Every so many months I have to update it or get the  
20 safety to approve something on that, I guess.

21 MR. DOWNS: Downs here. Question: The safety  
22 department will come around and inspect the tag and everything --

23 MR. WHITLEY: Right, exactly.

24 MR. DOWNS: -- is that what you're saying?

25 MR. WHITLEY: Absolutely.

1 MR. DOWNS: Thank you.

2 MR. HAWKINS: Okay, I have no further questions.

3 MR. DOWNS: Mr. Good?

4 BY MR. GOOD:

5 Q. George Good, FTA. I just have two more questions. One,  
6 again, might have a few parts to it.

7 To your knowledge, does the station attendant kiosk or  
8 the booth, do they have the number to your office where they could  
9 call you? And you also mentioned an intercom. Do you know if  
10 that intercom was an intercom from the station attendant to  
11 contact you in emergencies?

12 A. I'm not exactly sure -- I'm sorry; I didn't mean to cut  
13 you off -- where the intercom comes from because we get all kinds  
14 of crazy messages over it. Like, one message comes on and says  
15 abort, evacuate the station. I don't know who that is or where  
16 it's coming from, but that is one of the messages I hear on it.  
17 And majority of the time, we hear MOC over that intercom.

18 MR. DOWNS: Downs here. Question: MOC, what's that?

19 MR. WHITLEY: Central control.

20 MR. DOWNS: MOC is your central control, and they will  
21 have a message, a general announcement for employees?

22 MR. WHITLEY: Yes, um-hum.

23 MR. DOWNS: Thank you.

24 MR. WHITLEY: A lot of times, they'll come on and say,  
25 "Train operator, contact central," or something like that.

1 BY MR. GOOD:

2 Q. And to the first part of the question, do you know if  
3 the station attendants know your number to contact you by  
4 landline?

5 A. I know one of them do. I don't know if the others do or  
6 not. I don't know.

7 Q. And you don't know if that's their procedure?

8 A. I know nothing's posted in the kiosk.

9 Q. Okay. And my other question, you say there's a door  
10 that exits directly to the tracks.

11 A. Um-hum.

12 Q. Are you required to have RWP training, knowing when --  
13 you know, the protocols to --

14 MR. DOWNS: RWP training is what?

15 MR. GOOD: Roadway worker protection.

16 MR. WHITLEY: Um-hum. Yes, sir.

17 BY MR. GOOD:

18 Q. So you're qualified? You know the protocols to enter  
19 that area?

20 A. Well, honestly, I am a Level 2. In order to go on the  
21 tracks, I need to be escorted. So I don't think anybody in AFC is  
22 above this --

23 BY MR. DOWNS:

24 Q. Downs with a question here. You say in order for you to  
25 go to the track you have to be escorted.

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. You have to exit emergency exit that you would have to  
3 go down in the event that your normal egress would be blocked. Is  
4 that correct?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. So I don't want to make judgments, but, in theory, you  
7 would have to wait for an escort for you to make that exit.

8 A. That is correct.

9 Q. Would that be a fair assessment?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 MR. GOOD: Because one of the requirements is to have a  
12 radio, and you know that you need a radio and to call OCC and --

13 MR. WHITLEY: Yes, sir.

14 BY MR. DOWNS:

15 Q. Downs. Question: Do you have radio?

16 A. No, sir, I do not.

17 Q. So how would you then be able to get an escort?

18 A. I wouldn't.

19 Q. Thank you.

20 A. I wouldn't, to be quite honest.

21 MR. GOOD: That was the last questions I had.

22 MR. DOWNS: Any further questions?

23 MR. GOOD: No.

24 MR. DOWNS: No further questions. Okay.

25 BY MR. DOWNS:

1 Q. Downs again. Let's divert a little bit here,  
2 Mr. Whitley. How long have you been with WMATA roughly?

3 A. That'll be 11 years.

4 Q. Roughly, 11?

5 A. Um-hum.

6 Q. And you've worked in your current job about 4 years, you  
7 said?

8 A. Well, I've been at L'Enfant Plaza 4 years --

9 Q. L'Enfant for --

10 A. -- but I've been a storeroom clerk about 8 years.

11 Q. About 8 years of the 11?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. What did you do previous to the storeroom clerk?

14 A. Previous, I was a custodian.

15 Q. Custodian. Okay. Tell me, were you issued a respirator  
16 mask when you started your work at L'Enfant Plaza? Do you know  
17 what I'm talking about, respirator mask?

18 A. With the things on it?

19 Q. A breathing device --

20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. -- that allows you to escape through smoke?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. You were not issued one. Thank you.

24 We already covered a radio. You don't have a radio --

25 A. No, sir.

1 Q. -- you just have a landline telephone that's reliable  
2 and you can connect with whomever is necessary?

3 A. That's correct, yes.

4 Q. Let me ask you this. Were there any -- do you have any  
5 medical issues that might preclude you from evacuating in an  
6 emergency? In other words, you're -- you have normal walking  
7 capability and so on?

8 A. Oh, yes.

9 Q. You're not in a wheelchair or anything like that, right?

10 A. No, sir. No. No, sir.

11 MR. DOWNS: Okay. I'm going to continue on with  
12 Mr. Bucher.

13 MR. BUCHE: Bucher. I have no more questions.

14 BY MR. GORDON:

15 Q. Joe Gordon. One more question and it goes back to the  
16 other exit door that takes you down to the track level. When that  
17 takes you down to track level, does that -- do you come out on a  
18 catwalk adjacent to the track that has like hand railing  
19 separating you from the tracks?

20 A. Yes, sir, it does.

21 Q. Okay. So, your understanding, would you be required to  
22 have an escort to go to that catwalk level?

23 A. Yes, sir, I would. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Okay. Not just to go into actually the track bed, but  
25 to go to that catwalk level, you would need an escort?

1 A. Yes, sir. Anywhere past that gate --

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. -- I would need an escort.

4 Q. Based on your Level 2 --

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. -- RWP certification? Okay. I have no further  
7 questions.

8 MR. DOWNS: Mr. Rourke?

9 BY MR. ROURKE:

10 Q. Denton Rourke Metro, OEMD. I want to ask you about the  
11 announcements that you hear during the course of the day in the  
12 S200 room. Are those the general station announcements? For  
13 instance, we are -- we apologize, but we're experiencing delays up  
14 the line?

15 A. The majority of them are, yes, sir.

16 Q. All right. So that -- do you think that's just a normal  
17 station speaker?

18 A. Yes, sir, I think so.

19 Q. Okay, thanks.

20 BY MR. DOWNS:

21 Q. Downs here. And you had testified to the effect that  
22 the sound of that speaker was really low sometimes and you had a  
23 hard time hearing it, particularly when the fan equipment had  
24 engaged?

25 A. That is correct. Yes, sir.

1 Q. And when the fan equipment is not engaged, you can hear  
2 it okay?

3 A. It's still a little faint.

4 Q. A little faint?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. But you can still make out what they're saying?

7 A. I can still make out what they're saying.

8 Q. Thank you.

9 MR. DOWNS: Mr. Rourke?

10 MR. ROURKE: I don't have anything further. Thank you.

11 MR. DOWNS: Let's go off the record for a moment.

12 (Off the record.)

13 (On the record.)

14 MR. DOWNS: Back on the record.

15 Mr. Rourke, do you have a further question?

16 MR. ROURKE: No, sir, no further questions. Thank you.

17 MR. DOWNS: Chief?

18 MR. HAWKINS: Yes.

19 BY MR. HAWKINS:

20 Q. Derron Hawkins here. I have a question. Regarding  
21 Ms. Moore, you mentioned that you ran back to the room to notify  
22 her and she froze; she got stuck. Can you explain exactly what  
23 you meant by that?

24 A. Well, basically, even right there at that door, when you  
25 come around -- everything was fine; there was no smoke in that



1 particular room. But when we got to the door at S200, that's when  
2 you see all the smoke. She panicked.

3 Q. She panicked?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Okay. Okay, I have no further questions.

6 MR. DOWNS: Mr. Good, questions?

7 MR. GOOD: Yes.

8 BY MR. GOOD:

9 Q. Both the -- for your -- from you or to your knowledge,  
10 any of your fellow co-workers, did anyone ever bring up to  
11 management or a supervisor a concern over not knowing where to  
12 assemble in an emergency or going over the emergency procedures?  
13 To your knowledge, did anybody ever, you know, raise that issue?  
14 That was just --

15 A. To my knowledge, no, sir.

16 Q. Okay. And the other question, the door that we're  
17 looking at, the rotating door that goes up to the ladder, have you  
18 ever been told that that door is just to keep, like, a swing type  
19 door from slamming because of the piston effect of the train or is  
20 it for smoke? Have you ever been told one way or the other?

21 A. No, sir, we haven't been told anything regarding that.  
22 We know that on the other side of that door it's dangerous. So  
23 it's one of the situations where we know the door is there and we  
24 don't bother it.

25 Q. Okay, that's all I had.

1 BY MR. DOWNS:

2 Q. Okay, Downs here. Question: Going back to this  
3 rotating door. In looking at the picture, there is no indication  
4 that it's an emergency exit. Mr. Whitley, your understanding is  
5 that it's dangerous on the other side --

6 A. Absolutely. Yes, sir.

7 Q. -- okay, and you believe there may be a manhole cover or  
8 something at the top end that might not easily be opened --

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. -- in the event that you needed to escape. The only  
11 other escape path you have from the room there would be the  
12 emergency exit that goes down --

13 A. To the tracks, yes, sir.

14 Q. -- to the track level and the safety walk, the catwalk,  
15 which you --

16 A. Off limits.

17 Q. -- you're basically off limits, you need an escort for.  
18 So, tell me, is there any other way to escape from this room, any  
19 other emergency exit other than these two pathways we've just  
20 described?

21 A. No, sir, there is not.

22 Q. There is none. Okay, thank you.

23 As part of my closing questions, I typically ask the  
24 witness if there's any retrospective thoughts. In other words,  
25 knowing what you know now, is there anything you'd like to add to

1 your testimony that might help our understanding in terms of the  
2 safety features and such? Would you have done anything  
3 differently knowing what you know now that you had done, that kind  
4 of thoughts? This is your chance to bring it forth and tell us  
5 about it.

6 A. No. Honestly, I'm very happy with the way we handled  
7 things that particular day, to be honest with you.

8 Q. Very happy?

9 A. I am very -- we got out safely.

10 Q. You got out safely --

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. -- "without injury," quote/unquote?

13 A. Without injury, that is correct.

14 Q. Even though you sought medical attention later on?

15 A. Um-hum. We've gone over it and over it again because,  
16 once I opened that door, I could have very well took off and left  
17 Ms. Moore. But I decided to go back and get her. So that's what  
18 I say I'm happy about. I didn't leave her there to die. But  
19 other than that, there wasn't much else we could have done  
20 differently.

21 Now, I was told by one of the AFC managers that when we  
22 come down on the Greenbelt side, we should have gone right. I've  
23 never seen an evacuation plan.

24 Q. Right would have taken you where?

25 A. Right would have taken me to -- what is that street?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 9th and D.

2 MR. WHITLEY: 9th and D, yes, sir.

3 MR. DOWNS: To 9th and D exit --

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, the other one, 7th and D.

5 BY MR. DOWNS:

6 Q. 7th and -- that's the 7th and D exit?

7 A. That's correct, yes.

8 Q. That's basically the side direction from the -- that  
9 would be the opposite end of the L'Enfant Plaza exit of the  
10 station; would that be correct?

11 A. No --

12 Q. In other words, directly opposite your office door is  
13 Maryland Avenue.

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. If you were to make a left out of your office door, that  
16 would be to L'Enfant Plaza --

17 A. That's correct, but --

18 Q. -- and if you made a right, that would be the --

19 A. The 7th and D.

20 Q. -- 7th and D exit?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay, very good. Let me ask you this, sir. Did it  
23 occur to you to call 911 or call somebody when you went back to  
24 get Ms. Moore and get direction as to what to do?

25 A. No, sir.

1 Q. Your first thought was simply just get out of there --

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. -- the two of you, as fast as you could?

4 A. Absolutely. Yes, sir.

5 Q. I see. Thank you.

6 MR. DOWNS: Okay, that concludes my questions. Now  
7 we'll go around the room one more time.

8 MR. BUCAR: Bucar. No more questions.

9 MR. GORDON: Nothing further.

10 MR. ROURKE: Rourke. No questions.

11 MR. DOWNS: Chief?

12 MR. HAWKINS: Derron Hawkins. No further questions.

13 MR. DOWNS: Mr. Good.

14 BY MR. GOOD:

15 Q. George Good, FTA. I have one question or -- for point  
16 of clarification. You mentioned that you spoke to your supervisor  
17 and he mentioned that the evacuation plan said you should have  
18 gone this way or took that Green Line way. So since that time  
19 when you discussed the evacuation plan, have you received and been  
20 trained on it?

21 A. No, sir.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm sorry, what was his answer?

23 MR. WHITLEY: No, sir.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No? Okay, thanks.

25 MR. DOWNS: All right, if there are no further questions

1 and nothing further from our witness -- thank you very much. That  
2 concludes the interview.

3 MR. WHITELEY: Thank you.

4 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

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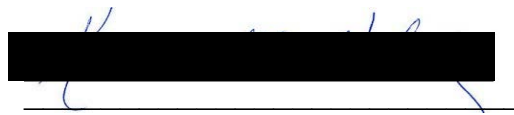
IN THE MATTER OF: WMATA INCIDENT AT L'ENFANT PLAZA  
STATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.  
JANUARY 12, 2015  
Interview of Deon Whitley

DOCKET NUMBER: DCA-15-FR-004

PLACE: Washington, D.C.

DATE: July 22, 2015

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.

A black rectangular redaction box covers the signature of Karen M. Galvez. The signature is written in blue ink and is partially obscured by the redaction.

Karen M. Galvez  
Transcriber