UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Investigation of:

*

WMATA INCIDENT AT L'ENFANT PLAZA

STATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.
JANUARY 12, 2015

* Docket No.: DCA-15-FR-004

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Interview of: BONNIE MOORE

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 BUCHAR, 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

I N D E X

ITEM			 	PAGE
Interview	of	Bonr	nie Moore:	
	Ву	Mr.	Downs	7
	Ву	Mr.	Bucher	27
	Ву	Mr.	Gordon	28
	Ву	Mr.	Rourke	28
	Ву	Mr.	Hawkins	30
	Ву	Mr.	Good	31
	Ву	Mr.	Downs	32
	Ву	Mr.	Bucher	34
	Ву	Mr.	Downs	35
	Ву	Mr.	Bucher	36
	Ву	Mr.	Gordon	37
	Ву	Mr.	Rourke	37
	Ву	Mr.	Hawkins	37
	Ву	Mr.	Downs	38
	Ву	Mr.	Hawkins	39
	Ву	Mr.	Good	40
	Ву	Mr.	Downs	41
	Ву	Mr.	Bucher	45
	Ву	Mr.	Hawkins	46
	Ву	Mr.	Good	47
	Ву	Mr.	Downs	47

$\underline{I} \ \underline{N} \ \underline{D} \ \underline{E} \ \underline{X} \ (Cont.)$

ITEM				PAGE
Interview	of I	Bonn	nie Moore:	
	Ву І	Mr.	Good	48
	Ву І	Mr.	Downs	48
	Ву І	Mr.	Good	51
	Ву І	Mr.	Downs	52
	Ву І	Mr.	Rourke	54
	Ву І	Mr.	Hawkins	54
	Ву І	Mr.	Downs	55

1	<u>INTERVIEW</u>
2	MR. DOWNS: Today's date is July 22nd, 2015, and the
3	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 and is 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, and which a transcript may also be compiled of the
16	recording 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 to accompany him or her at this interview, and which the
24	representative may not testify for the interviewee. It's also

requested that comments of the interviewee's representative should

- 1 be limited and objections expressed by the interviewee's
- 2 representative are not grounds for the NTSB to refrain from asking
- 3 questions.
- I will now ask that our interviewee, witness, please
- 5 identify themselves, their employment affiliation, and job
- 6 position title for the record.
- 7 MS. MOORE: My name is Bonnie Moore. I work for AFC.
- 8 I've been there for 25 years. I'm a parts runner.
- 9 MR. DOWNS: And AFC stands for what?
- 10 MS. MOORE: Automatic Fare Collection.
- MR. DOWNS: Automatic Fare Collection. So you're a
- 12 parts runner. That would be a person who delivers --
- MS. MOORE: Parts.
- MR. DOWNS: -- parts to the fare collection equipment
- 15 around the entire WMATA system?
- MS. MOORE: No, just the stations.
- MR. DOWNS: Just the stations in the system?
- MS. MOORE: The machines.
- MR. DOWNS: Machines in the system. Very good.
- 20 I'll now ask that the participants of this interview who
- 21 will have an opportunity to present questions to the witness
- 22 please individually identify themselves, their employment
- 23 affiliation, and job position title for the record.
- MR. BUCHER: Dave Bucher, rail accident investigator,
- 25 NTSB.

- 1 MR. GORDON: Joe Gordon, G-O-R-D-O-N, NTSB investigator-
- 2 in-charge for the L'Enfant Plaza accident.
- 3 MR. ROURKE: Good afternoon. My name is Denton Rourke.
- 4 I'm the operations manager in the Office of Emergency Management
- 5 in the Metro Transit Police, and I'm a member of the Survival
- 6 Factors Group. My last name is spelled R-O-U-R-K-E.
- 7 MR. HAWKINS: Good morning. Actually, good afternoon.
- 8 Derron Hawkins, Deputy Fire Chief, D.C. Fire and EMS. Last name
- 9 is H-A-W-K-I-N-S.
- 10 MR. GOOD: Good afternoon. George Good, Federal Transit
- 11 -- oh, G-O-O-D is how you spell the last name, Federal Transit
- 12 Administration, accident investigator.
- MR. DOWNS: Say again. Accident investigator?
- MR. GOOD: Accident Investigator.
- MR. DOWNS: Very good.
- Thank you to Ms. Moore for joining us today. Are you
- 17 accompanied by anyone in this interview?
- MS. MOORE: No.
- MR. DOWNS: Thank you.
- 20 INTERVIEW OF BONNIE MOORE
- BY MR. DOWNS:
- 22 Q. And as a first question for my witness, would you please
- 23 briefly describe for us your role or involvement in the event?
- 24 A. I was just coming back from a run and --
- Q. Excuse me. Your role, you're a parts runner --

- 1 A. Um-hum.
- 2 Q. -- and you were in your office during the event?
- 3 A. Right.
- 4 Q. Thank you. Okay. Could you then please describe for us
- 5 in your words and to your best recollection what occurred on the
- 6 day of the event?
- 7 A. I didn't know what was occurring until I was warned.
- 8 Q. Let's start first -- you came to work that morning, a
- 9 regular day at the office?
- 10 A. Oh, I didn't know you wanted me to go through all that.
- 11 Yeah.
- 12 Q. Yeah, let's start at the beginning of the day at the
- 13 office.
- 14 A. I come in at 12 noon.
- 15 Q. Twelve noon. Okay.
- 16 A. And we wait until the part guy brings the parts. So we
- 17 just sit and wait.
- 18 Q. So your normal job activity would be you'd normally
- 19 report at noontime.
- 20 A. Um-hum. Call them and let them know I'm here.
- Q. Report in to let them know you're in the office there,
- 22 and the normal procedure would be to bring parts to you to
- 23 replenish your inventory of parts --
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. -- that you would normally deliver as part of your

- 1 routine --
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. -- job activities; is that correct?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. So that was about noontime.
- 6 A. Um-hum.
- 7 Q. Was it a normal day between, say, noon and 3 p.m.?
- 8 There were no other activities that --
- 9 A. Nothing else was going on, no.
- 10 Q. Nothing going -- just your routine --
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. -- delivery of parts that day --
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. -- but you were back in the office a little bit before 3
- 15 or so?
- A. Way before 3.
- Q. Way before 3. Okay. Let's start at 3:00 roughly and
- 18 what occurred step by step.
- 19 A. Me and Mr. Whitley were talking about doing lunch. So I
- 20 went in the back. I told him I had already brought my lunch. So
- 21 he was getting ready to go out for lunch. During the time he was
- 22 getting ready to go out, which was way after 3, he recognized it
- 23 was smoke out there.
- Q. Okay, let me pause you for a moment just to make sure I
- 25 understand. So at some point way after 3, you had a little

- 1 conversation to the effect you were deciding on lunch
- 2 activities --
- 3 A. Yes, in the office.
- 4 Q. -- in the office.
- 5 A. Um-hum.
- 6 Q. You had indicated you brought your lunch and his
- 7 response was to the effect, okay, he's going to go get lunch
- 8 someplace else.
- 9 A. Um-hum.
- 10 Q. Would that be correct? And then at that point, he
- 11 started to leave your work area?
- 12 A. Yes. By this time I'm walking to the back.
- Q. And you're at that point heading back to your work
- 14 area which is separated from his by 30, 40 feet maybe?
- 15 A. Um-hum.
- Q. And it's a different screened-in area --
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. -- fenced-in area?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. And you have an office door, correct?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. So you went back into your work area and then --
- 23 A. Pulled out my lunch --
- 24 Q. -- pulled out your lunch and you were about to have
- 25 lunch?

- 1 A. Yes. And never --
- Q. Okay. And then what happened?
- 3 A. -- never got to eat the lunch. By this time,
- 4 Mr. Ismael (ph.) --
- 5 Q. Wait, wait. Let's pause for a moment. Let's go back.
- 6 Did Mr. Whitley come back?
- 7 A. He was coming while Mr. Ismael was on the phone with me.
- 8 Q. So, Mr. Ismael?
- 9 A. Um-hum.
- 10 Q. And Mr. Ismael is whom?
- 11 A. He's my co-worker.
- 12 Q. Your co-worker in your work area there?
- 13 A. Yes, um-hum.
- 14 Q. He was on the phone and that person was elsewhere
- 15 calling you?
- 16 A. Yeah, he was outside.
- 17 Q. He was outside the --
- 18 A. L'Enfant Plaza.
- 19 Q. -- L'Enfant Plaza, outside of the station?
- A. Um-hum.
- Q. Okay. And he phoned you?
- 22 A. And said get out the office because I see a lot of fire
- 23 department around.
- Q. So that was -- to the effect, that was his message to
- 25 you?

- 1 A. To just get out.
- 2 Q. To get out.
- A. And then by this time, Mr. Whitely comes in the door and
- 4 says we got to go.
- 5 Q. Is coincidentally walking into your office and saying we
- 6 have to go?
- 7 A. Um-hum.
- 8 Q. And did he tell you what he found outside the office
- 9 door?
- 10 A. He said it's smoky in the station.
- 11 Q. Smoky in the station.
- 12 A. Um-hum.
- Q. So, your message right there was to --
- 14 A. I'm like, what do you mean smoky in the station?
- 15 O. You --
- 16 A. So he opened up the door and that's when I seen the
- 17 smoke.
- 18 Q. So the two of your walked to your main entrance door --
- 19 A. Um-hum.
- 20 Q. -- and he opened the door and you looked out and you saw
- 21 heavy smoke?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. What happened then?
- A. I said, well, we can't see; how are we going to see the
- 25 escalator? It was really smoky. You couldn't see at all.

- 1 Q. Okay. So from your entrance door to the escalator to go
- 2 down to the platform level in order to evacuate the station is
- 3 perhaps, going from my recollection, perhaps 30, 40 feet --
- 4 A. Um-hum.
- 5 Q. -- and you could not see the escalator?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. So then what happened?
- 8 A. He pulls out his flashlight.
- 9 Q. So he had a flashlight?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Does he normally carry a flashlight? Do you know?
- 12 A. No, he keeps it in the office. He went and got it and
- 13 went out --
- 14 Q. Just before you --
- 15 A. Just before we went out that door.
- 16 Q. -- went out the door? Okay.
- 17 A. Um-hum.
- 18 Q. Okay, so he's got the flashlight. What happened step by
- 19 step?
- 20 A. He's saying -- I was like -- I started coughing. I said
- 21 where are we going to go? We got to get out of here. He said,
- 22 come on, we got to go; we got to go now. So by this time, Transit
- 23 is down on the platform saying --
- Q. Okay, let's pause for a moment. You leave your office
- 25 door, the S200 office door.

- 1 A. Um-hum.
- 2 Q. You're now on the mezzanine level. And for the record,
- 3 let's describe the mezzanine level. Your work area is directly
- 4 opposite on the mezzanine level from the --
- 5 A. The non-exit side.
- 6 Q. The non-exit side. The opposite end of the station from
- 7 you is the Maryland Avenue exit; is that correct?
- 8 A. Yeah, straight ahead of us.
- 9 Q. Straight ahead of you, but you'd have to then go down
- 10 and go back up to get on the other mezzanine?
- 11 A. Um-hum, um-hum.
- 12 Q. Okay. So you come out of that door. Did you pause or
- 13 anything when you came out of that door?
- 14 A. No. We was -- he was pulling me, trying to get me out
- 15 of there.
- 16 Q. He was pulling you?
- 17 A. Yeah.
- 18 Q. So, you were --
- 19 A. Because I was panicking.
- 20 Q. You were panicking?
- 21 A. Um-hum.
- Q. Okay, let's talk a little bit about your panic, okay?
- 23 A. I started coughing also.
- 24 O. You started coughing and you were very hesitant to
- 25 proceed? Would that be a fair characterization?

- 1 A. I wanted to -- I really wanted to hurry up and get out.
- 2 I was wondering why we couldn't go out the first exit we seen, but
- 3 he said keep going.
- 4 Q. Where is the first exit?
- 5 A. 7th and D.
- 6 Q. So, in other words, you made it to the escalator to go
- 7 down?
- 8 A. Um-hum.
- 9 Q. Was the escalator operating to go down or did you have
- 10 to walk down?
- 11 A. I think we had to walk down.
- 12 Q. You walked down --
- 13 A. Um-hum.
- 14 Q. -- to the platform level and you proceeded straight
- 15 forward in the direction of the Maryland Avenue --
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. -- mezzanine side?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Could you see with the flashlight where you were going?
- 20 A. I was really covering my mouth and couldn't see anything
- 21 really.
- Q. And he was leading you along the way?
- 23 A. Yeah, he was guiding me.
- Q. Guiding you?
- A. Um-hum.

- Okay. Were you able to follow along the wall there?
- 2 You have a concrete --
- 3 A. We was like in the middle of the platform.
- 4 Q. Middle of the platform? Could you see the track from
- 5 where you were at all?
- A. I wasn't even looking because I was covering my mouth.
- 7 Q. You were relying upon his guidance --
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. -- to move you along?
- 10 A. Yes, coughing.
- 11 Q. Okay. So you proceeded ahead, and you mentioned a few
- 12 moments ago you wondered why you didn't make a different exit?
- 13 A. Because they kept -- they told us to keep going.
- 14 Q. They? Who's they?
- 15 A. Transit Police.
- Q. Where were the Transit Police?
- 17 A. All on the platform.
- 18 Q. On the platform. Did you encounter a Transit Police
- 19 officer on the mezzanine level when you were --
- 20 A. No, down on the platform.
- 21 Q. Down on the platform was the first --
- 22 A. As soon as we come down the escalator, there's one --
- 23 Q. There were Transit Police officers --
- 24 A. -- on each side.
- 25 Q. -- on each side, meaning one on your side of the

- 1 station and one on the opposite platform?
- 2 A. Um-hum.
- 3 Q. So, you could see the opposite platform on the other
- 4 side of the tracks?
- 5 A. Well, I could see them every time I would take the -- I
- 6 had on a jacket at the time -- off of my mouth and it was, you
- 7 know, blinding me a little bit, but --
- 8 Q. So, the --
- 9 A. I could see that they were out there, pushing everybody
- 10 to get out.
- 11 Q. So the smoke at that point -- you could see the other
- 12 platform on the other side of the tracks?
- 13 A. Um-hum, but it was a train over there also.
- 14 Q. There was a train there as well at that point?
- 15 A. Um-hum.
- 16 Q. Okay. And the train was stopped?
- 17 A. Yeah, just sitting.
- 18 Q. So it hadn't pulled in or anything when you were down
- 19 there. It was just sitting there --
- 20 A. No, it was just sitting there.
- Q. -- and it hadn't moved during the time you were there?
- 22 A. No.
- Q. Okay. So you mentioned a few minutes ago that you were
- 24 proceeding towards Maryland Avenue and you wondered why you didn't
- 25 make another exit.

- 1 A. Yeah. Because they told us keep going.
- 2 Q. And which exit would that have been, the L'Enfant Plaza
- 3 exit or the 7th --
- 4 A. Maryland Avenue.
- 5 Q. -- the 7th --
- 6 A. Oh, the 7th and D --
- 7 Q. 7th and D exit?
- 8 A. -- is the closest.
- 9 Q. So you were wondering why you didn't take the 7th and D
- 10 exit.
- 11 A. Yeah.
- 12 Q. And your answer here, you just indicated, I believe, was
- 13 that the transit officer said to proceed --
- 14 A. To keep going.
- 15 Q. -- toward the Maryland Avenue and not go in that
- 16 direction?
- 17 A. Right.
- 18 Q. Okay. So you continued your walk with Mr. Whitley to
- 19 the escalators on the other end of the station?
- A. Um-hum.
- 21 Q. And you walked up the escalators or were they in
- 22 operation? Do you remember?
- 23 A. No, we had to walk.
- Q. You walked up those?
- A. Um-hum.

- Q. Okay. So you're up on the Maryland Avenue mezzanine
- 2 area. What happened then?
- A. He's steady pulling me, saying we ain't got that far to
- 4 go. I was like, I can't breathe, I can't breathe, and I was
- 5 coughing. And he said, come on, we've got just a little bit more
- 6 to go. By the time we get outside, still coughing, trying to
- 7 catch my breath, everybody was outside then, including our office.
- 8 Q. So you got to the mezzanine level. You were able to
- 9 make it to the next set of escalators to take you up to street
- 10 level. Do you remember, were they operational at all or did you
- 11 have to walk up?
- 12 A. All of them were off.
- 13 Q. You walked up to the street level?
- 14 A. Um-hum.
- Q. When the two of you got up to the street level, what
- 16 happened then?
- 17 A. I'm standing there coughing, and then I went into that
- 18 -- I don't know what office building that is that's right outside
- 19 Maryland Avenue.
- 20 Q. Right outside the station entrance there, there's an
- 21 office building going -- from my recollection, it's on your
- 22 right?
- 23 A. Um-hum.
- Q. It's got glass doors and windows and such, and you went
- 25 inside there?

- 1 A. Um-hum. Stood around, because most of our co-workers
- 2 were standing there too.
- 3 Q. From the station as well?
- 4 A. Um-hum.
- 5 Q. You say co-workers. Who would they be?
- 6 A. Supervisors, techs, and that was about it.
- 7 Q. So that would be fare collection employees as well.
- 8 A. Um-hum.
- 9 Q. Do they work in the station somewhere as well? Do they
- 10 office rooms and office spaces?
- 11 A. Well, they have a office right there before you go out
- 12 of Maryland Avenue.
- 13 Q. So they would be on the mezzanine level opposite to
- 14 you --
- 15 A. Um-hum.
- 16 Q. -- where the kiosk is located?
- 17 A. Right.
- 18 Q. Would that be a fair way of saying it?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. So they work in that -- in offices and workspaces in
- 21 that area?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. You saw those folks up topside --
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. -- when you came up out of the station entrance?

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. And they were standing around in that general area. Was
- 3 the fire department or EMS there; do you know?
- A. If there, they might have been on another side
- 5 because --
- Q. You didn't notice any?
- 7 A. Mr. Ismael said they were out there, but I didn't even
- 8 look for them.
- 9 Q. I see. So you didn't look or you didn't notice?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Okay. But you did go inside the glass doors --
- 12 A. Um-hum.
- 13 Q. -- at the office building there? What happened next?
- 14 A. I was trying to find something to drink because it was
- 15 all in my throat.
- 16 Q. I see.
- 17 A. So I went and got some water.
- 18 Q. Got some water from?
- 19 A. Starbucks.
- 20 Q. Starbucks, which has a little shop in that general area?
- A. Um-hum.
- Q. Okay. Then what happened next?
- A. Then we just stood around, you know. They said, well,
- 24 just hang around right here; sit down and do what you need to do,
- 25 and that was it. We stayed there most of the time till we can get

- 1 back in the station.
- 2 Q. Did the fire department or EMS approach you at any time
- 3 when you were topside there to see if you had medical issues?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. So there was no ambulance stations or anything like that
- 6 located in that area that you noticed?
- 7 A. I probably didn't pay attention. They probably were
- 8 there. I didn't pay attention.
- 9 Q. You didn't pay attention?
- 10 A. I was trying to get something for my throat.
- 11 Q. That was your focus right then and there?
- 12 A. Um-hum.
- Q. Very good. Okay. So after a while, at some point did
- 14 you go back down into the station?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Tell us about -- how long were you up topside? Can you
- 17 estimate?
- 18 A. It seemed like it was maybe 2, maybe 3 hours.
- 19 Q. Two or three hours? It was a while?
- 20 A. Yeah, because they had to clear it out.
- Q. And the purpose of waiting there was to allow the smoke
- 22 to dissipate?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And at some point somebody told you that the smoke was
- 25 clear?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 O. Who was that?
- A. I mean, no, they didn't tell me; I could tell.
- 4 Everybody was walking through. We were able to go back in our
- 5 office.
- 6 Q. So you were able to, at some point, 2 or 3 hours --
- 7 A. Not my office, but the main office.
- 8 Q. The main office for your AFC colleagues who worked near
- 9 the kiosk?
- 10 A. Um-hum.
- 11 Q. So at some point you determined on your own, pretty
- 12 much, that the smoke was cleared and it was safe to go down, at
- 13 least to that level?
- 14 A. Right. They told us we can go back down.
- 15 Q. They told you it was okay to go down into their area?
- 16 A. Um-hum.
- 17 Q. Okay, so you went down into their area. What happened
- 18 next?
- 19 A. We just sat there. They said you probably won't be able
- 20 to go back on your side.
- Q. I see. And then what happened?
- 22 A. Nothing much, just sat there until it was time to go.
- 23 Q. And your normal time to clock out --
- 24 A. 8:00.
- 25 Q. -- would be 8 p.m.?

- 1 A. Um-hum.
- Q. Okay. So, you sat in that general area until about 8:00
- 3 and went home for the day?
- A. They let me really go at 7:30.
- 5 Q. 7:30?
- 6 A. Um-hum.
- 7 Q. But you haven't really quit?
- 8 A. No, but I had to catch the train anyway, so --
- 9 Q. I see. Were the trains running in L'Enfant Plaza at
- 10 that point?
- 11 A. To take me to Greenbelt, yeah.
- 12 Q. So, it was the Green Line or --
- 13 A. It was the Green Line to go to Greenbelt side.
- 14 Q. The Green Line to Greenbelt side at roughly 7:30?
- 15 A. Um-hum.
- 16 Q. Okay. So you did take a train at 7:30 to go to
- 17 Greenbelt?
- 18 A. Um-hum.
- 19 Q. So the train that had been at the platform --
- 20 A. I don't, I don't know --
- 21 Q. -- you don't know what happened to that train?
- 22 A. I don't think nothing was coming on that side.
- Q. I see. Okay. But you're sure it was the Greenbelt-
- 24 bound train?
- 25 A. That's the one I take every day.

- 1 Q. Out of L'Enfant Plaza?
- 2 A. Um-hum.
- 3 Q. Okay, very good. You went home at that point?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Did you experience any medical issues as a result of the
- 6 event?
- 7 A. Well, that smoke was still in my throat.
- 8 Q. In your throat when you went home that night?
- 9 A. Um-hum.
- 10 Q. Did you pursue medical attention?
- 11 A. The next day.
- 12 Q. The next day. Tell us about that.
- 13 A. I went --
- 14 Q. I don't need any medical details. Did you just go to
- 15 the local hospital --
- 16 A. Yeah.
- 17 Q. \rightarrow or what was the \rightarrow
- 18 A. The closest one for me is Doctor's Hospital.
- 19 Q. Doctor's Hospital up in Greenbelt area?
- 20 A. Right down the street, yeah; around the corner, really.
- 21 Q. Okay. And you reported there --
- A. Um-hum.
- 23 Q. -- and you told them the problem and you got some sort
- 24 of treatment?
- 25 A. They were testing me for the carbon monoxide, but I told

- 1 her I had that stuff in my throat. She's telling me it should
- 2 wear out within a couple of weeks.
- 3 Q. I see.
- 4 A. It took a while.
- 5 Q. And you were discharged with that instruction, basically
- 6 it'll work itself out?
- 7 A. She said come back in 3 days.
- 8 Q. They told you to come back in three days?
- 9 A. Um-hum.
- 10 Q. Okay. So you left the hospital at that point. Did you
- 11 go to work the next day or what?
- 12 A. No, 3 days later.
- Q. You stayed home for 3 days --
- 14 A. Um-hum.
- 15 Q. -- and went back to the hospital in 3 days?
- A. No, I didn't go back to the hospital. She said try to
- 17 follow up with your doctor.
- 18 Q. Your own physician in 3 days. Did you follow up with
- 19 your physician?
- 20 A. No, no.
- Q. Okay. Did you ever follow up with any medical --
- 22 A. Yeah, I went back to the doctor, because I'm still
- 23 having complications with my throat --
- Q. I see. Okay.
- 25 A. -- but I didn't go right away.

- 1 Q. Not right away?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Okay, very good.
- 4 MR. DOWNS: That's concludes my round of questioning for
- 5 the moment. We're going to move on to Mr. Bucher.
- BY MR. BUCHER:
- 7 Q. Dave Bucher. Thanks for coming in. My first question,
- 8 are you aware of any emergency evacuation plan for your office or
- 9 work area?
- 10 A. Well, they had one up in the office. They must have
- 11 taken it down. It's the back door, not too far from our door, but
- 12 we never went up through there.
- 13 Q. Okay. Have you ever had any evacuation practice
- 14 sessions for your work area?
- 15 A. No, no.
- 16 Q. Okay. In your training at -- from WMATA, have you ever
- 17 had any emergency training for an emergency situation since you
- 18 were hired, I quess --
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. -- trying to go back and see if you --
- 21 A. No.
- Q. Okay. That's all I have for now.
- MR. BUCHER: I'm going to pass off to Mr. Gordon.
- MR. GORDON: Okay --
- MR. DOWNS: Name, sir.

- 1 BY MR. GORDON:
- 2 Q. Joe Gordon, NTSB. Did you notice anything out of the
- 3 ordinary prior to Mr. Whitley coming back to -- well, the phone
- 4 call and Mr. Whitley coming back?
- 5 A. Only thing I noticed that that fan came on, that loud
- 6 fan that they turn on from time to time --
- 7 Q. That's --
- 8 A. -- and I was like, why is that fan on? At this time we
- 9 didn't know it was smoke out there. But that was the only thing I
- 10 noticed.
- 11 Q. Okay. And so, that -- does that fan -- how often do you
- 12 hear that fan cut on? Is that --
- 13 A. No. They cut it on probably a couple of days a week,
- 14 and then we have to call them and ask them can they turn it off.
- 15 But they just turned it on, what, last week? That's the last time
- 16 I heard it, last week.
- Q. Okay. And no other indication from any kind of alarm --
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. -- or lights or anything?
- A. No, that's it.
- Q. Okay. Okay, I have no further questions at this time.
- MR. DOWNS: Mr. Rourke?
- BY MR. ROURKE:
- 24 Q. Denton Rourke from Metro. Could you explain to me how
- 25 you would get to that 7th and -- if you went to the 7th and D exit

- 1 from your office, how would you do that?
- 2 A. We would just go down the escalator and the end of that
- 3 little platform part, you turn the corner, and that's 7th and D
- 4 right there.
- 5 Q. Okay. And then when you -- did you notify your
- 6 supervisor of your injury?
- 7 A. Well, they already knew what was going on.
- 8 Q. Well, after you went to the hospital?
- 9 A. Well, my immediate supervisor, he wasn't there. The
- 10 area manager was there.
- 11 Q. The area manager? And then after you went to the
- 12 hospital?
- 13 A. The -- my immediate supervisor called me the next
- 14 morning and said make sure you go to the hospital.
- 15 Q. And the paperwork got filled out?
- 16 A. Um-hum.
- 17 Q. Metro paperwork, I mean?
- 18 A. I don't know if they filled -- just the doctor's
- 19 paperwork.
- 20 Q. But from -- well, you turned in some paperwork --
- 21 A. Yeah.
- 22 Q. -- related to your injury?
- 23 A. They might have filled out something.
- Q. So you're covered for your injury, right?
- 25 A. Yeah, yeah.

- 1 Q. That's all I've got right now. Thank you.
- 2 MR. DOWNS: Thank you.
- 3 Chief?
- 4 BY MR. HAWKINS:
- 5 O. Yes. Good afternoon. Derron Hawkins.
- 6 Ms. Moore, I have a couple of questions for you. So the
- 7 first question is you received a phone call from Mr. Ismael.
- 8 A. Ismael works with me.
- 9 Q. Ismael. Okay, so what time was that exactly? Do you
- 10 recall the time you received that phone call?
- 11 A. It was probably after 3.
- 12 Q. After 3?
- 13 A. Um-hum.
- Q. And can you explain the phone call again? You mentioned
- 15 something about the fire department and the smoke and you --
- 16 A. He said, "Bonnie, something's going on, the fire
- 17 department is out here. Get out of the office." And that's all
- 18 he said. By this time, Mr. Whitley was coming in the door saying
- 19 we got to get out.
- 20 Q. Okay, he made reference to the fire department is here,
- 21 but he didn't say anything about the smoke or anything?
- 22 A. No, because evidently -- I think he was up at the mall.
- 23 He seen people running to the escalator. I think he went on out
- 24 the door thataway, so -- he didn't say nothing about no smoke.
- Q. Okay. Okay, so you mentioned -- back to the room,

- 1 Room S200, you mentioned about the emergency exit door, you think
- 2 there might have been a sign missing. Could you explain to me why
- 3 you believe that's an emergency exit?
- A. Because they told us that.
- 5 Q. Who told you that?
- 6 A. The supervisor.
- 7 Q. The supervisor?
- 8 A. They had like a little graphed of it. But I don't see
- 9 it anymore.
- 10 Q. Okay. And you never -- have you ever entered that door?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Okay. Okay, so -- and also, you mentioned, you say you
- 13 never received any training, emergency training from WMATA?
- 14 A. Uh-uh, no. For emergencies, no.
- 15 Q. Okay. All right, that's all I have for right now.
- 16 Thank you.
- 17 BY MR. GOOD:
- 18 Q. George Good, FTA. You said you called somebody to let
- 19 them know when you came in. Who was that that you called?
- 20 A. Called when? When did I call?
- 21 Q. You said when you came -- come to work, you call
- 22 somebody and let them know you're there?
- 23 A. Oh, we have to call when we first come in.
- Q. I mean, who is it that you call?
- 25 A. Any person that answers the phone on the desk. We can

- 1 either talk to the supervisor that's on the desk or one of the
- 2 people, I guess they call them clerks, and we'll let them know
- 3 that we've checked in.
- Q. Is that the same for when you leave --
- 5 A. Everybody.
- 6 Q. -- you have to call them to check out also?
- 7 A. Yeah, everybody.
- 8 Q. Is there a requirement for you to carry a flashlight
- 9 when you're --
- 10 A. No, not really.
- 11 Q. All right. And I'm just -- you may -- this is --
- 12 A. They've given them to us.
- 13 Q. They issue you flashlights?
- 14 A. Yeah, but we never really used them.
- 15 Q. Have you had roadway worker protection? Are you also
- 16 qualified with that?
- 17 A. Yeah, I had that.
- 18 Q. Is there emergency lighting that comes -- say, if
- 19 there's a total loss of power in the station, that --
- 20 A. I don't think so.
- 21 Q. -- that comes on in that back room?
- 22 A. I don't think so.
- 23 Q. That's all I have.
- BY MR. DOWNS:
- Q. Thank you. Downs again questioning. Let's revert back

- 1 to this emergency door. We had testimony from Mr. Whitley today
- 2 to the effect that he described the emergency exit door or doors.
- 3 I'm going to ask that a picture be brought up on our screen here
- 4 to show you a door and maybe you can tell us if that's the door
- 5 you're referring to, okay?
- A. Yeah, that's --
- 7 Q. Okay, Ms. Moore, this is a photograph we took yesterday
- 8 of your office area. And is this one of the doors you're
- 9 referring to?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. This is the photograph reference IMG_0590. It shows a
- 12 photograph of a metal door, a rotating door, that's up on a
- 13 platform that's maybe three or four steps off the ground floor.
- 14 There is a handrail next to the door. I do not see any emergency
- 15 exit door sign on the door.
- 16 A. Right.
- 17 Q. Correct me if I'm wrong. Did you just say there used to
- 18 be an emergency exit sign?
- 19 A. A graphed --
- 20 Q. A graphed?
- 21 A. -- of how to use that door.
- 22 Q. In other words, description --
- 23 A. They had it on the wall.
- 24 Q. They had a description on the wall of how to use the
- 25 door?

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. And that's gone now or --
- 3 A. That's because Mr. Whitley's office that he used to be
- 4 in used to be our office and they had that for us. So I guess he
- 5 took it down.
- 6 Q. Somebody took it down?
- 7 A. Somebody took it down.
- 8 Q. Your thinking is maybe he took it down?
- 9 A. He might have. I'm not even sure.
- 10 Q. You're not sure? Okay. But somehow that the
- 11 instructions on how to operate the door are no longer there?
- 12 A. No.
- Q. Okay. Do you have any understanding of where the door
- 14 goes to?
- 15 A. No, never been past it.
- 16 Q. You've never received any instruction as to how to
- 17 operate the door or where it might go?
- 18 A. No.
- Q. Okay. And, as such, you've never used the door either?
- A. Never.
- Q. Okay, very good.
- MR. DOWNS: Let's continue with our line of questioning,
- 23 Mr. Bucher.
- BY MR. BUCHER:
- Q. Dave Bucher. In your office in the back of the work

- 1 area, do you have any fire alarms back there?
- 2 A. In our immediate office that we are in?
- 3 Q. Yeah, the little cubbies that you have back there?
- A. No, I haven't seen any.
- 5 Q. No fire alarms and no strobes?
- A. All we have is those little water sprinklers, that's it.
- 7 BY MR. DOWNS
- 8 Q. Okay, Downs here. Question -- correction --
- 9 clarification question. I think what Mr. Bucher is asking, is
- 10 there a pull-station handle in your office area --
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. -- if there should be a fire, to sound the fire alarm?
- A. No. No, we don't.
- 14 Q. You don't have anything like that --
- 15 A. No.
- Q. -- but you have seen sprinkler heads like we have in the
- 17 ceiling here?
- 18 A. That's it.
- 19 Q. And you do have sprinkler heads in your work area?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. And it's throughout the general work area of the S200
- 22 room?
- 23 A. I don't know about that, but I know in that office we're
- 24 in --
- 25 Q. In the office you're in --

- 1 A. -- I've seen those.
- 2 Q. -- you've seen the sprinkler heads?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 BY MR. BUCHER:
- Okay, just a follow-up. But there's no alarms, that if
- 6 there was an alarm in the station, you would hear it in your
- 7 office area?
- 8 A. No alarm.
- 9 Q. No alarm. You mentioned in your earlier statement that
- 10 your -- you use the phone in your office. Are there any other
- 11 forms of communication in your office such as radio or intercom?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. No? That's your -- the phone is the sole form of
- 14 communication?
- 15 A. That's it. If it goes out, you'd probably have to walk
- 16 over there.
- 17 Q. Okay. So you have -- it's a regular wired phone, and do
- 18 you have access to a cell phone also or --
- 19 A. No. No, we don't.
- Q. No access to a cell phone?
- 21 A. They give us beepers if they want to contact us.
- Q. Okay, but that's one way? They beep you if they need
- 23 you?
- A. Need you to go somewhere.
- 25 Q. Okay. Okay, that --

- 1 A. If they want us, they'll call us on that phone in that
- 2 office.
- 3 Q. Okay, thank you. That's all I have for now.
- 4 BY MR. GORDON:
- 5 Q. Joe Gordon, NTSB. Are you aware of any emergency exit
- 6 signage that was up in that office area at the time of the
- 7 accident or even currently?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Okay, I have no further questions.
- 10 BY MR. ROURKE:
- 11 Q. Denton Rourke from Metro. You describe when you call in
- 12 -- when you first get to work, you check in. Where does that call
- 13 go to?
- A. Over to our office that's --
- 15 O. On the other side of L'Enfant?
- 16 A. Yes, yes.
- 17 Q. Okay. And in reference to your RWP, you said you are --
- 18 you do have RWP training, roadway worker protection training?
- 19 A. Yeah. They're getting ready to send us to a refresher.
- Q. What level are you?
- 21 A. They only give us 1, Level 1.
- 22 Q. Level 1, okay. That's all I have. Thank you.
- BY MR. HAWKINS:
- Q. Okay, Derron Hawkins. I have a couple more questions
- 25 for you. So regarding the Room S200, is there a fire extinguisher

- 1 in there, in that room you --
- 2 A. I've never seen it.
- 3 Q. You've never seen it?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Okay. So when you explain the room -- can you tell me a
- 6 little bit about the room, the S200, you know, the environment
- 7 that you're in when you go to work?
- A. We think it's not good to be in that room because, you
- 9 know, they got the HVAC system up in there, and when they were
- 10 doing this new HVAC system, we weren't allowed to be over there,
- 11 and then the train dust is coming through there. So we think it's
- 12 not even safe to be in there.
- 13 BY MR. DOWNS:
- Q. Downs here, NTSB. Maybe a clarification question for
- 15 the chief here is can you describe how big the room is, the size
- 16 of --
- 17 A. I don't really know the size.
- 18 Q. How many steps roughly from the main entrance door on
- 19 the mezzanine to back into your office? Would you say it's 30, 40
- 20 feet maybe, something like that?
- 21 A. I quess. I'm not sure.
- Q. You're not sure? And the width of the room is perhaps
- 23 20 feet or so, something like that?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And there's a central corridor that walks from the main

- 1 entrance door back to your office area?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And are there parts cribs, fenced-in areas where you --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- keep the parts that are inventoried for you to --
- 6 A. Gated, in the gate.
- 7 Q. -- gated that you would --
- 8 A. Only the clerk can get to.
- 9 Q. -- that the clerk can get to and would give you the part
- 10 that you would actually deliver through the course of your job
- 11 activity?
- 12 A. Yes, yes.
- Q. Would that be a fair way of saying it?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Very good.
- MR. DOWNS: Does that answer your question, Chief?
- MR. HAWKINS: Yeah, that's perfect.
- MR. DOWNS: Go ahead, Chief.
- 19 BY MR. HAWKINS:
- 20 Q. Okay, and one more, last question. So can you explain
- 21 to me, once you got outside the room and you mentioned you was on
- 22 the platform, can you explain to me what was going on? Was it
- 23 chaotic or --
- A. Most of the people probably had got out before we did.
- 25 I think -- I guess we was the last two.

- 1 Q. The last two?
- 2 A. To, you know, find out about the smoke. Nobody called
- 3 us and warned us. And that's what the office should have done
- 4 before they left out, but I guess they just left out in a panic.
- 5 Q. Okay, that's -- no further questions.
- 6 MR. DOWNS: Mr. Good?
- 7 BY MR. GOOD:
- 8 Q. George Good, FTA. As far as the phone numbers back
- 9 there, is there more than one phone number or is it just one phone
- 10 number for that work area with different extensions, or --
- 11 A. Well, when you come in the door, there's a phone and I
- 12 don't think that's our phone; that's probably the plant's phone,
- 13 because that area is supposed to be plant maintenance area anyway.
- 14 They have a phone sitting right there on the wall. There's a
- 15 phone in Mr. Whitley's office especially for him and there's a
- 16 phone back there where we are.
- 17 Q. So they're different numbers?
- 18 A. Um-hum.
- 19 Q. Do you normally have any kind of, within a work area,
- 20 safety briefing amongst yourselves?
- 21 A. Yeah, they give us safety meetings.
- MR. DOWNS: How often is that?
- MS. MOORE: Mostly on Wednesday or Thursday, he comes
- 24 over and reads a safety --
- 25 MR. DOWNS: So that would be once a week?

- 1 MS. MOORE: Yes.
- 2 BY MR. GOOD:
- 3 Q. And one other question. Have you ever seen anybody from
- 4 the safety office do an inspection of your work area?
- A. No, never seen them since I've been there. It's been 10
- 6 years. If they've come, I've never seen them.
- 7 Q. That's all I have.
- 8 BY MR. DOWNS:
- 9 Q. Downs, NTSB. Question here. Ms. Moore, you -- we
- 10 described that metal rotating door a few minutes ago. Do you
- 11 know, are there any other exit doors in your work area that you'd
- 12 be able to use in the event of an emergency?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. You don't recall any?
- 15 A. No. Because, I mean, we were wondering what'd happen if
- 16 we can't get out of our door.
- 17 Q. I see.
- 18 A. And we told them this and nobody says anything.
- 19 Q. So nobody had ever indicated to you there's other exit
- 20 doors available for use --
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. -- and you don't recall seeing any signs --
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. -- or had any discussion with Mr. Whitley or anybody
- 25 else as to any other exit doors?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. So as far as you're concerned, there would have been no
- 3 other way out of that office but the main entrance door?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Is that a fair way of saying it?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Okay. Ms. Moore --
- 8 A. Because we weren't properly trained to go through that
- 9 steel door.
- 10 Q. Okay, very good. You never had any training on that
- 11 door?
- 12 A. Um-um.
- O. Okay. Next question. In this room we have what we call
- 14 a fire alarm strobe light showing on the wall here and that
- 15 flashes when there's a fire alarm, okay?
- A. Um-hum.
- 17 Q. Do you recall seeing any one of these strobes in your
- 18 work area at all, something like that, that would give you a
- 19 visual --
- A. A warning or something?
- Q. -- warning that there's a problem in the building, like
- 22 during a fire drill or whatever?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. So you don't recall seeing anything like that?
- 25 A. No. If it's there, I don't know where it is.

- 1 Q. All right. And you've not had any fire drill practices
- 2 or anything --
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. -- since you've been there in your work area?
- 5 A. No, we haven't.
- 6 Q. Okay. So in the event of an emergency, who would alert
- 7 you or how would you be alerted to an emergency event should there
- 8 be an emergency?
- 9 A. Anybody coming through, I guess, because they never
- 10 called us about that.
- 11 Q. So there is no actual action that you're aware of, such
- 12 as the station manager or one of the kiosk personnel, to either
- 13 come by personally or phone you to alert you to a problem?
- 14 A. They don't even know our number.
- 15 Q. I see. Okay, let's digress a little bit here. Tell us
- 16 about your work history. How long have you been with WMATA
- 17 roughly?
- 18 A. Twenty-five years.
- 19 Q. Twenty-five years. And how long have you been doing
- 20 your particular --
- 21 A. Parts runner, 10.
- Q. Ten years. Okay. And what did you do before you were a
- 23 parts runner?
- 24 A. I was a car cleaner --
- Q. Car cleaner?

- 1 A. -- cleaning trains.
- 2 Q. Cleaning trains at one of the maintenance yards around?
- 3 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And what did you do before? Was that your first
- 5 job with WMATA?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. So your 25 years, the first --
- 8 A. Fifteen for the car cleaner.
- 9 Q. Car cleaner? And then you moved on to your parts runner
- 10 position?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Okay, very good. And you -- I think you had indicated
- 13 you've never had any kind of safety training in terms of
- 14 evacuations --
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. -- or anything like that? Okay, very good.
- Tell me, have you ever been issued a respirator mask?
- 18 Let me ask you, do you know what a respirator mask is?
- 19 A. Not really. I've never seen one.
- 20 Q. A respirator mask is one of these devices you put over
- 21 your face with filters that would allow you to breathe in a smoke
- 22 environment.
- 23 A. No.
- O. You're not familiar with them?
- 25 A. No.

- Q. So suffice to say, you've never been --
- 2 A. I've never had it.
- 3 Q. Never had it.
- Okay, we've addressed the medical part of it. You're
- 5 back to work now, right?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Okay. Let's see. That pretty much concludes my
- 8 questions for the moment.
- 9 MR. DOWNS: Mr. Bucher?
- 10 BY MR. BUCHER:
- 11 Q. Dave Bucher. I really just have one. My question
- 12 concerns the big fans that you mentioned earlier, in that I think
- 13 you said -- I know Mr. Whitley said that they came on just prior
- 14 to the incident.
- 15 A. Yeah. Before we knew what was going on, it came on.
- Q. Okay. And my -- and to elaborate on that just a little
- 17 bit, what -- when these big fans come on, what does that mean to
- 18 you?
- 19 A. When they're coming on, I'm thinking that had something
- 20 to do with the HVAC, but I guess not. It came on that day.
- 21 It's supposed to blow whatever is in that station, I quess.
- 22 That's what I was told. I really don't know.
- Q. Okay. But Mr. Whitley said they only come on
- 24 sporadically --
- 25 A. Yeah.

- 1 Q. -- the big fans?
- 2 A. Yeah.
- 3 Q. Now we're talking about the big fans.
- 4 A. Um-hum.
- 5 Q. So --
- A. Out of the blue, it just comes on.
- 7 Q. Right, it comes out of the blue and it's usually --
- 8 A. It's very, very loud.
- 9 Q. It's very loud, so you know it --
- 10 A. Right.
- 11 Q. -- when they come on?
- 12 A. You can't really hear good in there.
- Q. Okay, that's all I have. Thanks. I appreciate
- 14 that.
- MR. GORDON: Joe Gordon, NTSB. I have no further
- 16 questions.
- MR. ROURKE: Denton Rourke. No further questions.
- 18 MR. DOWNS: Chief?
- 19 BY MR. HAWKINS:
- 20 Q. Derron Hawkins. I have one last question. So you
- 21 mentioned that you did not see any fire department personnel
- 22 during the event?
- 23 A. I wasn't really paying attention.
- Q. You wasn't paying attention?
- 25 A. I'm trying to get something for my throat, that's it.

- 1 Just -- once I got outside, I needed to go get some water.
- 2 Q. Okay. All right. I have no further questions.
- 3 MR. DOWNS: Mr. Good?
- 4 BY MR. GOOD:
- 5 Q. George Good. One more question. You said you told them
- 6 about concerns about the evacuation and the exit sites. Who and
- 7 how did you convey that? Who did you --
- 8 A. I told it to my supervisor and he's supposed to go back
- 9 and tell the area manager or whatever. But I don't know whether
- 10 he done it or not. But we have mentioned it several times --
- 11 Q. During your --
- 12 A. -- what are we supposed to do if something go -- like,
- 13 have a fire and we can't get out that door in our office. And
- 14 they didn't give us --
- BY MR. DOWNS:
- Q. Downs with a follow-up question. This is before the
- 17 event itself --
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. -- or after the event?
- A. Before, before.
- 21 Q. Before the event, this discussion came up --
- 22 A. Um-hum.
- Q. -- and they didn't give you a good answer?
- A. No answer.
- Q. No answer. Very good.

- 1 BY MR. GOOD:
- 2 Q. And how about since the event, have you had --
- 3 A. Nothing.
- 4 MR. DOWNS: She said nothing.
- 5 MS. MOORE: They didn't give us nothing. I mean,
- 6 anytime they didn't warn me to get out that office. They ain't
- 7 been really doing nothing about anything.
- 8 BY MR. GOOD:
- 9 Q. Just one other question about your, you say, weekly
- 10 safety briefings. Do you -- does everyone that participates in it
- 11 sign off on it and --
- 12 A. Yes, yes.
- 13 Q. -- do you have a chance to write down any concerns on
- 14 that paper?
- 15 A. We wrote that down a couple of times, about that.
- Q. Oh, you did? Do you know around what dates that might
- 17 have been or --
- 18 A. That's been back a while.
- 19 Q. Oh, it has?
- A. Um-hum.
- Q. Okay. That's all I have. Thank you.
- MR. DOWNS: Very good.
- BY MR. DOWNS:
- Q. Okay, Ms. Moore, I'd like to give as kind of a wrap-up
- 25 question an opportunity to our witness to express what we call

- 1 retrospective thoughts, meaning knowing what you know now, given
- 2 the experience you had, is there anything you would like to add to
- 3 the discussion in terms of things that you would be doing
- 4 differently in the future should you have an event such as this?
- 5 A. Like I said, we need some training of how to evacuate.
- 6 Q. Evacuation training, like training drills or classroom
- 7 training or something to that effect?
- 8 A. Um-hum.
- 9 Q. You would like to see that --
- 10 A. Right.
- 11 Q. -- occur to help you prepare for a future event --
- 12 A. Right.
- 13 O. -- should that occur?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. Anything else you can add?
- 16 A. I really think we shouldn't be in there.
- Q. Oh, so you have a problem with the room itself in terms
- 18 of the environment?
- 19 A. Um-hum.
- 20 Q. You mentioned it's dusty in there.
- 21 A. Yes, very, brake dust. You can hear the train moving.
- 22 We're right up above the train.
- 23 Q. So you're above the train there and you visually have
- 24 seen the dust come up?
- 25 A. Um-hum. You can see all the dirt. You see all the dirt

- 1 on that door?
- Q. And there are cracks, it sounds like --
- 3 A. Um-hum.
- 4 Q. -- in the ductwork?
- 5 A. Right there in that first gate, if you stand in that
- 6 middle, you can see that train going past.
- 7 Q. You can actually look down and see the training moving
- 8 through?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. So it's not sealed --
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. -- your work area is not sealed from the track area?
- 13 A. And Mr. Whitley complained about that.
- 14 Q. And --
- 15 A. Nobody done nothing.
- 16 Q. -- your testimony here is that your knowledge -- you
- 17 have knowledge that Mr. Whitley did complain?
- 18 A. Um-hum.
- 19 Q. Did you complain as well?
- 20 A. Yeah. We all complained.
- Q. How long has that complaint been going on?
- 22 A. Probably since we've been there.
- Q. Since you've been there. Okay.
- A. Um-hum.
- 25 Q. Is there anything else you can think of right now to

- 1 offer in terms of thoughts that you -- things that you would do
- 2 differently?
- A. I think they need to make a way for us to be able to get
- 4 out of there if something like that should occur again.
- 5 Q. A way to get out of your room should your main entrance
- 6 door be blocked.
- 7 A. Yes, um-hum.
- 8 Q. Okay. And to your knowledge -- you had testified today
- 9 that there were no other emergency exits that you're aware of from
- 10 your work area and that the rotating door that we described, the
- 11 metal door that we described, you're not sure of its function.
- 12 A. We don't -- we wouldn't even know which way to go --
- 13 O. You wouldn't know?
- 14 A. -- because nobody showed us.
- 15 Q. And Mr. Whitley had never discussed with you as to its
- 16 emergency exit capabilities or anything like that?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. Okay. Anything else you can think of?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 MR. DOWNS: Okay, we'll go around the table one more
- 21 time. Raise your hand if you've got any more questions.
- One more question. Mr. Good?
- BY MR. GOOD:
- 24 Q. You were aware of the door that goes directly to the
- 25 tracks, onto the tracks?

- 1 A. We all were aware of it. We've never been through it.
- 2 Q. So you know that -- not to -- you know not to go into
- 3 that door?
- A. We know not to even try to go through there unless they
- 5 say we're going to get some kind of training.
- BY MR. DOWNS:
- 7 Q. Okay, Downs here. Follow-up question as a clarification
- 8 question. I had asked you if there were any other exit doors in
- 9 your work area you're aware of, and you said no. Are you telling
- 10 me now there is an exit door?
- 11 A. Just that one you showed me.
- 12 Q. Just the metal door that's not marked anymore with any
- 13 kind of signage?
- 14 A. Right.
- Q. And that's the only exit door. Now, Mr. Good had
- 16 mentioned an exit door going to the tracks. Are you aware of an
- 17 exit door that goes down to the tracks below you?
- 18 A. You're talking about the main door coming in the office?
- 19 Q. Not your main entrance door. I'm saying another door in
- 20 your work area that goes down to the track?
- 21 A. No, I don't know of any --
- O. You're not aware of it at all?
- 23 A. Uh-uh.
- 24 Q. Okay. I think that's what Mr. Good was alluding to.
- 25 MR. DOWNS: Is that correct, Mr. Good?

- 1 MR. GORDON: Yes. Yes, it is.
- 2 MR. DOWNS: Okay, yeah.
- 3 BY MR. DOWNS:
- 4 Q. We had testimony from Mr. Whitley to the effect that
- 5 there was -- or is another door in your work area, an exit door
- 6 should it be needed, that goes down to the track. Are you aware
- 7 of that door?
- 8 A. I guess he's talking about the same door
- 9 (indiscernible).
- 10 Q. It is not the same metal door, rotating door, no. It's
- 11 a --
- 12 A. It's another door that none of us --
- 13 Q. It's another door, yes.
- 14 A. -- never knew about.
- Q. And you're telling me now you had --
- 16 A. They never --
- Q. -- you're not aware of this?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. You never had a discussion with Mr. Whitley as to what
- 20 it's there for and how it should be used?
- 21 A. Uh-uh, no.
- Q. And WMATA management has never come by and explained
- 23 what that door is for --
- A. Nope.
- Q. -- and where it goes?

- 1 A. Only the metal door, that's it.
- Q. Only your observation of the metal door, which you would
- 3 have a hesitancy to use --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- because as you described?
- 6 A. That's it.
- 7 Q. Very good.
- 8 MR. DOWNS: Does that answer the question?
- 9 Mr. Rourke, do you have a follow-up?
- 10 BY MR. ROURKE:
- 11 Q. I have one more follow-up. Denton Rourke from Metro.
- 12 Is Mr. Whitley your supervisor?
- 13 A. No, he's a clerk, a stock clerk.
- 14 Q. And who does he work for?
- 15 A. He works for, what is that, SAMS?
- 16 Q. He's not an AFC clerk?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. Okay, thank you.
- 19 MR. HAWKINS: I have one final question.
- 20 MR. DOWNS: Chief has one more question.
- BY MR. HAWKINS:
- 22 Q. Derron Hawkins. So, your 10 years at L'Enfant Plaza,
- 23 have you ever seen a medical emergency or an emergency that
- 24 brought in fire department personnel or -- I'm just trying to see
- 25 what --

- 1 A. If I've seen it, I've seen it probably on the track
- 2 across from me. I've never been right there by it. I could be
- 3 getting off the train and I seen somebody that had passed out and
- 4 they went and got the, you know, fire department and ambulance.
- 5 But I was never right there.
- 6 Q. Okay, so -- and I notice that you have -- the way your
- 7 office is set up, you can see the train movement. So if somebody
- 8 -- if you was to actually see that, you would have to step outside
- 9 the room? You wouldn't be able to see any activity from your
- 10 room, right?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Okay. So when you got the phone call from Mr. Ismael,
- 13 that was the only notification you had about the fire department
- 14 being there --
- 15 A. Yeah, yeah.
- 16 Q. -- at L'Enfant Plaza?
- 17 A. Yeah.
- 18 Q. Okay. All right, that's all I have.
- BY MR. DOWNS:
- 20 Q. Okay, follow-up to the chief's question. You testified
- 21 a few minutes ago that because of the leaky ductwork, you can
- 22 actually see through cracks down to the track level below you in
- 23 that one area?
- A. Let me put it this way. They brought all that equipment
- 25 for that HVAC up through that lower part that's in the center of

- 1 that gate that has that rack sitting there, and I don't think they
- 2 sealed it back right.
- 3 Q. So it's a case where it's not leaky ductwork; it's just
- 4 the case where a hole in the floor was not correctly sealed?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Okay. On the day of the event, did any smoke happen to
- 7 come up through that that you noticed?
- 8 A. It probably did -- well, I noticed some mist coming in
- 9 that office.
- 10 Q. Through that hole in the floor?
- 11 A. Probably the hole or it was coming through the door. I
- 12 don't know where it was coming from.
- Q. When you came out of your --
- 14 A. My office.
- 15 Q. -- your office door, you did notice a little bit of
- 16 smoke in --
- 17 A. Coming in, seeping in.
- 18 Q. -- seeping in, in the area where your parts --
- 19 A. Um-hum.
- 20 Q. -- inventory storage is located?
- 21 A. Right.
- 22 Q. You noticed it in that area, and then when you went out
- 23 your main entrance door to the mezzanine --
- 24 A. That's when I seen the full effect.
- Q. -- that's when you saw the full effect of the smoke?

1	Α.	Yes.
2	Q.	Would that be an accurate way of characterizing it?
3	А.	Yes.
4	Q.	Very good. Thank you.
5		MR. DOWNS: All right, last final show of hands, any
6	questions	?
7		Thank you. And with that, that concludes our interview
8		(Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: WMATA INCIDENT AT L'ENFANT PLAZA

STATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.

JANUARY 12, 2015

Interview of Bonnie Moore

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.

Karen M. Galvez Transcriber