

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

In the Matter of:	*	
	*	
	*	
ALLISION WITH STATEN ISLAND	*	
FERRY TERMINAL MAINTENANCE	*	DCA-04-MM-001
PIER AT ST. GEORGE'S,	*	
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK BY THE	*	
FERRY ANDREW J. BARBERI on	*	
OCTOBER 15, 2003	*	

Thursday,
October 16, 2003

Coast Guard Center

INTERVIEW OF:

DAVID RAIMO

PRESENT: BILL WOODY
MORGAN TURRELL

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. TURRELL: Good morning. This is Saturday,
3 October 18. We are in the Coast Guard office
4 interviewing a witness for the Staten Island Ferry
5 accident on Wednesday. And this is Morgan Turrell, the
6 NTSB.

7 Sir, would you please give your name, spell
8 it, first and last.

9 MR. RAIMO: David Raimo, D-A-V-I-D,
10 R-A-I-M-O

11 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And who do you work for?

12 MR. RAIMO: I work for the Coast Guard.

13 MR. TURRELL: How old are you?

14 MR. RAIMO: Nineteen.

15 MR. TURRELL: And would you please acknowledge
16 that this conversation is being recorded.

17 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

18 MR. TURRELL: So, how long have you been in
19 the Coast Guard?

20 MR. RAIMO: I have been in the Coast Guard for
21 six months.

22 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And what did you do before
23 that?

24 MR. RAIMO: I was in college.

25 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And where did you go to

1 college?

2 MR. RAIMO: A small school in North Carolina,
3 called Sanders.

4 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And where do you live
5 currently?

6 MR. RAIMO: I live in the barracks.

7 MR. TURRELL: And where were you on Wednesday
8 this week?

9 MR. RAIMO: On Wednesday, I was in Manhattan.

10 MR. TURRELL: And what were you doing there?

11 MR. RAIMO: I was buying some music.

12 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And would you please take
13 us through your day on Wednesday, starting from when
14 you work up and through the time of the accident, and
15 we will ask you some questions about the accident as
16 well. Just take us through the day from when you woke
17 up.

18 MR. RAIMO: Wednesday, I woke up, had
19 breakfast.

20 MR. TURRELL: What time was that?

21 MR. RAIMO: It was about nine, 9:30.

22 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Thank you.

23 MR. RAIMO: And I took bus to the Ferry
24 Terminal. Got the ferry went over to Manhattan, walked
25 over to Pier 17, got a CD, music. And I went to

1 McDonald's got a quick lunch. Came back to the ferry,
2 got on the ferry. It seemed like the same kind of
3 ferry ride as it was suppose to be, normal -- moving to
4 the west, headed right towards the pier. I noticed
5 that we were too close, like really move, I was
6 standing at the very, very front by the gate. What I
7 like to do, like move on, the boat crashed, so it
8 didn't like really jog the boat. So, it wasn't that,
9 a big a deal. As we were walking around after it
10 happened, it didn't like anybody was injured on the
11 second deck, so, I called up the station, told them
12 what had happened, told I didn't think there was any
13 initial injuries, because I couldn't see any. So, I
14 got off, to the boat and just moored around -- and I
15 was just getting off and looked down and when I saw a
16 hole in the entire side of the boat. I called back the
17 station, they asked me to go down and look around and
18 see if I could see any injuries.

19 So, I walked down there. As I got down
20 there, I saw some people laying on the ground,
21 bleeding. Some people missing limbs and other things.
22 So, I called the station and told them, we had some DOA
23 in there. They kind of got worried, so they asked me
24 to stay around and see what I could see. So, I stayed
25 as long as I could, which was probably about an hour

1 until NYPD decided to kick me out.

2 MR. TURRELL: Okay. What time, what time did
3 you get on the ferry on your return trip?

4 MR. RAIMO: I got on the ferry at about three
5 o'clock.

6 MR. TURRELL: That was in the Whitehall, the
7 New York terminal?

8 MR. RAIMO: Yeah.

9 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And what, what were your
10 impressions about the trip that day as far as the
11 conditions the vessel was operating in?

12 MR. RAIMO: It seemed like it was operating
13 just normal. I mean, the only difference it was kind
14 of windy, but, that didn't seem to have any effect on
15 the ferry because on the way over it was just windy.

16 MR. TURRELL: Have you ridden on the ferries
17 when it was windy before?

18 MR. RAIMO: Yes. It is usually just no
19 problem.

20 MR. TURRELL: What is your experience in the
21 Coast Guard, what is your particular job and what do
22 you do?

23 MR. RAIMO: My job, I stand radio watch, talk
24 on the radio.

25 MR. TURRELL: Did you ever have boat training

1 or been on the boats before?

2 MR. RAIMO: Yeah. I have a little bit.

3 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Have you been on a Coast
4 Guard vessel out in the New York Harbor before?

5 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

6 MR. TURRELL: When it was windy?

7 MR. RAIMO: A little bit, yes.

8 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And so when you, when you
9 are on, normally, how often do you ride the ferry?

10 MR. RAIMO: At least a couple of times a week.

11 MR. TURRELL: I see. Around the same time
12 each time or different times of the day?

13 MR. RAIMO: Yeah, it is usually in the
14 morning, and this time in the afternoon.

15 MR. TURRELL: Okay. How many times do you
16 think you have ridden the ferries since you have been
17 here in New York?

18 MR. RAIMO: Oh, quite a few. I usually go,
19 whenever I get liberty, so, probably, at least twice a
20 week since I have been here.

21 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

22 MR. RAIMO: So, I don't know how many times
23 that would be, but.

24 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So, normally what do you
25 expect when you ride the ferries from Manhattan to

1 Staten Island, what is your expectation arriving in
2 Staten Island and what are your cues, what things do
3 you look for?

4 MR. RAIMO: Well, I usually can hear, they say
5 over the intercom, now arriving. They didn't say that
6 this time. You expect usually like them to slow down
7 and they didn't slow down. The bumping is normal.
8 Usually they will bump into the pier or a little bit,
9 but it is just like to keep them straightened out, but,
10 they weren't even in the right pier, so.

11 MR. TURRELL: Now can you describe, are you
12 familiar with the way the ferries nomenclature as far
13 as the New York end and the Staten Island end and the
14 Jersey side and Brooklyn side, are you familiar with
15 the nomenclature they use?

16 MR. RAIMO: --

17 MR. TURRELL: Okay. In the best way you can,
18 can you describe exactly where you were, to the best of
19 your knowledge, at the time of the accident?

20 MR. RAIMO: I was standing on the second deck,
21 on the very out, most out from the outside part, where
22 the little gates are that they have to, where you go
23 off, like when the ferry comes, most people usually go
24 to the front of the boat.

25 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

1 MR. RAIMO: Because I actually want to get off
2 quickly. I was standing, I was the very first, I was
3 in the very line of people standing at the gate waiting
4 on it, looking at the Staten Island side.

5 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Would that be the port
6 side or the starboard side of the vessel?

7 MR. RAIMO: I was kind of in the middle.

8 MR. TURRELL: The middle.

9 So you were on the Staten Island end of the
10 vessel, in the middle on the second deck.

11 MR. RAIMO: Yes, I was watching the boat hit
12 the pier.

13 MR. TURRELL: Okay. How long were you at this
14 location on the boat? Were you there the whole trip?

15 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

16 MR. TURRELL: Are you familiar with the KB
17 buoy, the approach buoy?

18 MR. RAIMO: I, I heard, but I don't know
19 anything about it.

20 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So you are aware there is
21 a buoy there.

22 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

23 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Can you remember if you
24 saw the buoy that day?

25 MR. RAIMO: I didn't pay any attention to

1 that.

2 MR. TURRELL: When you were, during the
3 transit, what were you looking at, during the transit
4 before the approach to the Staten Island terminal, what
5 were you looking at during the transit?

6 MR. RAIMO: Most of the time I was just
7 looking at the waves in the ocean, the breaks, because
8 it was kind of choppy, but I mean, it was like little
9 one foot chop and you could see it roll over itself. I
10 was kind of staring at that.

11 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So you said about a one
12 foot chop in the water.

13 MR. RAIMO: Yeah, just a little scope of wind.

14 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Which, can you tell me
15 which direction or any land mark you were looking at,
16 if there was a backdrop, a background, the bridge, or
17 anything that you can remember seeing?

18 MR. RAIMO: I was probably looking towards the
19 ferry terminal.

20 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So pretty much the whole
21 transit you were looking at Staten Island?

22 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

23 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So, on the approach to
24 Staten Island do you, as you get closer, what did you
25 see, what did you look out or focus in on as you

1 approached the Staten Island terminal?

2 MR. RAIMO: I was looking at where we were
3 suppose to moor up, looking over there. I didn't
4 really notice we were in the wrong spot until right
5 about when we hit it.

6 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I am sorry, where? Can
8 you say that again, you didn't realize you were at the
9 wrong spot until when?

10 MR. RAIMO: Right when we hit it.

11 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So, you are looking, you
12 were looking ahead at the ferry terminal, and can you
13 tell me when the vessel hit the other pier, where was
14 the ferry terminal in relation to where you hit?

15 MR. RAIMO: It was to the right, a little bit.

16 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So that would be to the
17 left of --

18 MR. RAIMO: Yeah, yes.

19 MR. TURRELL: So, when you collided, if you
20 are looking straight ahead, was there a landmark that
21 you could see dead ahead of you since you are in the
22 middle of the vessel, what was directly in front of the
23 vessel, if you were looking straight out? Is there a
24 landmark you can recall?

25 MR. RAIMO: The pier.

1 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Okay. The pier.

2 MR. RAIMO: I don't, I wouldn't even be on the
3 pier after that, I was kind of fixated on that.

4 MR. TURRELL: So you saw, you were looking
5 directly at the pier as the vessel struck the pier,
6 okay.

7 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

8 MR. TURRELL: Did you notice anything on the
9 pier, any one standing on the pier?

10 MR. RAIMO: I didn't see anybody standing on
11 the pier. I overheard that there was, but, I am not
12 quite sure how accurate that is.

13 MR. TURRELL: You didn't see anyone?

14 MR. RAIMO: I didn't see anybody.

15 MR. TURRELL: Can you tell me any feature
16 about the pier that you noticed?

17 MR. RAIMO: It looked like it was concrete.

18 MR. TURRELL: Concrete. Okay. Any other
19 features about the pier you can relate?

20 MR. RAIMO: It was, it was concrete and wood,
21 I guess. There is special wood that splashes the
22 water, that came off the pier.

23 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Did you notice the wood
24 before you hit, did you notice the wood timbers before
25 you --

1 MR. RAIMO: Yeah.

2 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Can you tell me how they
3 were arranged on the pier?

4 MR. RAIMO: Like Xs.

5 MR. TURRELL: They were like Xs or vertical.

6 MR. RAIMO: I think there was like criss cross
7 kind of.

8 MR. TURRELL: Criss cross. Do you know
9 roughly what time, to the best of your knowledge, that
10 this occurred?

11 MR. RAIMO: It happened about 3:20.

12 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Now, normally when you
13 ride the ferries, how long does it take in your
14 experience to go from Manhattan to Staten Island?

15 MR. RAIMO: Twenty to 30 minutes.

16 MR. TURRELL: So there does seem to be some
17 variation some times in how long it takes?

18 MR. RAIMO: Yeah, just from time, like taking,
19 not that big of a difference, but, you know.

20 MR. TURRELL: How in a range, you said 20 to
21 30 minutes, that is about a 10 minute range of
22 difference. And how often do you think those ferry
23 trips are in the 30 minutes as opposed to the 20
24 minutes?

25 MR. RAIMO: More often the 30 than the 20.

1 MR. TURRELL: So at what point did you, can
2 you tell me how far the vessel was from the pier when
3 you realized that you were going to hit it?

4 MR. RAIMO: I don't know how far in feet or
5 anything but it took probably eight seconds from when I
6 noticed we were going to hit it, to when we hit it.
7 The vessel was going full speed, too, so. And I never
8 noticed any slow down in the, in it at all.

9 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Can you give me an
10 approximate distance that you would estimate that you
11 were, the vessel was in that eight seconds, when you
12 first realized and you looked up, in that eight second
13 period, how far the vessel was away from the pier?
14 During ship lengths if you can or yards, whatever you
15 feel comfortable with.

16 MR. RAIMO: It was like two and a half ferry
17 lengths, something like that. It would be a little
18 more, probably more than that, I am not quite sure.

19 MR. TURRELL: Did you notice any, any other
20 vessels in the, anything in the water between you and
21 the concrete pier at this point?

22 MR. RAIMO: No, there was nothing in front of
23 us. We were just clear.

24 MR. TURRELL: So did you notice there was no,
25 no logs or debris in the water before you hit?

1 MR. RAIMO: No.

2 MR. TURRELL: Did you ever hear any whistle or
3 alarms from the vessel?

4 MR. RAIMO: There was nothing.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. Is your
6 question before and after?

7 MR. TURRELL: Oh, no, thank you. Prior to
8 hitting, prior to hitting the concrete pier, did you
9 hear any alarms or whistles or notifications of impact?

10 MR. RAIMO: Nothing prior.

11 MR. TURRELL: Nothing prior. After the
12 impact, did you hear any alarms, whistles or
13 announcements?

14 MR. RAIMO: There was nothing like announced
15 over any kind of intercom. There were deck hands
16 running around telling everyone to get to mid ship.

17 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Normally, do you hear an
18 announcement?

19 MR. RAIMO: Usually you hear announcement when
20 we are about to get to the pier, about which pier you
21 are going to be going to, like two minutes or whatever,
22 but, there was none of that this time.

23 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Like a two minute warning
24 for passengers to --

25 MR. RAIMO: Yes, to get ready and get your

1 stuff, that thing.

2 MR. TURRELL: And you always hear that warning
3 before you come into the terminal?

4 MR. RAIMO: Not always, but it is a normal
5 thing to hear. You usually do.

6 MR. TURRELL: And when you hear that
7 announcement, was there another event that you normally
8 associate with?

9 MR. RAIMO: Yes, slowing down and shortly
10 thereafter, getting to the dock.

11 MR. TURRELL: That slowing down, if you can
12 estimate from the full speed, can you estimate in your
13 experience the reduction of speed, like just use a
14 percent, like is it 25 percent reduction of speed or 50
15 percent reduction in speed?

16 MR. RAIMO: Probably like 80 percent. They
17 slow down pretty slow.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I am sorry, you said
19 80?

20 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

21 MR. TURRELL: So in your experience the vessel
22 slows down about 80 percent of that two minute mark.

23 Do you have any estimation of what kind of
24 speed in knots that might relate to?

25 MR. RAIMO: I think their top speed is like

1 13, so maybe like three.

2 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Did you ever notice the
3 vessel trying to, you were looking straight at the
4 concrete pier, did you notice the vessel make any last
5 minute deviations prior to impact?

6 MR. RAIMO: I didn't notice any, anybody try
7 to steer away from it, but, I mean, it wasn't going at
8 it straight. It was kind of slanted like left, the
9 nose of the vessel was pointing a little bit left, on
10 the right side.

11 MR. TURRELL: Right.

12 MR. RAIMO: I didn't see him ever try like
13 move it.

14 MR. TURRELL: So in that eight seconds that
15 you were approximately two boat lengths away, you never
16 noticed the vessel making a dramatic change to the left
17 or the right.

18 MR. RAIMO: I didn't, it didn't turn at all.

19 MR. TURRELL: Did the vessel speed up at all
20 in that eight seconds?

21 MR. RAIMO: I didn't notice it speeding up.
22 It was like the same speed it was the whole trip.

23 MR. TURRELL: Okay. From your vantage point
24 there on the second deck, in the middle of the Staten
25 Island end, did you notice any uniformed crew members

1 of the Staten Island Ferries from your location?

2 MR. RAIMO: There is usually a guy up there
3 to, for the gates, but I didn't, I wasn't conscious of
4 his presence, but there is usually is one.

5 MR. TURRELL: There usually is one. Okay.

6 And he would have been normally standing
7 where in relation to you normally?

8 MR. RAIMO: He would have been to my left
9 side, where the gate has the latch.

10 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And to your recollection
11 did you see one on that day, on Wednesday?

12 MR. RAIMO: I didn't see anyone at the time of
13 the accident. I saw a few afterwards, though.

14 MR. TURRELL: So, you don't recall or you
15 definitely did not see one?

16 MR. RAIMO: I wasn't really looking at the
17 boat.

18 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

19 MR. WOODY: What did he say?

20 MR. TURRELL: He wasn't paying any attention.
21 He was looking straight ahead. So, he didn't see.

22 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

23 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So as you approach now,
24 this eight seconds, you are approaching the dock, the
25 vessel did not alter course, did not slow down, and you

1 struck the pier. Can you tell me the moment of impact,
2 where the impact was on the vessel, from your vantage
3 point?

4 MR. RAIMO: It hit the head, the right front
5 side at first and then struck through into the right
6 side.

7 MR. TURRELL: Is this, would this be below
8 you?

9 MR. RAIMO: Yes, on the first deck.

10 MR. TURRELL: Can you estimate the duration of
11 impact? How long it was before the vessel was no
12 longer impacting the pier or stopped?

13 MR. RAIMO: It was a couple of seconds. It
14 looked like it went through a good part of the boat, so
15 probably five seconds, before the boat got done hitting
16 it.

17 MR. TURRELL: And when the vessel was done
18 hitting it, was it stopped?

19 MR. RAIMO: Yeah, it stopped and then it
20 seemed to reverse.

21 MR. TURRELL: When the vessel was stopped, can
22 you tell us if you were looking straight ahead, what
23 you were, when the vessel stopped, what did you see
24 directly ahead of the vessel?

25 MR. RAIMO: It was just some buildings, I

1 wasn't really particularly, I was more looking at the
2 pier, falling into the water.

3 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So during this five
4 seconds, what did you, what are some of the things that
5 you saw during those five seconds of impact?

6 MR. RAIMO: I saw people on the ferry running,
7 running back, grabbing life jackets.

8 MR. TURRELL: So, on your deck, on the main,
9 main deck, they ran out.

10 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

11 MR. TURRELL: Was there, from you vantage
12 point, any reason why the passengers ran out, were they
13 instructed to do so or was it just an instinct to run?

14 MR. RAIMO: I think it was just instinct.
15 They saw we were going to hit something, and they
16 wanted to be further away from it.

17 MR. TURRELL: So, the passengers also realized
18 there was an impact, were they running before the
19 accident occurred?

20 MR. RAIMO: Yes, a couple, about when I
21 noticed, they were noticing also.

22 MR. TURRELL: So, during that eight seconds,
23 the passengers began running aft.

24 Were the passengers getting life jackets at
25 that point?

1 MR. RAIMO: Yes, some of them were.

2 MR. TURRELL: To your knowledge, was there any
3 instruction to you or to the passengers around you to
4 put life jackets on?

5 MR. RAIMO: I was never told and I never heard
6 anybody say anything about life jackets. People got
7 them, I think, because of their own initiative to grab
8 them.

9 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And where were the nearest
10 life jackets to you, to your recollection?

11 MR. RAIMO: They were behind me in the first
12 chairs or seats.

13 MR. TURRELL: Did you get a life jacket?

14 MR. RAIMO: No.

15 MR. TURRELL: During this eight seconds, what
16 actions did you take? Did you stay where you were?

17 MR. RAIMO: I was going to run back at first,
18 and then I realized if I run back and the boat shakes,
19 I didn't have anything to hold onto, so I just held on
20 to the door behind me.

21 MR. TURRELL: Was your first instinct to run?

22 MR. RAIMO: I saw everyone else running, so I
23 am like, oh, my God, I should go back and, I don't want
24 to fall over.

25 MR. TURRELL: So your first instinct was to

1 hold on?

2 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

3 MR. TURRELL: So, when you were holding on and
4 the vessel struck, what, what was your expectation of
5 what was going to happen?

6 MR. RAIMO: I was expecting it to be like
7 jarred and shake a lot. It didn't, though. It went
8 smooth.

9 MR. TURRELL: Did you expect to fall down?

10 MR. RAIMO: I was, yeah.

11 MR. TURRELL: So when the vessel hit, and you
12 didn't fall down, what, did you let go of where, or did
13 you continue hanging on?

14 MR. RAIMO: I let go and I looked around me
15 and everyone else was kind of startled when I walked
16 over to that window and I just looked out and I saw the
17 pier.

18 MR. TURRELL: Which window did you look out?

19 MR. RAIMO: To the right side, like right
20 above where it hit. I looked out, I couldn't, I
21 couldn't see the ferry, but I could see the pier.

22 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And what was the vessel's
23 position and when you looked out the window what was
24 the vessel doing? Was it stopped?

25 MR. RAIMO: It was, it stopped for a couple of

1 seconds and then it started to back up.

2 MR. TURRELL: When you looked out the window,
3 did you see, you are looking across the pier, was there
4 a landmark or feature that you can, that you may have
5 focused on?

6 MR. RAIMO: I was just --

7 MR. TURRELL: A light fixture, a pylon on the
8 dock, maybe or a particular piece of the pier?

9 MR. RAIMO: I was looking at the part, the
10 concrete pier, the one that we hit, I was just struck.
11 It was broken off, but not quite on the water. It was
12 like a huge piece of concrete just bent, just about to
13 fall.

14 MR. TURRELL: Okay. When the vessel started to
15 back up, how fast did it back up?

16 MR. RAIMO: It wasn't going that fast. It was
17 like, going how fast as it should been to moor. So, it
18 was just reversing, a tug came and helped to turn, I
19 think.

20 MR. TURRELL: Did you notice any wash, where
21 the vessel was under its own power in that backup?

22 MR. RAIMO: I --

23 MR. TURRELL: Could you determine if there was
24 any wash coming in?

25 MR. RAIMO: I didn't notice anything like

1 that.

2 MR. TURRELL: So, the vessel is reversing, but
3 you are not sure how it was powered?

4 MR. RAIMO: No. I think it was under its own
5 power, but I am not positive.

6 MR. TURRELL: All right. So, then you saw,
7 you said there was a tugboat nearby. Do you remember
8 the name of that tug?

9 MR. RAIMO: I --

10 MR. TURRELL: Was there just one tugboat to
11 your knowledge?

12 MR. RAIMO: There was only one that I saw.

13 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And where was that
14 tugboat?

15 MR. RAIMO: It was to the left side of the,
16 from where I was standing at first, it would have been
17 to the left.

18 MR. TURRELL: Did you happen to see if there
19 was a pier around the tugboat or any other, anything
20 around the tug that, the tug position in relation to
21 the pier?

22 MR. RAIMO: I --

23 MR. TURRELL: And you said the tugboat tried
24 to maneuver, did the tugboat put a line up to the
25 vessel?

1 MR. RAIMO: I saw the, I saw the tug, saw it
2 right, when I noticed it, it was right next to the
3 boat.

4 MR. TURRELL: Was the tugboat bough to the
5 vessel?

6 MR. RAIMO: Yeah.

7 MR. TURRELL: Did you hear anything from the
8 tugboat, any voices or intercom or PA?

9 MR. RAIMO: No.

10 MR. TURRELL: So, what can you tell me about
11 the, when you are on the main deck looking down, the
12 second deck where you were, looking down at the main
13 deck, did you witness any injured passengers?

14 MR. RAIMO: When I was, I couldn't see
15 anything until we had moored up and I was able to get
16 off, because from the second deck, they weren't letting
17 anybody go downstairs, so, no.

18 MR. TURRELL: Did you see any injuries on the
19 deck that you were on?

20 MR. RAIMO: I didn't, I looked around, and I
21 walked around the whole deck and I couldn't see, I
22 couldn't find any.

23 MR. TURRELL: So, you made a round of the
24 entire vessel on that second deck. And did you ask
25 other passengers if they were all right?

1 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

2 MR. TURRELL: And all of them responded they
3 were okay?

4 MR. RAIMO: Yes, from what I find on the
5 second deck, everyone was all right.

6 MR. TURRELL: Was anyone knocked to the ground
7 on the second deck?

8 MR. RAIMO: I don't believe so.

9 MR. TURRELL: Were there any people around you
10 when you were at the bough of the vessel holding on,
11 were there any people around you also holding on?

12 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

13 MR. TURRELL: Can you describe those people,
14 are they regular, have you seen those passengers
15 before, maybe or --

16 MR. RAIMO: I am not, I am not that
17 descriptive.

18 MR. TURRELL: Can you tell me roughly how many
19 passengers were around you on the second deck?

20 MR. RAIMO: Close to, probably like six or
21 seven.

22 MR. TURRELL: Originally before that eight
23 second time frame, how many passengers were around you
24 before the impact?

25 MR. RAIMO: Oh, the outside was full, so, it

1 was probably like 30 people.

2 MR. TURRELL: And so those people started
3 running back until there were about six or seven left.

4 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

5 MR. TURRELL: Those six or seven in relation
6 to you, where, what were they doing? What were they
7 holding onto, where were they?

8 MR. RAIMO: I think they were probably holding
9 onto the door, like the side of the boat.

10 MR. TURRELL: On their left side.

11 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

12 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And immediately after the
13 impact, were they knocked to the ground?

14 MR. RAIMO: I don't believe so.

15 MR. TURRELL: And what did, do you recall what
16 those six or seven people did after the impact? Did
17 they start moving aft also?

18 MR. RAIMO: I think everyone went to look out
19 the window right after it happened, most people.

20 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So, they moved to the
21 right side of the boat to look out the window.

22 MR. RAIMO: Yeah.

23 MR. TURRELL: What, any impressions or things
24 that you may have heard those passengers say outloud or
25 anything --

1 MR. RAIMO: I am not sure, I wasn't really
2 speaking with the passengers because right --

3 MR. TURRELL: No, did you hear them say
4 anything?

5 MR. RAIMO: Yeah, right when it happened I had
6 called the station, so I wasn't listening to what
7 people were saying.

8 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Were there screams or
9 panic or --

10 MR. RAIMO: There were little crying. I
11 really couldn't hear anybody screaming until I got off
12 and went downstairs.

13 MR. TURRELL: The noise level in, on the deck
14 that you were at, was basically, can you describe the
15 noise level?

16 MR. RAIMO: It was, it was pretty loud, but it
17 was more just like chatter, and some crying people, but
18 there wasn't anything like disturbing --

19 MR. TURRELL: So, you wouldn't describe this
20 chatter as loud, it was just ambient noise.

21 MR. RAIMO: It was more loud than normal.

22 MR. TURRELL: Louder than normal. Did you
23 smell any smoke or any type of smell that you could
24 relate to us?

25 MR. RAIMO: No.

1 MR. TURRELL: Nothing out of the ordinary.

2 MR. RAIMO: No.

3 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So, after this, this, the
4 vessel started moving aft, and you went and made a run
5 around the vessel to make sure, around your main deck,
6 to make sure no one else was hurt, the second deck,
7 excuse me.

8 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

9 MR. TURRELL: And the vessel started
10 maneuvering back to the pier.

11 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

12 MR. TURRELL: Did you notice any damage inside
13 the vessel on the second deck?

14 MR. RAIMO: I couldn't really see anything
15 that was damaged on the, where I was.

16 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Did you see any crew
17 members on the second deck after the accident?

18 MR. RAIMO: Yeah, there was a couple of deck
19 hands came down and were holding the people back from
20 going down the stairs and all. Trying to get everyone
21 go to the middle of the ship.

22 MR. TURRELL: So, the two deck hands were on
23 the Staten Island end of the deck that you were on.

24 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

25 MR. TURRELL: And they were holding the

1 passengers back.

2 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

3 MR. TURRELL: How many passengers would you
4 estimate there were on that --

5 MR. RAIMO: It was a full boat, very much so,
6 I am not quite sure how much, like they usually hold,
7 but, it was about full.

8 MR. TURRELL: Okay. These two uniformed crew
9 members, have you seen them before on the ferry?

10 MR. RAIMO: No.

11 MR. TURRELL: Did you see any uniformed police
12 officers or --

13 MR. RAIMO: Right when I got on the ferry,
14 there was some police officers.

15 MR. TURRELL: Do you recall or describe them?

16 MR. RAIMO: One was, it was a young black
17 lady, kind of short, and one was just like a white,
18 kind of like 29 or 30, something.

19 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And the male about 29
20 years old.

21 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

22 MR. TURRELL: What did they do?

23 MR. RAIMO: I didn't really, I didn't see them
24 when the accident occurred, only before.

25 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Did you have any occasion

1 to lend medical assistance to any passengers or crew?

2 MR. RAIMO: I couldn't really do anything.

3 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Did you notice any crew
4 members or people, before the professional EMS arrived
5 on the vessel, did you notice any crew members giving
6 medical assistance?

7 MR. RAIMO: When we got docked, the fire
8 department was there and so, before that I was, wasn't
9 on the deck where the injured were, I didn't see
10 anything happening.

11 MR. TURRELL: Okay. That is all the questions
12 I have right now. And I will go around the table and I
13 will start with --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Before we start, how
15 much time do we have?

16 MR. TURRELL: Thirty minutes.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You leave in 30
18 minutes.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Catch the ferry in 30
20 minutes.

21 MR. TURRELL: It is 10:20 now.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If we are going to
23 catch the 11 o'clock ferry, we probably have to leave
24 within 15 minutes.

25 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You said the boat was
2 about full, that was just on the second level or the
3 entire boat as you walked?

4 MR. RAIMO: I never went on the first level,
5 so.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So, the second level --

7 MR. RAIMO: Yeah.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- was pretty, pretty
9 loaded.

10 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You noticed that
12 something was wrong eight seconds or so before the
13 impact. You were standing up there just kind of
14 watching, at what point did you realize, hey, we
15 probably should have slowed down by now?

16 MR. RAIMO: Pretty much right when I noticed
17 we were going -- We were going kind of fast, we were
18 going the wrong way and all of a sudden my first
19 thoughts.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. And the impact
21 where you were at, it wasn't a violent impact.

22 MR. RAIMO: No, it was smooth.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Less than what you
24 expected.

25 MR. RAIMO: Yeah.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A lot of noise during
2 the impact?

3 MR. RAIMO: Yes, like grinding sounds, kind
4 of.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That is all I have.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You said that just
7 before when you realized you were going to hit the
8 dock, that you were traveling in a straight line in the
9 boat, but that the boat was kind of in a crawl.

10 MR. RAIMO: Yeah.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: To the left. How many
12 degrees would you say?

13 MR. RAIMO: Maybe like eight, nine.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So it was actually
15 crawling sideways and going straight for the left.

16 MR. RAIMO: Yeah.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you.

18 MR. TURRELL: Mark?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

20 MR. TURRELL: Yeah, a couple of questions
21 here. The vessel, after the impact and it started
22 moving aft, and then proceeded to remoor on the New
23 York end, I guess, the boat turned around. Can you tell
24 me if you heard the vessel power up or use its
25 propulsion to moor the vessel?

1 MR. RAIMO: I didn't notice any change in
2 sound from, at any time, so, I am not sure.

3 MR. TURRELL: You never noticed a change in
4 sound the whole time?

5 MR. RAIMO: No. Did you see any wash of the
6 vessel, you might have noticed to determine whether the
7 vessel was -- Basically it proceeded around the three
8 knots that you would normally expect the vessel to
9 moor.

10 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

11 MR. TURRELL: Barry?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. Were you in
13 uniform?

14 MR. RAIMO: No.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. When you
16 contacted your base, what was your method of
17 communication?

18 MR. RAIMO: Cell phone.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And how did you
20 identify yourself?

21 MR. RAIMO: To my base?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

23 MR. RAIMO: I just told them my name.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And they knew you right
25 away, who you were?

1 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And then they told you
3 to go around and see if you could help out?

4 MR. RAIMO: Yes, they asked if there was any
5 injuries, I told them there is none where I could see,
6 but I would stick around and check out the bottom when
7 I got off.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. And when you
9 checked around, did you identify yourself to any of the
10 crew members as the Coast Guard person?

11 MR. RAIMO: Yes, the deck hands were trying to
12 get me to go back with the rest of the people. I told
13 them I was Coast Guard.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

15 MR. RAIMO: So they would leave me alone.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And what was their
17 response?

18 MR. RAIMO: They said, okay.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Did they ask to
20 see any identification?

21 MR. RAIMO: A few of them, not all of them.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And did you have your
23 Coast Guard ID with you?

24 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And you showed it to

1 them.

2 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And you said you hung
4 around for about an hour or so.

5 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: During that hour, what
7 were you doing?

8 MR. RAIMO: I was walking around looking at
9 the damage, looking at the, trying to find out any
10 information I could use, pass to the station about,
11 that would be useful in the report.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. And how many
13 times in that hour did you call the station?

14 MR. RAIMO: Oh, a lot. I mean, I made a lot
15 of phone calls. Probably like every five minutes, I
16 made another phone call.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Now are you required to
18 carry your cell phone with you when you are off duty?

19 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. And who supplies
21 you with that cell phone?

22 MR. RAIMO: Myself.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It is your own personal
24 cell phone.

25 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And the Coast Guard
2 requires you to carry your personal cell phone?

3 MR. RAIMO: Yes, they, the recall, available.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. And you said your
5 JD is to man the radios.

6 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you know if your
8 calls were recorded?

9 MR. RAIMO: No.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They are not recorded.

11 MR. RAIMO: They are recorded in a radio log,
12 like this was received is written down.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. So is that the
14 only way they are recorded.

15 MR. TURRELL: So your call would have been
16 recorded somewhere.

17 MR. RAIMO: Yes, it is just written down in a
18 log.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What information would
20 be contained in that log?

21 MR. RAIMO: What time I made the call and the
22 name, my name, and what it was regarding.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. So your job is to
24 be the person on the other end.

25 MR. RAIMO: Right.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And if you had been on
2 the other end and you had gotten those calls, what
3 would you have done, what are you required to do?

4 MR. RAIMO: What should have been done is or
5 what was done, it was logged, officer of the day was
6 notified, and then proper procedures for search and
7 rescue was developed. And then once I had determined,
8 once I had saw that there was DOAs and things like
9 that, to that nature, I called the station and notified
10 and they launched.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How do you know they
12 launched?

13 MR. RAIMO: I saw, they told me they were
14 launching and a couple of minutes later saw our
15 vessels.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. And when you
17 went back, when you got off the ferry, where did you go
18 after that?

19 MR. RAIMO: When I got off the ferry, I spoke
20 to one of the police officers who was escorting people
21 off, making sure the crowd wasn't crazy, and I asked
22 him if he knew if there were any injuries on the lower
23 level and he said, there were some. So, at that point
24 I called the station and said there are some injuries.
25 And then I walked down the stair ladder and saw some.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And you said you stayed
2 there for an hour until the NYPD told you to leave.

3 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you identify
5 yourself to them as the Coast Guard?

6 MR. RAIMO: Yes, NYPD was giving me quite a
7 few problems. I was on scene, I was there and they
8 repeatedly kept kicking me out. I had called the
9 station, the station had called NYPD Headquarters, I
10 had permission from them to be there, to their command
11 control desk or something like that. I asked them
12 where it was, they said, they didn't have on, so it was
13 just, they just kept, every time I would get in, I
14 talked to one of their higher up guys, then they would
15 let me in and then one, like someone would grab me and
16 throw me out.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Grab you physically?

18 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And what would you do
20 then, when they grabbed you?

21 MR. RAIMO: I would give a little noise, but I
22 would just go with them and walk out and then get back
23 in.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you tell them, hey,
25 I am Coast Guard?

1 MR. RAIMO: Yeah, I had my ID out. I said, I
2 am Coast Guard, I have orders to be here, I have orders
3 from your Headquarters, I am allowed to be here. They
4 didn't care.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: About how many times
6 did you tell people and they didn't care, and threw you
7 off anyway?

8 MR. RAIMO: Numerous. About every time I went
9 on, someone came out.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When you got off the
11 last time, where did you go after that?

12 MR. RAIMO: I got off, I went on, I caught the
13 bus back to the station and I went back to the --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You went back to --

15 MR. RAIMO: Well, I went back to the station
16 to give statements and stuff like that.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Who did you give
18 the statements to?

19 MR. RAIMO: I talked to CO and then I came
20 over -- I talked to --

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And what is the
22 requirement that you give statements?

23 MR. RAIMO: I am not sure -- Probably there
24 is, but I am not sure.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did someone ask you to

1 give one?

2 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who was that, your CO?

4 MR. RAIMO: My V-1.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Okay. I don't
6 have any more questions.

7 MR. TURRELL: Just one follow up question.
8 Would you characterize the passengers, once you docked
9 at the pier, the disembarkment of passengers, was it an
10 orderly disembarkment or a panic or chaos?

11 MR. RAIMO: I don't, it was pretty orderly for
12 the events. But, it was, it was way more up than
13 normal.

14 MR. TURRELL: And when you arrived at the
15 pier, did you notice, was the EMS ready to respond?
16 Were they there on the dock already?

17 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

18 MR. TURRELL: Thank you.

19 Mr. Woody has some questions.

20 MR. WOODY: Okay. Just a couple. Would you
21 identify the Coast Guard office that you were talking
22 to when you made your reports?

23 MR. RAIMO: I was talking Station New York.

24 MR. WOODY: Station New York. Now, where you
25 were standing on the second deck up, the people to get

1 off were on the lower deck, the ones that got injured,
2 they would have to had come up some ladder to come up
3 to that level, would they not?

4 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

5 MR. WOODY: Okay. What was the condition, did
6 you ever see that ladder?

7 MR. RAIMO: I did not see that ladder.

8 MR. WOODY: Okay. Where were the people
9 standing that blocked the passengers from going down
10 the lower deck?

11 MR. RAIMO: I am not quite sure, I never tried
12 to go down. I just overheard, they weren't letting you
13 down.

14 MR. WOODY: Were they standing your deck then?

15 MR. RAIMO: I am not sure.

16 MR. WOODY: Okay. Do you have any kind of
17 feeling for how many EMS people came onboard, the
18 medical people came onboard?

19 MR. RAIMO: There was quite a few who came on.
20 I mean, I don't the number, there was a lot, a lot of
21 people there, though.

22 MR. WOODY: Did you see any of the passengers
23 rendering medical aid to other passengers?

24 MR. RAIMO: No. I didn't see any.

25 MR. WOODY: No. I think the last thing I

1 would for you to do is to draw a sketch, just show the
2 pier that you, the pier or two piers that hit and the
3 angle, and then angle the boat was in at that impact.

4 (Pause.)

5 MR. WOODY: Okay.

6 MR. TURRELL: Did you notice anything in front
7 of you?

8 MR. RAIMO: It was, this slot was empty and
9 this slot was empty.

10 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

11 MR. RAIMO: I was --

12 MR. WOODY: Now as you headed for this pier,
13 did you believe that was where you were going to make
14 your landing eventually or did you realize it was
15 wrong?

16 MR. RAIMO: At first I thought we were going
17 to go one of these slots, because that is we were
18 heading, I didn't noticed it was the wrong one until
19 after we hit it and I looked around, and --

20 MR. WOODY: Okay.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you just want to go
22 ahead and sign your name on that please and date it
23 10/18?

24 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

25 (Pause.)

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

2 MR. WOODY: How long was the vessel stopped,
3 you said it stopped and reversed, how long did it stop?

4 MR. RAIMO: Maybe two seconds.

5 MR. WOODY: Just two seconds. Okay.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Also please notate on
7 this where you were standing.

8 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: An X will be fine.

10 (Pause.)

11 MR. WOODY: Okay. I think that is all the
12 questions I have.

13 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Mr. Raimo, if there -- Are
14 any other questions here from the Board? Okay. I would
15 like to tell you that we appreciate you giving
16 testimony and your actions were commendable that day.
17 Based on what you have told us today, I will reschedule
18 an interview with you shortly this week to gain some
19 more information from you. And you do acknowledge
20 this was being tape recorded?

21 MR. RAIMO: Yes.

22 MR. TURRELL: This should include the
23 interview. Thank you very much.

24 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)