

## Correspondence dated December 3, 2003

From: Captains, Staten Island Ferry New York City Department of  
Transportation  
To: Person in Charge, NTSB Headquarters

Mail Control 102361

Four (4) pages total including this cover

**NON-MAIL CONTROL**

102361

16-Dec-03

**CONTROL** 102361      **ACTION OFFICE** MS      **DATE OF LETTER** 12/03/2003  
**RECEIPT** 12/09/2003      **RESPONSE DUE** 12/31/2003      **REPLY**

**From** Staten Island Ferry Captains, James Parese

**Organization** New York Department of Transportation

**Subject** Andrew J. Barberi NTSB accident investigation

**Recs**

**Doc Type** Letter

**Writer** Henry

**Division** MS-10

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**Notes**

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MS-1 Final 12/19 RUN

            sign 12/23 ~~FILED~~

NMC 102361

Captains

Staten Island Ferry DOT

1 Bay Street, FMF 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Staten Island, NY 10301

*Attn.: James Parese, Captain*

Person in charge

NTSB Headquarters

490 L'Enfant Plaza SW

Washington, DC 20594

*= December 03, 2003 =*

Dear Sir/Madam:

We are navigating on old boats with out of date equipment, depending on our own senses and intuition, based on years of experience. We utilize dated hydrographic research of tide and current changes in Upper New York Bay. Docking car ferries, which are 37 years old and undependable with more than when three thousand people aboard, relying only on knowledge of current and tide in any weather condition, takes a lot of gray matter from your brain. You must concentrate every second and have intuition working for you all the time often navigating in dense fog and storm weather. These are the world's biggest inland ferries: 3 ferry boats "J.F. Kennedy class ---- 3,500 passengers, 2 ferry boats "Newhouse" class ----- 6,000 passengers. We have tremendous responsibilities for thousands of passengers on every half hour trip of our eight to twelve hours duty. Our head must be clean of all thoughts about financial situations but this is impossible. Our flat salary is \$55,000. Our NET 2 weeks pay check is \$1,300 - \$1,400. This is \$300.00 more than a deckhands check, close to a McDonald's manager wage. Sandy Hook Pilots salaries go to \$300,000. Fort Lauderdale Pilots salaries go to \$300,000. Captains on airliners making to \$200,000 carry only 150-300 passengers and are not doing ten-sixteen landings for 8 hours, with thousands of passengers every half hour, as we are. We do not have the variable supplement to our pension. NYPD with 40,000 employees has it, as do Correction Department of NY, and Fire Department of NY. Staten Island Ferry division has only 450 employees, including 21 captains.

We have tremendous risk, super responsibility for thousands of people for every minute of our duty, over pressure, what doubles now.

Dear NTSB we need:

1. Normal Wages.
2. Early Retirement.
3. Variable supplement to our pension.

Most Respectfully,

Captains:

*[Handwritten signatures of Captains]*  
Thomas J. Cook  
Frank Keller  
Sey Sherman  
Dwight T. Craig  
Rose Casare  
Earle Ferenczy  
Roy J. Redman  
James Varese  
Philip M. Carroll  
W. Ann  
CPTA