



Motor Carrier Attachment 16:

City Wide Interview

Baltimore, MD; 11/1/2016

HWY17MH007

(39 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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SCHOOL BUS/COMMUTER BUS CRASH IN
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND ON
NOVEMBER 1, 2016

Accident No.: HWY17MH007

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Interview of: NORMA HARPER-WELDON, TREVON ALLENDER
and CORDELL SCOTT

City Wide Bus Company
2505 Asquith Street
Baltimore, Maryland

Wednesday
November 9, 2016

APPEARANCES:

MICHAEL FOX, Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Norma Weldon:

By Mr. Fox

5

I N T E R V I E W

(11:04 a.m.)

1
2
3 MR. FOX: This is Michael Fox, investigator, NTSB, out of the
4 Washington D.C. office. I'm currently at City Wide Bus Company,
5 located at 2505 Asquith Street, Baltimore, Maryland. The date is
6 11/9/2016. The time is 11:04. I'm going to be interviewing Norma
7 Weldon and Travon Aleander --

8 MR. ALLENDER: Allender.

9 MR. FOX: Allender. Excuse me. We'll go around the room and
10 introduce everyone that's here.

11 Ma'am, we'll start with you.

12 MS. WELDON: I'm Norma Weldon.

13 MR. FOX: And can you please, for the record, state your full
14 name, your title, and spell your last name?

15 MS. WELDON: Yes. Norma Harper-Weldon, H-a-r-p-e-r-dash-
16 W-e-l-d-o-n. And I am employed at City Wide Bus Company as the HR
17 director here.

18 MR. FOX: Okay. And, sir, your name and title, spell your
19 last name.

20 MR. ALLENDER: Travon Allender, title manager here at City
21 Wide Bus Company. Last name is A-l-l-e-n-d-e-r.

22 MR. FOX: And, sir?

23 MR. SCOTT: Cordell Scott, manager here. Last name
24 S-c-o-t-t.

25 MR. FOX: Scott. Okay. And the purpose of this interview is

1 to review the history of the company and the employment of our
2 accident driver, Glenn Chappell.

3 Ma'am, can you just describe the history of the company, when
4 it began, how you acquired it?

5 MS. WELDON: Well, the company was started back in, I
6 believe, 2007. In 2007, it was first -- it was under different
7 ownership, and Mr. Biff Allender acquired City Wide Bus Company
8 back then, in 2007, I believe it was.

9 MR. FOX: And what was the name of the company in 2007?

10 MS. WELDON: It was City Wide, but he just -- the owner sold
11 it to him.

12 MR. FOX: What was the original owner?

13 MR. ALLENDER: It was actually before that. It was
14 roughly -- so the original company that I come from was Allender
15 Bus Service. And roughly about 2000- -- I guess -- was it 2007?

16 MS. WELDON: I thought. No, maybe --

17 MR. ALLENDER: 2003 somewhere?

18 MS. WELDON: Yeah, it was maybe 2003, maybe.

19 MR. ALLENDER: Allender Bus Service acquired City Wide Bus
20 Company.

21 MS. WELDON: Yeah.

22 MR. FOX: And what year was that?

23 MR. ALLENDER: I'd say roughly 2003.

24 MR. FOX: So the parent company, the original company, that
25 was your dad's company, correct?

1 MR. ALLENDER: Um-hum, Allender Bus Service.

2 MR. FOX: And when did they start?

3 MS. WELDON: I think like in 1990, '90.

4 MR. SCOTT: I want to say '90s, early '90s.

5 MS. WELDON: Yeah, close to, like, '89 to '90s.

6 MR. SCOTT: Yeah.

7 MR. FOX: Allender Bus Service. And that company is still in
8 business?

9 MR. ALLENDER: Yeah.

10 MS. WELDON: Yes.

11 MR. ALLENDER: Yeah.

12 MR. FOX: And that would be your father's business?

13 MR. ALLENDER: Yes.

14 MR. FOX: And what is your dad's name?

15 MR. ALLENDER: Biff Allender.

16 MR. FOX: Biff, B-i-f-f?

17 MR. ALLENDER: Um-hum.

18 MR. FOX: Allender?

19 MR. ALLENDER: Yep.

20 MR. FOX: And so it started approximately 1989, and it's
21 still in operation?

22 MR. ALLENDER: Correct.

23 MR. FOX: Because when I came in, I saw some buses with your
24 logo or marquis on there.

25 MR. ALLENDER: Right. Right.

1 MR. FOX: And so then you acquired City Wide?

2 MR. ALLENDER: City Wide, roughly like, say, 2003.

3 MR. FOX: City Wide. Okay. Now, how did CT Transportation
4 affect the company?

5 MS. WELDON: C&T Transportation was another independently
6 owned company that lost a contract, a big contract with Baltimore
7 City Public Schools to provide transportation back in 2013, I
8 believe. January 4th, I think it was, 2013.

9 MR. FOX: 2013 they lost a contract?

10 MS. WELDON: Yes.

11 MR. FOX: And that was Mr. Tate's company?

12 MS. WELDON: That was Mr. Tate, Charles Tate.

13 MR. ALLENDER: They lost it or that was part of the renewal?

14 MS. WELDON: No, they lost it.

15 MR. ALLENDER: Oh, they lost it. Oh.

16 MR. FOX: How would they lose the bid or whatever? How does
17 that work?

18 MS. WELDON: They overbid the contract.

19 MR. FOX: Oh, you bid every couple of years and it's a
20 monetary --

21 MS. WELDON: Yes.

22 MR. FOX: -- dollar amount on the table?

23 MS. WELDON: Yes.

24 MR. FOX: And they can accept it or not accept it?

25 MS. WELDON: Right. Absolutely.

1 MR. FOX: So he lost the contract. And I interviewed him
2 earlier. And then at that point --

3 MS. WELDON: Mr. Allender -- there were a total of six other
4 companies that lost the bid for the new contract. So Mr. Allender
5 acquired the business from C&T.

6 MR. FOX: Mr. Allender -- from C&T.

7 MS. WELDON: Yes.

8 MR. FOX: Do you think -- so I don't forget my thought, is it
9 possible that Mr. Chappell worked for your father back in those
10 days?

11 MR. ALLENDER: I don't remember him. I don't think so. I
12 mean, I guess anything is possible, but I don't recall
13 Mr. Chappell.

14 MR. FOX: I thought I saw paperwork going back to 2002
15 somewhere in the file of papers that I have with something on
16 there. That's why I'm asking. Would your dad know?

17 MR. ALLENDER: To remember back then, I doubt it. I doubt
18 it.

19 MS. WELDON: I can, I can --

20 MR. SCOTT: For C&T maybe, not for Allender.

21 MR. FOX: But C&T doesn't sound like they were around that
22 long.

23 MR. ALLENDER: They've been around.

24 MS. WELDON: Yeah, they've been around.

25 MR. FOX: Well, 1988, right?

1 MS. WELDON: Yeah, they've been around a while.

2 MR. FOX: I stand corrected. I stand corrected. Maybe it
3 was C&T's paperwork.

4 MS. WELDON: Yeah, it had to be C&T.

5 MR. SCOTT: C&T.

6 MS. WELDON: Because he acquired the --

7 MR. SCOTT: He was working for C&T when we acquired them.

8 MR. FOX: That would make sense, because they were around in
9 '88.

10 MS. WELDON: Yeah.

11 MR. FOX: Okay. So I'm getting my facts mixed up.

12 MS. WELDON: No, that's fine, because we're having a hard
13 time thinking back ourselves.

14 MR. ALLENDER: Back, right. And '88 is probably the location
15 I heard you went to, what was it, yesterday?

16 MR. FOX: (Indiscernible)?

17 MR. ALLENDER: No, no.

18 MS. WELDON: No, (indiscernible) right here on the corner
19 where the little car lot is.

20 MR. FOX: I was trying to track them down and they said no.

21 MR. ALLENDER: They were there for a while.

22 MR. SCOTT: For a little while.

23 MS. WELDON: Yeah.

24 MR. FOX: Yeah, up here at the corner where the used car lot
25 is.

1 MS. WELDON: Yes. Yes.

2 MR. FOX: All right. So --

3 MR. ALLENDER: Well, not the corner. It was like --

4 MR. SCOTT: It was behind.

5 MS. WELDON: Well --

6 MR. ALLENDER: The used car on the corner, next door to that.

7 MR. FOX: Okay.

8 MS. WELDON: Yeah.

9 MR. FOX: All right. So going back in the timeline here,
10 your dad started the business in 1989, and then approximately what
11 year is it, 2007, they bought City Wide? No, City Wide was
12 purchased in 2003?

13 MR. ALLENDER: I'd say about 2003, something right in there.

14 MR. FOX: 2003. And then your dad bought CT Transportation
15 in approximately 2013?

16 MR. ALLENDER: Something around there, yeah.

17 MR. FOX: Okay. So does anyone in the room remember when
18 Mr. Chappell was an employee at any of these companies, when he
19 may have first started with any of these entities we were just
20 talking about?

21 MS. WELDON: He applied here in 2010.

22 MR. FOX: When you say here, what company?

23 MS. WELDON: I'm sorry. City Wide Bus Company.

24 (Laughter.)

25 MS. WELDON: He applied -- I'm sorry.

1 MR. FOX: So many companies.

2 MS. WELDON: I know. I know. I'm sorry.

3 MR. FOX: My brain is hurting.

4 MS. WELDON: So he applied here back in 2010, according to
5 our records that we have here from the computer.

6 MR. FOX: 2010?

7 MS. WELDON: 2010.

8 MR. FOX: He applied?

9 MS. WELDON: Yeah, so he was -- well, 2010, and then his
10 employment was terminated.

11 MR. FOX: Oh, wait. All right. So walk me through this.
12 Did he start work for you in 2010?

13 MS. WELDON: I believe what he did was started. We had him
14 in the process of starting for 2010/2011 school year, but he
15 terminated his employment. So he left.

16 MR. FOX: In 2010, did he drive for you?

17 MS. WELDON: I don't know if he actually drove or he went
18 through the process to start, because he didn't stay long.

19 MR. FOX: So he may have operated a little bit?

20 MS. WELDON: Yeah, he may have, no more than a couple months,
21 maybe, back then.

22 MR. FOX: Okay. Well, then he drove for you?

23 MS. WELDON: Yeah, back then, 2010/2011.

24 MR. FOX: And refresh my memory. You had a fire or
25 something? You had a remodel and the paperwork is missing or

1 misplaced right now?

2 MS. WELDON: Yes. We didn't have a fire.

3 MR. FOX: I keep saying fire.

4 MS. WELDON: Yeah, you do.

5 MR. FOX: That's another company I talked to. You are in the
6 process of a remodel.

7 MR. ALLENDER: So there were two, the one we just -- well,
8 the one we're kind of still in. But back then, picture -- well,
9 the whole building, the office part over here was -- I mean, wall
10 -- like this wasn't here. This was one big training room. So
11 this was constructed. So all the stuff that was here under, say,
12 City Wide at the time, you know, files and, you know, going
13 through the remodeling the first time, I would think that a lot of
14 stuff was probably, you know, moved around and lost then, or just
15 sent, you know, sent away.

16 MR. FOX: So if you do recover the rest of his file, his DQ
17 file or driver qualification, his application, those documents,
18 please let me know.

19 MR. ALLENDER: Yeah. Right, right, right. Definitely.
20 Definitely.

21 MR. FOX: That would be very helpful.

22 MR. ALLENDER: Definitely.

23 MR. FOX: So, according to what you can see, we're estimating
24 that he worked a little bit in 2010 for you and was operating a
25 bus. And then what was the reason he left the company?

1 MS. WELDON: I think according to back then, he just quit.

2 MR. ALLENDER: I remember that particularly.

3 MS. WELDON: Yeah, he quit.

4 MR. FOX: Can you tell us?

5 MR. ALLENDER: He said that -- I remember Ms. Anna was
6 explaining. He said that there was -- so picture he's married
7 to -- excuse me how I explain it. He's married to his wife and I
8 believe his wife had a son, or has a son, and I'm for some reason
9 thinking the son might have been, I don't know, in his teens. And
10 the son and him, Mr. Chappell, got into it and the son got put out
11 or the son ran away or something, and then that caused some clash
12 between his wife. So there was so much going on in his life he
13 had to just go --

14 MR. SCOTT: He had to quit.

15 MR. ALLENDER: -- quit and take care of it. It was something
16 with the stepson. They got into it or something, and then that
17 caused strife with the wife. And he was like, hey, I just, you
18 know, I got to -- I can't work. I've got to go take care of it.

19 MR. FOX: So he had to leave?

20 MS. WELDON: Um-hum.

21 MR. ALLENDER: Yeah.

22 MR. FOX: Or so he quit?

23 MR. ALLENDER: Um-hum.

24 MS. WELDON: Um-hum.

25 MR. FOX: And did he return to the company?

1 MS. WELDON: Yes.

2 MR. FOX: And when did he come back to the company?

3 MS. WELDON: He came back in 2013. According to our roster,
4 he came back, applied back in June of 2013. He started work for
5 the school year, August 2013, and then we terminated him in
6 October 2013.

7 MR. FOX: And what was the reason for the termination?

8 MS. WELDON: He had a seizure or fainted behind the wheel.

9 MR. FOX: Was it occupied by children or passengers at the
10 time?

11 MS. WELDON: I don't know.

12 MR. FOX: Did you have to -- how did you hear about this
13 medical event?

14 MS. WELDON: This was at the -- this occurred at the -- okay.
15 So when we acquired C&T Transportation, the office C&T
16 Transportation operated was still located on Woodbrook Clifton
17 Avenue. So the buses were still traveling from that yard where
18 Mr. Tate, I think, William Poinsette --

19 MR. SCOTT: Poinsette.

20 MR. ALLENDER: Poinsette were at.

21 MS. WELDON: -- was over there at that time. So they were
22 still -- not in charge, but we hadn't moved them from their
23 positions over there yet. So it was still Mr. Tate, and William
24 Poinsette was over there at the time.

25 MR. FOX: And Mr. Poinsette, he was the supervisor?

1 MS. WELDON: Yes.

2 MR. FOX: So according to your records, he had a seizure.

3 Did he have an accident with the bus?

4 MS. WELDON: No.

5 MR. ALLENDER: No.

6 MR. FOX: He was just incapacitated?

7 MS. WELDON: Yes.

8 MR. FOX: And you had to send a relief driver to go get him?

9 MS. WELDON: That's what I understand, yes.

10 MR. FOX: And did he have to go get medical attention?

11 MS. WELDON: Yes.

12 MR. FOX: Do you have any documentation of this event?

13 MS. WELDON: What I have is the documentation that was
14 included into our fleet management system, HR system, from
15 Dolphin, where the entry was put in.

16 MR. FOX: So that's this document here?

17 MS. WELDON: That's this document, correct.

18 MR. FOX: And did he get a --

19 MS. WELDON: He was sent to -- according to that, he was sent
20 to the hospital by ambulance. And we also --

21 MR. FOX: He was sent by ambulance?

22 MS. WELDON: Yes. But then we sent him to have the --

23 MR. ALLENDER: Reasonable suspicion.

24 MS. WELDON: -- drug and alcohol for reasonable suspicion.

25 MR. FOX: Now did you notify the city of this event?

1 MS. WELDON: Yes. As far as I know, yes. And I'm going off
2 what our normal procedure is that once -- we have an add/delete
3 sheet. We have to notify Baltimore City Schools when we terminate
4 an employee, we remove them from that list, from the roster. They
5 have to be removed.

6 MR. FOX: So, would you -- to your recollection, you send in
7 the form to add or delete to the city?

8 MS. WELDON: Yes.

9 MR. FOX: And then would there be backup documentation saying
10 he had a seizure or the description of why you let him go?

11 MS. WELDON: No.

12 MR. FOX: So just we're dropping him off the roster?

13 MS. WELDON: Yes. Yes. We don't --

14 MR. FOX: Disclose the reason for dismissal?

15 MS. WELDON: No.

16 MR. FOX: Okay. Do you remember anything else about this,
17 any contact with the city or any other disposition?

18 MS. WELDON: Not to my knowledge.

19 Do you guys remember?

20 MR. ALLENDER: Not that I remember.

21 MS. WELDON: Because that information would definitely come
22 from William Poinsette, because he was there at the time when this
23 occurred. I believe he was over there at the time when it
24 occurred.

25 MR. FOX: He was. I talked to him.

1 MS. WELDON: Yeah. You did talk to him?

2 MR. FOX: I talked to Mr. Poinsette.

3 MS. WELDON: Yeah. So he should have more recollection at
4 the time.

5 MR. FOX: Right. Well, he's just going by memory, too.

6 MS. WELDON: Yeah.

7 MR. FOX: So that's why we were just trying to shore up the
8 paperwork and the dates.

9 MS. WELDON: Shore up -- yeah. Yeah.

10 MR. FOX: And then --

11 MS. WELDON: Like I said, what happens is a roster is
12 created, a roster is sent to Baltimore City. They approve it.
13 They send back, say yes, this person is certified. You have to
14 send the --

15 MR. FOX: Now when you say roster, is that a real, physical
16 roster, like 100 drivers or something like that?

17 MS. WELDON: Yeah. Let me show you.

18 MR. FOX: Do you have such a copy?

19 MS. WELDON: Yes, I do. Sure do.

20 MR. FOX: Well, all right. I keep hearing about a roster but
21 I thought it was just figurative.

22 MR. ALLENDER: No. So, what happens, so picture -- so we're
23 in, what, November now, right? So picture -- except for this
24 school year and last school year, the rosters were due -- say,
25 picture if school started, say, the last week of August, right?

1 The week before -- that month of August they require a roster of
2 who all -- a roster of certified drivers, who all we're expecting
3 to drive these buses to transport city school students.

4 And so last school year and this school year it was required,
5 roughly, I don't know, I guess it was back in June, July, just
6 when the regular school year ended and we were getting into the
7 summer school. It was like, hey, we need -- by this date, you're
8 going to send us -- this is the City talking to us -- you need to
9 send us a copy of your certified drivers who you expect to work
10 for you this school year.

11 Now, to say that, the roster of certified drivers, that means
12 that they've gone through the in-service and/or pre-service,
13 basically that they've been vetted -- driving record, background
14 check, drug test, all that stuff -- to make them, quote/unquote,
15 certified to be on the roster.

16 MR. FOX: Now, this document -- does it have a title on it?
17 It says City of Baltimore School System School Bus Driver Roster.
18 This document is what that I'm looking at?

19 MR. ALLENDER: The roster.

20 MR. FOX: For who?

21 MR. ALLENDER: It's from Allender Bus -- well, Allender, it
22 has on -- right there. We're giving that information to. So
23 basically we're telling Baltimore City Public School System that,
24 hey, here goes who we're expecting to drive for the school year.

25 MR. FOX: Who authored this document?

1 MS. WELDON: Baltimore City sends us the template and then we
2 have to fill it out with all our proposed drivers for that school
3 year and send it back to them so that they get it.

4 MR. FOX: So they send you this template?

5 MS. WELDON: Um-hum.

6 MR. FOX: You guys fill it out?

7 MS. WELDON: Um-hum.

8 MR. FOX: And then you send it back to them?

9 MS. WELDON: Yes.

10 MR. FOX: Ah.

11 MR. ALLENDER: And so picture at some point in time -- and,
12 Mike, I can't remember what comes first. I'm sorry. But at some
13 point in time, either before the roster or after the roster, we
14 have to send -- so picture those -- at some point in time, every
15 person on that list would have a current driving record sent from
16 us to them. See, because at some point they say, well, listen,
17 you have Lawrence Brown, who is deceased now, but -- Lawrence
18 Brown on your list, but the last driving record we have from him
19 is from 3 years ago, or 4 years ago, we need an updated one.

20 MR. FOX: Right. And then that's that transmission form with
21 the checks. Is that good to go or you need a --

22 MS. WELDON: Yes.

23 MR. FOX: -- a new drug test, a new medical, or something
24 that's not on the seven or eight items that's on that list?

25 MS. WELDON: Yes. Yes.

1 MR. ALLENDER: Right. So even though, Allender, City Wide,
2 you have Mr. Lawrence Brown on your list to drive, he can't drive
3 unless he -- unless you provide from him or he provides X, Y, Z by
4 this date. So picture by the first day of school, whatever he's
5 missing is not sent over there, he's not driving.

6 MR. FOX: Can I get a copy of this, please?

7 MS. WELDON: You may have that.

8 MR. FOX: Oh, I can have a copy of this? Is it your
9 understanding, then, that all the contractors do this?

10 MS. WELDON: Yes. Um-hum. Yeah, it's a mandatory document.

11 MR. ALLENDER: Contractual.

12 MS. WELDON: They have to have that.

13 MR. FOX: How many -- you were giving me the history of the
14 contracts. Can you review that again with me?

15 MR. ALLENDER: Okay. So picture at one point in time, man,
16 I'm thinking maybe like 12 contractors, and this would have been
17 from --

18 MR. FOX: Back in the '80s, maybe, when your dad first --

19 MR. ALLENDER: Let's say 2003. Let's just pick a year, 2003,
20 right? Up until, I don't know, 2012, 2013 -- 2013, and there was
21 a contract renewal, right? So once the -- and the contract
22 renewal -- so picture the city contract, transportation contract
23 renewed, and so picture now you get the re-bid, right? Now,
24 you're still -- at this point in time you're still running out the
25 current one, but the current one is about to expire, so --

1 MR. FOX: Right.

2 MR. ALLENDER: Right? So at that point, I remember that the
3 numbers dropping from like, I don't know, say there were 12,
4 dropping to like 6.

5 MR. FOX: Why was that?

6 MR. ALLENDER: Because picture their bid was probably too
7 high or, you know, something like that.

8 MR. FOX: But that's the same time frame Mr. Tate lost his?

9 MS. WELDON: Yes.

10 MR. FOX: So at that juncture, there was a lot of people who
11 were not making the bid?

12 MS. WELDON: You had City Wide. You had Gibbs.

13 MR. ALLENDER: Right. Right, right, right.

14 MS. WELDON: And you had Whitaker Transportation.

15 MR. SCOTT: You had Hopkins.

16 MS. WELDON: You had MR Hopkins Transportation. You had AA
17 Affordable.

18 MR. SCOTT: You had Ram.

19 MS. WELDON: You had Ram. You had Kane Transportation. You
20 had Reliable Transportation.

21 MR. ALLENDER: Right.

22 MS. WELDON: You had --

23 MR. ALLENDER: First Student, Durham.

24 MS. WELDON: First Student.

25 MR. SCOTT: Y&L.

1 MS. WELDON: You had Y&L.

2 MR. SCOTT: You had Durham.

3 MS. WELDON: Durham. So you had -- we had at that time --

4 MR. ALLENDER: And who's the other guy? J King. J King. J
5 King. Remember J King on Washington Boulevard, King? J King.
6 Something, J King or something like that.

7 MR. FOX: Was there ever a Bob's Trucking? Is that ringing a
8 bell, Bob's Transportation?

9 MS. WELDON: No, that's that trucking company we looked up
10 yesterday.

11 MR. FOX: I know, but I just thought --

12 MS. WELDON: Had to ask. No. No, all of the contractors
13 back then -- and in the Baltimore City School System, they have a
14 board that's called the Board Docs, and under the Board Docs you
15 can go back and look at all of the contractors that were awarded
16 contracts and when they were awarded contracts.

17 MR. FOX: This is a website you can go to?

18 MS. WELDON: Yes. It's on the Baltimore City Public School
19 System website.

20 MR. ALLENDER: See, that's 12 right there.

21 MS. WELDON: It's called the Board and then the word Docs.

22 MR. FOX: D-o-c-s?

23 MS. WELDON: S, um-hum.

24 MR. FOX: And this is a public website?

25 MS. WELDON: Yes. And then you just query and say 2011, and

1 it'll tell you who the -- under transportation, and then it will
2 tell you who the contractors were at that time.

3 MR. ALLENDER: There's 12 of them on there.

4 MS. WELDON: Yeah, it was, it was about 12 contractors back
5 then. And then --

6 MR. ALLENDER: You say J King, J King. I forgot Barber. So
7 that's 13.

8 MR. SCOTT: Oh, Barber, yeah.

9 MS. WELDON: Yeah, Barber.

10 MR. ALLENDER: That's 13.

11 MS. WELDON: Fleming.

12 MR. SCOTT: Fleming's.

13 MR. ALLENDER: That's 14.

14 MS. WELDON: Yeah.

15 MR. ALLENDER: At any given point in time, that's 14.

16 MS. WELDON: Yeah, it was about -- yeah, that's about right.

17 MR. FOX: Well, Fleming -- AA Affordable was like you all,
18 they -- her dad, Carol Williams' father owned --

19 MS. WELDON: Yep.

20 MR. FOX: -- a company. Was that Fleming?

21 MR. SCOTT: Ferguson.

22 MR. FOX: Ferguson, that's what it was.

23 MR. ALLENDER: Right.

24 MR. FOX: I wanted to have you pull that up and show me,
25 please.

1 MR. ALLENDER: Who was the one guy's name? Remember, he was
2 an Arab dude. Remember? He was up on, like, Joh Avenue, and he
3 basically just stopped all of a sudden.

4 MR. SCOTT: Right, right.

5 MR. ALLENDER: Who?

6 MR. SCOTT: You talking about Joe?

7 MS. WELDON: Oh, you talking about Joe?

8 MR. ALLENDER: No, the Arab dude. It was a Arab guy, and
9 First Student.

10 MS. WELDON: Oh, and we forgot Brim's.

11 MR. ALLENDER: Brimstone.

12 MS. WELDON: Brimstone's.

13 MR. ALLENDER: Remember the Arab guy?

14 MR. SCOTT: I don't remember him.

15 MR. FOX: So is it in Baltimore County Schools?

16 MS. WELDON: Baltimore City.

17 MR. ALLENDER: He was, like, up on Joh Avenue.

18 MS. WELDON: This is Baltimore County, so it's Baltimore
19 City.

20 MR. ALLENDER: And just one day, one afternoon, p.m., they
21 just shut down. Remember?

22 MR. FOX: Baltimore City?

23 MR. ALLENDER: What's that guy's name? He owns cabs. Look
24 for that guy. It'll be on that list. I'm thinking A for some
25 reason, A. Allied? Allied?

1 MR. FOX: I just want you to, you know, go on the iPad and
2 show me where that link is.

3 MS. WELDON: And then --

4 MR. ALLENDER: I think it's Allied.

5 MS. WELDON: -- you look for -- where is that?

6 MR. FOX: School board, maybe?

7 MS. WELDON: Well, let's do -- here, let's do board, and then
8 let's do docs and see if it will come up like that. Minutes,
9 meetings -- board docs. And then this is what's going to happen.
10 So say you chose back -- there's an archive that you can go back.
11 So say, for instance -- let's say we're going to go here. I'm
12 going to choose this one. No. How do I go back? Okay. So, what
13 we have to do --

14 MR. FOX: Oh, here's archive. Is that what you're looking
15 for?

16 MS. WELDON: Yeah.

17 MR. FOX: This says minutes, though.

18 MS. WELDON: Well, what will happen is you'll go in -- you
19 can go into it, and then you will ask it -- you'll go under
20 transportation, you'll cue up transportation from the Board Docs.
21 Let me see if I can do it. Okay, here we are. See that?

22 MR. FOX: Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

23 MS. WELDON: Board of School Commissioners, right. So then
24 what you do -- say, for instance, I'm going to put in
25 transportation. Oh, no, better yet.

1 MR. FOX: Backspace.

2 MS. WELDON: You can tell I don't use an iPad.

3 Okay, say we want to put in, say, Ram. We'll use Ram. We'll
4 say Ram Transportation. And then search it. Okay, that's
5 working. So it says no matches. I might have spelled it wrong.
6 But in this search, in this search for, you can go all the way
7 back, and you can go under -- you go under transportation and
8 it'll say, well, we authorized -- we've just given this bid to
9 AA Affordable, or Reliable Transportation.

10 MR. FOX: Okay.

11 MS. WELDON: It will show you that. I can --

12 MR. FOX: That's all right. I can --

13 MS. WELDON: Yeah. So that's where you're going to go.

14 MR. FOX: I can tinker with it later. I just wanted to get
15 right to the correct --

16 MS. WELDON: On that Board Doc page, what it will also tell
17 you, if there were any troubles in the transportation, when they
18 had any problems or issues with a contractor, like what they had
19 with First Student, they will say that the award was taken from.

20 MR. FOX: An announcement then?

21 MS. WELDON: Yes. And then it'll go into this great big,
22 long dissertation about why.

23 MR. FOX: I see.

24 MS. WELDON: And that's included in that. And then they will
25 also give you the award amount, or they will say that we just

1 brought on Weldon Transportation to help with the transportation
2 of the students.

3 MR. FOX: All right. This has been very helpful. I keep
4 hearing about the board, the roster and all that other stuff, but
5 I didn't realize it was a real --

6 MR. ALLENDER: Actual.

7 MR. FOX: -- living document.

8 MS. WELDON: Yes.

9 MR. FOX: So this is a new revelation for me, so I appreciate
10 that.

11 MS. WELDON: Yes. Every school year we have to send that to
12 Baltimore City Public Schools so they'll know --

13 MR. ALLENDER: Before the school year.

14 MS. WELDON: Well, just before the school year. So, say,
15 school ends in June. So right before -- in that June, summertime,
16 we have to create and know all of the driver that's coming back
17 for August. Our school year starts again in August.

18 MR. FOX: Is this document that you're showing me electronic?
19 So do you just email it to the --

20 MS. WELDON: We can email it. Most of the time it's just
21 email.

22 MR. FOX: Is that your normal process?

23 MR. ALLENDER: Now, historically, it was -- I've seen those
24 handwritten at one point in time and they were hand delivered.
25 But as the past, I don't know, what, 6 years or so?

1 MS. WELDON: Yeah.

2 MR. ALLENDER: It's been electronic.

3 MR. FOX: Electronic. Or faxed?

4 MR. ALLENDER: Right.

5 MS. WELDON: Yeah, or faxed over.

6 MR. FOX: Who would you send this to? Is there a person that
7 is controlling this document?

8 MS. WELDON: Yes, it's in the safety department at Baltimore
9 City, over at 1120 20th Street. It's over --

10 MR. FOX: I mean, is there a specific person you would email?

11 MS. WELDON: At that time, back then?

12 MR. FOX: Yes.

13 MS. WELDON: That was Kelly Jenkins.

14 MR. FOX: Kelly Jenkins?

15 MS. WELDON: Um-hum. And maybe Yvonne --

16 MR. ALLENDER: Maybe, right, maybe. McClain.

17 MS. WELDON: Yvonne McLean or McClain. McClain,
18 M-c-C-l-a-i-n.

19 MR. ALLENDER: Yep.

20 MS. WELDON: Back then.

21 MR. FOX: And then is there a new person now doing it?

22 MS. WELDON: The new person now is Gloria Holt, Michelle
23 Best, and Jeremy Chapman.

24 MR. ALLENDER: Chapman.

25 MS. WELDON: So all of the documents now, when we send

1 anything, like they'll send an email and say I have to have a
2 new --

3 MR. SCOTT: (Indiscernible).

4 MS. WELDON: Yeah.

5 MR. ALLENDER: Something.

6 MS. WELDON: Something. Whatever they need, whatever they're
7 going through their files --

8 MR. ALLENDER: From that list you saw of -- we call it the
9 RFI, the request for info. Whatever they would need would be one
10 of those items on there: DOT card, driver's license --

11 MS. WELDON: Right.

12 MR. FOX: So, not to cut you off, this is Allender Group. Do
13 you do a separate one for City Wide and whatnot?

14 MR. ALLENDER: Um-hum.

15 MR. FOX: But you went -- oh, now wait. I'm realizing this
16 has Glenn on here.

17 MS. WELDON: That's why I gave it to you.

18 MR. FOX: Oh, so this is the roster for --

19 MS. WELDON: That shows --

20 MR. FOX: -- 2011 school year.

21 MS. WELDON: Yes. Yes.

22 MR. FOX: And he was -- that's when he had a -- so how did
23 you get this document?

24 MS. WELDON: Because when you query into the computer, into
25 my computer -- so anything that was sent via email or anything

1 like that -- remember I told you the other day, since I don't have
2 any hard copies or anything, I would check the computer system to
3 see what it would bring back. So when I queried it, that's what
4 came back, a few emails regarding him and the roster.

5 MR. FOX: So is it fair to say that the city could replicate
6 this and they could figure out where he worked?

7 MS. WELDON: Yes.

8 MR. ALLENDER: They should.

9 MS. WELDON: Yes.

10 MR. ALLENDER: I mean, just think about it logically.

11 MR. FOX: I'm not used to --

12 MR. ALLENDER: Oh, right, right, right. Okay, so -- right.
13 So we cannot put anybody -- okay, so -- and I don't mean to throw
14 him under the bus, but picture him. He's not on that list, so he
15 can't drive for Baltimore City, this guy here. You're not on the
16 list.

17 MR. FOX: No.

18 MR. ALLENDER: You can't drive in Baltimore City.

19 MS. WELDON: Right.

20 MR. ALLENDER: She's not on the list, she can't drive in
21 Baltimore City. Well, I'm sorry, I'm saying list. Roster.

22 MR. FOX: Roster.

23 MR. ALLENDER: And the reason why? Because they haven't been
24 vetted. They haven't done in-service or pre-service, DOT card,
25 driving record, drug test and all. They haven't done all that

1 stuff, so they're basically, in terms of the requirement side of
2 it, they're ineligible. You guys are ineligible because you
3 haven't gone through the process. And to go through the process,
4 something might come up and say, well, she can't drive because she
5 doesn't even have a CDL in the first place, or she can't drive
6 because she has a CDL but she's got more than two points on her
7 license, on her driving record.

8 MR. FOX: All right. So if I can get this story straight, a
9 driver is -- you go through the process, you check with the city.
10 If I'm a new person applying for a position, I come in here, I may
11 or may not be within the certification. Whatever I'm missing, I
12 go and get, I come back, and then I'm put onto the roster?

13 MR. ALLENDER: But -- and I don't mean to cut you off, but
14 how do you know what to get?

15 MR. FOX: Does the city not give you a form?

16 MR. ALLENDER: Right. You know what to get because it's
17 like, hey, Mike Fox's request for info sent to the city, they sent
18 it back saying -- and since you came here, hey, Mike, here's what
19 we need from you.

20 MR. FOX: Right, so I'd have to go get a DOT medical or
21 whatever?

22 MR. ALLENDER: Right.

23 MR. FOX: So, if for some reason I have some kind of an event
24 and you say we're going to fire Mike Fox as a driver, then you
25 drop me from the roster?

1 MS. WELDON: Um-hum.

2 MR. FOX: You send in a form to the city --

3 MS. WELDON: Yes.

4 MR. FOX: -- saying I'm being dismissed?

5 MS. WELDON: Yes.

6 MR. FOX: Terminated. And it may be for something serious
7 like I wrecked a bus or whatever, but would you document that?

8 MS. WELDON: We document it on our end. We don't document --
9 now, if for some reason a driver has -- okay, if you have a
10 serious accident, a crash, yes, that's a reportable accident, we
11 have to report that to -- all our accidents, anyway, go to
12 Baltimore City Public Schools, so they already know this.

13 MR. FOX: Okay.

14 MS. WELDON: Anytime there's any type of accident or anything
15 that occurs, whether we're at fault, we meaning City Wide, the
16 drivers are at fault or not at fault accidents, they're reported
17 to Baltimore City Public Schools right away.

18 MR. FOX: I see.

19 MS. WELDON: Okay. So in the event it's \$50,000 worth of
20 damage, there's a fatality from a bus accident or anything, it's
21 automatically given to Baltimore City Public Schools. The safety
22 department over there, they review it, they interview the drivers.
23 Then they'll say, well, this driver needs to be out, we're
24 suspending this driver, we're decertifying this driver, we're
25 going to send it to MSDE, which is the Maryland State Department

1 of Education, for recommendation that this person is -- he or
2 she's driving privileges are revoked.

3 MR. FOX: Is the Maryland State Department of Education, are
4 they the oversight agency of the program?

5 MS. WELDON: Yes.

6 MR. FOX: And that's out of Annapolis?

7 MS. WELDON: Well, we have a main one down at 200 East
8 Baltimore Street.

9 MR. FOX: Is that a state office then?

10 MS. WELDON: Yes, it's going to be state and city, but the
11 state office is on Baltimore Street, yes.

12 MR. FOX: Okay.

13 MS. WELDON: I think it's 200 East Baltimore Street.

14 MR. ALLENDER: Something like that. Yeah, something like
15 that.

16 MS. WELDON: MSDE, that's the head. The one on North Avenue,
17 yes, that's all the -- what you call it?

18 MR. FOX: City government?

19 MS. WELDON: Yeah. Yeah.

20 MR. FOX: I had a question. On one of the papers it says
21 Allender Charters, or something to that nature. Is that part of
22 your company also?

23 MR. ALLENDER: It's another --

24 MR. FOX: Division?

25 MR. ALLENDER: Division.

1 MR. FOX: And do you -- is that -- you run motor coaches or
2 whatever?

3 MR. ALLENDER: Two of them.

4 MR. FOX: Two of them?

5 MR. ALLENDER: Two of them, um-hum.

6 MR. FOX: And did Mr. Chappell ever run any of that?

7 MR. ALLENDER: No. Uh-uh. No.

8 MR. FOX: He's never been working over there?

9 MR. ALLENDER: No. No.

10 MR. FOX: It did come up in one of the queries that we had,
11 but that has nothing to do with Mr. Chappell's employment here?

12 MR. ALLENDER: No. Uh-uh. Uh-uh.

13 MR. FOX: Okay.

14 MR. ALLENDER: So picture like here you got, like, persons
15 who are qualified to drive --

16 MR. FOX: Sure.

17 MR. ALLENDER: -- out of this bucket, that bucket, but some
18 are only qualified to drive out of just this bucket.

19 MR. FOX: I understand. Are there any -- is there anything
20 that I haven't touched upon with the history of the company as far
21 as the different companies that were purchased and absorbed into
22 the company that I didn't ask about?

23 We've gone through the history of the company. No other
24 companies haven't been mentioned that are part of the fabric of
25 the corporation?

1 MS. WELDON: Okay. Do back in 2013, when all these other
2 contractors were out, lost their bid, C&T was one of the largest
3 ones, I think, that Mr. Allender took, with the drivers and bus
4 monitors. Then he also took some of the drivers from a couple of
5 the other people that lost the contracts.

6 MR. FOX: CT did?

7 MS. WELDON: City Wide, us.

8 MR. FOX: Oh, City Wide?

9 MS. WELDON: Um-hum.

10 MR. ALLENDER: So basically picture that, you know, it's
11 like, okay, I show up to work today and CT's telling me, okay,
12 well, as of this date we're --

13 MR. FOX: We lost the bid.

14 MR. ALLENDER: Right.

15 MS. WELDON: So where do you go?

16 MR. ALLENDER: Okay. So I'm a career school bus driver, so I
17 got to go somewhere else. Hey, well, you guys hiring? Cool, let
18 me --

19 MR. FOX: Go over there.

20 MR. ALLENDER: Um-hum.

21 MR. FOX: I understand. Is there anything else that I
22 haven't touched upon with Mr. Chappell as far as his employment
23 with the various companies we've been discussing?

24 MS. WELDON: To my recollection, that's it as far as what we
25 have on him. That's it.

1 MR. FOX: And in summary, he did have a medical event that
2 caused his dismissal, and to your knowledge he did not crash a
3 bus?

4 MR. ALLENDER: No.

5 MR. FOX: He wasn't in an accident?

6 MS. WELDON: No. No, no, no, no.

7 MR. FOX: Not at any time during your employment?

8 MS. WELDON: No.

9 MR. FOX: But this medical event caused him to be dismissed?

10 MS. WELDON: Terminated, yes.

11 MR. FOX: All right. Because from what I'm recalling, the
12 interview with Mr. --

13 MR. ALLENDER: Poinsette.

14 MS. WELDON: Poinsette.

15 MR. FOX: Poinsette, he also experienced the same situation
16 when he was at Barber?

17 MS. WELDON: Um-hum. So if you notice, this states in there
18 that he had some sort of incident once this occurred, and then
19 Mr. Poinsette at that time said, oh, well, something happened at
20 Barber. But then it's usually after an event that, you know, you
21 start finding out certain things.

22 MR. FOX: Correct.

23 MS. WELDON: Not prior to, so --

24 MR. FOX: I understand.

25 MS. WELDON: Yeah.

1 MR. FOX: Well, is there anything else that I failed to ask
2 you about that you need to tell me about regarding the driver,
3 Mr. Chappell?

4 MS. WELDON: No.

5 MR. FOX: All right. So at this time, anything else,
6 gentlemen?

7 MR. ALLENDER: Not that I remember.

8 MR. FOX: Well, I appreciate your time. So at this moment
9 we're going to go ahead and conclude the interview. It's now
10 11:45. Thank you.

11 (Whereupon, at 11:45 a.m., the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: SCHOOL BUS/COMMUTER BUS ACCIDENT
 IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND ON
 NOVEMBER 1, 2016
 Interview of Norma Weldon, Travon
 Allender and Cordell Scott

DOCKET NUMBER: HWY17MH007

PLACE: Baltimore, Maryland

DATE: November 9, 2016

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.

Lisa Fuerstenberg
Transcriber