



Motor Carrier Attachment 33:

C&T Transportation Interview

Baltimore, MD; 11/1/2016

HWY17MH007

(23 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: CHARLES TATES and
RICHARD CALLOWAY

City Wide Bus Company Offices
2505 Asquith Street
Baltimore, Maryland

Wednesday,
November 9, 2016

APPEARANCES:

MICHAEL FOX, Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

RAFAEL MARSHALL, Ph.D., Human Performance Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

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I N T E R V I E W

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2 MR. FOX: This is Michael Fox, investigator, NTSB,
3 Washington, D.C. office. Today is November the 9th, 2016. We are
4 at City Wide Bus Company located 2505 Asquith Street, Baltimore,
5 Maryland. We are going to be interviewing Mr. Charles Tate [sic].

6 Present in the room is Rafael Marshall. Can you identify
7 yourself by voice?

8 DR. MARSHALL: Right. This is Rafael Marshall, R-a-f-a-e-l,
9 Marshall, M-a-r-s-h-a-l-l.

10 MR. FOX: And, Mr. Tate, could you state your full name --

11 MR. TATES: Charles --

12 MR. FOX: -- and your title, and spell your last name?

13 MR. TATES: Charles Tyrone Tate, T-a-t-e-s.

14 MR. FOX: Oh, it's Tate's?

15 MR. TATES: Um-hum.

16 MR. FOX: Oh, I apologize.

17 MR. TATES: That's all right.

INTERVIEW OF CHARLES TATES

18
19 BY MR. FOX:

20 Q. And your current position?

21 A. I'm a bus driver now.

22 Q. Bus driver. And it's our understanding you used to own CT
23 Transportation.

24 A. I used to be vice president. Um-hum.

25 Q. Were you -- vice president. Were you also the owner?

1 A. Well, yeah, but it's called vice president. Yeah, the owner.
2 I guess you'd call owner, yeah.

3 Q. Vice president. And who else was your partner or co-owner?
4 A. Richard Calloway.

5 Q. Richard Calloway. Is he associated with this company now?
6 A. No, no. He's retired altogether.

7 Q. Okay. He's retired. And how long did you own C&T
8 Transportation?
9 A. About 22 years.

10 Q. Twenty-two years.
11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. From what dates to what dates?
13 A. I don't know.

14 Q. Take a -- okay, just take a guess.
15 A. We started maybe in '88.
16 Q. 1988?
17 A. Um-hum.

18 Q. And the official title is C&T Transportation?
19 A. Transportation. Um-hum.

20 Q. C and -- plus --
21 A. Plus T, yeah.

22 Q. Plus. I mean, on the --
23 A. Yeah, I know. C&T.

24 Q. C&T Transportation, Inc.?
25 A. Incorporated, um-hum.

1 Q. And you believe you started in 1988?

2 A. I believe I started 1988, yeah.

3 Q. And how long did it go before --

4 A. It went up until 3 years ago.

5 Q. Three years ago.

6 A. Up to the '13 -- '12/'13 school year.

7 Q. Up to the 2013 --

8 A. Yeah, to '12/2013. Yeah.

9 Q. 2012/2013 school year.

10 A. Yeah, school year. Um-hum.

11 Q. So the fall of -- or summer of --

12 A. The summer of '13, I believe. Yeah, my memory is not really
13 good on dates, you know.

14 Q. Okay. That's fine.

15 A. But I'm going to try to do the best I can.

16 Q. Yes, sir. I understand.

17 And at the time, how many routes were operating at the peak
18 of your -- before you sold it?

19 A. Nine routes. We had about nine routes.

20 Q. Nine routes. And these routes were going to where, sir?

21 A. Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

22 Q. Baltimore. Do you remember what the breakdown was?

23 A. About five city and four county. But they were -- you know,
24 they all came through city, you know, but they --

25 Q. Four, four Baltimore and five --

1 A. About five Baltimore City and about four in Baltimore County.
2 But we all worked through Baltimore City, but we went to the
3 county to pick up the kids, you know, took them to county schools.

4 Q. Yes, sir.

5 A. That's how they work here.

6 Q. So you've been in the business for a long time, 22 years --

7 A. Twenty-some years, yeah.

8 Q. -- with the company, and then 3 or 4 years as an operator?

9 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Um-hum.

10 Q. What made you sell the business?

11 A. Well, we lost the contract.

12 Q. Oh, you lost the contract.

13 A. Yeah, that's the only reason why we sold the business,
14 because we lost the contract and I was -- we were stuck with buses
15 and bus payments. So City Wide took over our buses because we had
16 payments on them.

17 Q. Now when you lost the contract, was this where you were
18 domiciled? Was this your office, your principal place --

19 A. No, no. We had our own office.

20 Q. Oh. Oh, where was that at?

21 A. That was on Clifton Avenue.

22 Q. Clifton Avenue. Do you remember the address?

23 A. 25-something.

24 Q. 25 --

25 A. 05, I think. 2505 Clifton Avenue. I think that's what it

1 was.

2 Q. I also -- I have also heard of an address, Wood Road --
3 Woodward Road or something?

4 A. I don't know about Woodward Road.

5 Q. That's not your property at all?

6 A. I don't know Woodward.

7 Q. I mean, that's a property that Ms. Norma was telling me
8 about.

9 A. Wood --

10 Q. I thought I saw that on some paperwork, that's why.

11 A. Well -- no.

12 Q. No?

13 A. Well, that's -- I don't know. There's a lot of streets round
14 there. But our address was Clifton Avenue.

15 Q. Clifton Avenue. And as I started off this conversation with
16 you, we're here because of the bus crash that happened last week
17 with the school bus and the transit bus, and that bus -- the
18 school bus driver was Glenn Chappell.

19 A. Um-hum.

20 Q. And from the paperwork I have, it's my understanding he was
21 an employee of yours?

22 A. Um-hum.

23 Q. Do you recall the driver?

24 A. I recall a little bit, yes. I recall him.

25 Q. And can you -- do you have any idea when he may have been in

1 your employ?

2 A. He was -- I'm pretty sure most that year, most of the last
3 year we were here he was employed, most of the last year. So he
4 stayed -- he left just -- I think he left about February or March,
5 I think. And because he had family problems, so -- his wife moved
6 to Columbia and he was living in -- they were living in Baltimore.
7 He didn't have a way to get back and forth, back and forth, back
8 and forth. He kept missing time. And after he missed so much
9 time, and then his son called us and say his father went to jail
10 because they was fighting or something.

11 Q. He -- Glenn went to jail?

12 A. His son -- yeah, went to jail, yeah. His son called us and
13 said that Glenn was -- he couldn't come to work because he was in
14 jail. So that's why he -- then he left. Then he was gone.

15 Q. And you think this was 2011, maybe?

16 A. No. That was '12, something like -- yeah, like the end of
17 the school year.

18 DR. MARSHALL: 2012.

19 MR. TATES: Yeah, yeah. And if I can remember, like I said,
20 because I'm not real good with that, but I think he did come back
21 for a little while. You understand what I mean? Because after he
22 got hisself picked up, because he had another car -- I got another
23 car now, you know. So he worked a little while, but we -- after
24 that, we lost him. The business was gone after that --

25 BY MR. FOX:

1 Q. Right.

2 A. -- after that, you know what I mean.

3 But he came to work every day.

4 Q. Did you ever have an incident where he had an accident?

5 A. I don't -- I can't remember if he ever had no accidents.

6 Q. Do you ever remember any of -- him passing out or having any
7 kind of episode like that?

8 A. Honestly, I didn't see him have any episode. I don't -- I
9 hear all kind of stuff now. I'm hearing stuff now, you know what
10 I mean --

11 Q. Yeah.

12 A. -- that we didn't hear when he was working there. You
13 understand what I'm trying to say? But we -- as far as know, I
14 had no episode where he passed out or didn't bring the bus back or
15 nothing like that, you know what I mean. We had -- that never
16 happened with us. It never happened with us.

17 Now if something happened to him on the bus, if the aide was
18 on it, I don't know. If he didn't say anything -- see, I don't --
19 I didn't ride on the bus. I was in the office. I didn't ride on
20 the bus at all.

21 Q. Do you -- did you bring him on? Did you hire him?

22 A. One of us hired -- either Richard or I hired him. I don't
23 remember who hired him.

24 Q. Do you think that -- is there -- do you think by chance you
25 have any of those records when you first brought him on?

1 A. Rich would probably have them because that wasn't my job.
2 Rich would probably have them records.

3 Q. It's really important that we try to get those records. Do
4 you think that -- is Richard available that we could -- do you
5 have a phone number to him?

6 A. Yeah, I got a phone number to him. I have a phone number to
7 him.

8 Q. Okay. Do you know what it is, by chance? Can you look it
9 up? Or can you call for us so he can, you know --

10 A. I can call right now.

11 Q. -- and he doesn't know --

12 A. I'll call right now and ask him does he have them.

13 Q. Thank you.

14 A. You know, because we're out of business, but I can always ask
15 him.

16 Q. Yeah, yeah. No, that would be awesome if he has them.

17 (Phone dialing.)

18 MR. FOX: Thank you for your help.

19 MR. TATES: Hey, do what we can now. Do what we can.

20 (Phone ringing.)

21 MR. TATES: Oh, come on. He'll answer one of these lines.

22 There he is.

23 (Phone call.)

24 Hey, good morning. How you doing?

25 I'm doing all right.

1 I'm in, I'm in a meeting with a National Transportation
2 Safety Board person, Mr. Fox, and he wants to know did we have any
3 records of when Glenn was hired.

4 When he was hired, when we hired him; when did he start
5 working for C&T?

6 MR. FOX: Like his application.

7 MR. TATES: Yeah, (indiscernible) too well. He said it been
8 3 years ago, he don't think he has them records.

9 MR. FOX: It's really important if he could -- if he thinks
10 he might have them.

11 MR. TATES: Pardon me, sir?

12 MR. FOX: I said, if has them at all, it's desperate that we
13 get them.

14 MR. TATES: Hold on, Richard.

15 Can you hear me now? Richard?

16 Well, shit -- I mean, shucks. That (indiscernible) sucks.
17 Let me call him again. I was going to put you on speakerphone.

18 (Phone ringing.)

19 MR. FOX: That's all right. Yeah, yeah, yeah, we'll talk to
20 him.

21 MR. TATES: You can talk to him and tell him.

22 MR. FOX: Thank you so much for calling.

23 MR. TATES: That's all right.

24 (Phone call)

25 MR. CALLOWAY: Hello.

1 MR. TATES: Okay. I pressed the wrong button. Okay. We
2 want to -- he want to speak. He wants to ask you a question.

3 INTERVIEW OF RICHARD CALLOWAY

4 BY MR. FOX:

5 Q. Richard, this is Mike --

6 A. (Indiscernible)

7 Q. This is Investigator Mike Fox with the NTSB. Good morning.

8 A. Good morning.

9 Q. Hey, sir, we're investigating that crash that happened last
10 week involving the transit bus and school bus, and Glenn --

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. -- Glenn Chappell was the operator of the school bus and
13 we're just trying to research his background and go to the --

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 Q. -- companies that he was employed at. And I understand he
16 was here at CT Transportation for a while?

17 A. Yeah, for a while, right. Um-hum.

18 Q. And I'm trying to see if you have any of those records when
19 you first hired him, like his driver -- his DQ file, driver
20 qualification file?

21 A. Oh, my God. No, I got rid of -- that's 3 years ago, so I --
22 there's no records. I don't know where they are.

23 Q. So were they destroyed or are they in storage?

24 A. They're in storage there.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. But after a couple, after a couple years, I guess, you know,
2 didn't need them anymore or whatever.

3 Q. I understand. Can --

4 A. Um-hum.

5 Q. Did you hire Mr. Chappell?

6 A. Did I hire him?

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. Yes. I did the hiring stuff, yes.

9 Q. Do you recall him? Do you remember his past? I'm just
10 trying to go backwards in time, so you guys are very important for
11 us to try to figure out where he worked. And I understand he was
12 like working a trucking company. Do you guys recall any of that
13 information?

14 A. I don't know about that.

15 Q. Do you -- when you hired him, do you remember anything about
16 the man, what his previous background was?

17 A. Yeah, when I hired him, he told me at that time he had -- he
18 was driving his own tractor-trailer or something at that point.

19 Q. His own?

20 A. Yeah, his own. He said it was his own, yeah. So --

21 Q. And was he self-employed or was he working for somebody?

22 A. He told me he owned his tractor and trailer, but I don't
23 know. I didn't (indiscernible). The only thing I did was, went
24 to the department (indiscernible), went to Baltimore City, and he
25 got, he got -- all his checks and everything and that was that.

1 Q. Do you remember what year it was when you brought him on?

2 A. I'm trying to think now. Probably -- maybe '12. Of course,
3 it was (indiscernible) came back. So I'm going to say it was
4 probably I think around -- I think, I think around 2012, I think,
5 best of my knowledge.

6 Q. Did he -- when he -- when you hired him, did he already have
7 his passenger endorsement? You know, had he already been running
8 school --

9 A. Oh, yeah. Well, you got to have that.

10 Q. So aside from him running the tractor-trailer, did he work
11 prior to that for the school system, do you think? Do you
12 remember?

13 A. Not to my knowledge. I don't think so. Do you know who will
14 have that information, sir?

15 Q. Who?

16 A. Baltimore City Transportation will have that.

17 MR. TATES: They don't have it?

18 MR. FOX: No. We're trying to piece it together, yeah.

19 RICHARD: Yeah, Baltimore Transportation Department?

20 Baltimore School Bus Transportation?

21 BY MR. FOX:

22 Q. Yeah, we're working on it. I mean, I've been over there,
23 but --

24 A. They should have it on their file (indiscernible) there. Oh,
25 but they (indiscernible). I don't know, yeah.

1 Q. All right.

2 A. But they have it all over there.

3 Q. All right, sir. All right. Well --

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. -- if you don't have the files, then I appreciate it. Do you
6 remember any -- oh.

7 DR. MARSHALL: I just wanted -- this Rafael Marshall with the
8 NTSB. You said that Mr. Chappell started in 2012. Do you know
9 when he terminated employment here, with C&T?

10 MR. TATES: Richard?

11 MR. CALLOWAY: I don't know where you guys were.

12 MR. FOX: Oh, oh, oh. Oh.

13 DR. MARSHALL: When did he leave C&T?

14 MR. CALLOWAY: Okay. Say that again, please. I don't --

15 MR. TATES: He want to know when did he leave? When did he
16 leave? When do you think he left?

17 MR. CALLOWAY: Oh, he left 2013. 2013.

18 DR. MARSHALL: Did he work with any other company while
19 working with C&T?

20 MR. CALLOWAY: To the best of my knowledge, I don't think so.

21 MR. TATES: I think he was working with us every day. He
22 worked every day. That guy worked every day until he -- until his
23 wife moved.

24 DR. MARSHALL: Until his wife moved?

25 MR. TATES: Yeah.

1 MR. FOX: Okay. You got anything else, Rafael, for Richard?

2 MR. CALLOWAY: Huh?

3 BY MR. FOX:

4 Q. Oh, sir, do you remember any -- did you remember any episode
5 with him with a medical condition while he was employed here?

6 A. While he was employed with C&T? No, not to my knowledge.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. Not to my knowledge, no.

9 Q. Yeah, so --

10 A. Everything, whatever happened, I would make sure Baltimore
11 City get a copy of most everything. That's why they may have
12 stuff, a copy of any -- with our audit and everything, because
13 they have, you know --

14 Q. Right.

15 A. They have a record over there.

16 Q. All right. Richard, we're going to let you go. You know,
17 the biggest thing is, you know, if you knew any outstanding items
18 with Mr. Chappell and if you had the paperwork. And if you do
19 have the paperwork, maybe you could give Mr. Tate a call back and
20 I'll come over here and get them, if you find them, by chance.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. That would be great.

23 A. (Indiscernible)

24 MR. FOX: Okay, sir. Thank you so much for your time.

25 MR. CALLOWAY: Okay. No problem. Okay.

1 MR. FOX: Okay. Bye-bye.

2 MR. TATES: Bye, Richard.

3 MR. CALLOWAY: Okay. I'll talk to you later. Bye-bye.

4 MR. TATES: Bye-bye.

5 (End of phone call.)

6 INTERVIEW OF CHARLES TATES (Cont.)

7 BY MR. FOX:

8 Q. All right. So, Mr. Tate --

9 A. I know this is getting to you, ain't it? Yeah.

10 Q. When you brought him on, you filled out all this kind of
11 paperwork --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- the city paperwork?

14 A. Yeah. That's what Richard said. Well, Richard did all that.
15 But Richard just said they put him on -- everything had to be
16 through the city, everything. We did everything through the city.
17 We wouldn't have put him on if he didn't have everything through
18 the city. And every year he was tested, too, through the city.
19 You know, you -- that's only way you can do anything.

20 Q. Certified and --

21 A. Yeah, had to be certified and everything.

22 Q. Right.

23 A. But like I said, he worked -- the guy worked every day until
24 he got -- until he had a transportation problem. That's -- I
25 could have -- I can't remember -- you know, people work every day,

1 they work every day. But, I mean, I didn't have no incidences
2 with that guys. But when he started having a transportation
3 problem, I guess -- because he couldn't come to work. He tried to
4 go back and forth to Columbia with a raggedy car and had to be to
5 work 6:00 in the morning. That's hard. You know what I mean?

6 Q. Yeah. It's difficult for a long-distance travel.

7 A. Yeah, for -- well, a raggedy car, yeah.

8 Q. Now can you recall or do you think that he may have been
9 associated with any other bus company in your memory, going
10 backwards in time?

11 A. I don't know. I heard he tried to fill applications out at
12 different companies. But I don't know. The only company I knew
13 about was my company, that's the only one. And this company,
14 because I work for these people right here. Because they gave me
15 a job after I lost my job. That's all it was. So I don't know
16 anything else.

17 Q. What car -- would you recall what kind of car he had at that
18 time?

19 A. No. It was a raggedy -- I don't know. It was a rag. It
20 didn't run every day, that's for sure. It was a rag. I think he
21 had --

22 (Phone ringing.)

23 MR. TATES: Let me (indiscernible) call for -- hold on.

24 Yes, sir?

25 MR. FOX: You (indiscernible)?

1 MR. TATES: I got a, I got a card from you. I got a card.

2 MR. FOX: All right. So at this point we're going to
3 conclude the interview, unless --

4 Mr. Tate, do you have anything else that you would like to
5 comment on?

6 MR. TATES: I don't have anything else, sir. I don't.

7 MR. FOX: All right. Well --

8 MR. TATES: I'm just sorry this happened. It was --

9 MR. FOX: We're sorry that we're meeting under such
10 circumstances. You have our business cards.

11 MR. TATES: Yes.

12 MR. FOX: You don't have a business card?

13 DR. MARSHALL: I ran out of --

14 MR. FOX: All right. Well, you can --

15 MR. TATES: Well, if Richard wants this, anyway, I guess
16 he'll call me back.

17 MR. FOX: Very good.

18 MR. TATES: If he wants the card.

19 MR. FOX: So you have our business -- I mean, our contact
20 information and if you happen to think of anything else going
21 backwards in time prior to your company, if you can recall, or if
22 you find that --

23 MR. TATES: Well, I wouldn't know about anything before our
24 company, you know, because Richard -- like Richard told you, he
25 hired. I wouldn't know about anything like that.

1 MR. FOX: Well, it might spark your interest and you might
2 find it and he may have it in a drawer and he doesn't realize.

3 MR. TATES: Okay.

4 MR. FOX: If he does -- if you do --

5 MR. TATES: If it comes up --

6 MR. FOX: -- please give me a call.

7 MR. TATES: -- I'll call you.

8 MR. FOX: So at this point we're going to conclude the
9 interview. Thank you so much, Mr. Tate. It's now 9:30 a.m.
10 This concludes the interview.

11 (Whereupon, at 9:30 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 Charles Bates and
 Richard Calloway

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.

Kay Maurer
Transcriber