Appendix G

Interview Transcript, Deputy Barry Ryan

Survival Factors Group Chairman's Factual Report

Metrolink train 111 Union Pacific train LOF 65-12 Los Angeles, California September 12, 2008 DCA-08-MR-009

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

Interview of: DEPUTY BARRY RYAN

Los Angeles, California

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: DANA SANZO

APPEARANCES:

DANA SANZO, Accident Investigator National Transportation Safety Board Washington, D.C. (202) 314-6534

JOHN QUINTANAR, Battalion Chief Los Angeles Fire Department Liaison with Metro Rail

JESUS OJEDA, Security Coordinator Metrolink Safety and Security Division

CARLOS TAPIA, Mechanical Equipment Inspector California Public Utilities Commission Railroad Operations Safety Branch

SGT. NINA SUTTER Sheriff's Department County of Los Angeles

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1 INTERVIEW

- MS. SANZO: My name is Dana Sanzo. I'm an
- 3 Investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board, and
- 4 today we're conducting an interview for Accident Number DCA-08-
- 5 MR-009, the collision of Metrolink train and UP train in Los
- 6 Angeles, California.
- 7 And if we can start by going around the room and
- 8 everyone stating their name and their organization.
- 9 DEP. RYAN: My name is Barry Ryan. I'm a Deputy
- 10 Sheriff with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and
- 11 I'm assigned to the Transit Services Bureau, North Division.
- MR. TAPIA: My name is Carlos Tapia. I'm a Motor
- 13 Power and Equipment Inspector for the California Public
- 14 Utilities Commission.
- 15 CHIEF QUINTANAR: My name is John Quintanar,
- 16 Battalion Chief, LA Fire. I'm assigned to Metro Rail as the
- 17 liaison officer, and I've been asked to participate in the
- 18 investigation on the train crash with NTSB and the members here
- 19 conducting the interview.
- MR. OJEDA: My name is Jesus Ojeda. I'm the Security
- 21 Coordinator for Metrolink Safety and Security Division, also
- 22 assisting NTSB with the investigation.
- 23 SGT. SUTTER: I'm Nina Sutter, Sergeant with LA
- 24 County Sheriff's Department, assigned to Metrolink, currently
- 25 assisting with NTSB's investigation.

- 1 MS. SANZO: Thank you for being here today.
- 2 INTERVIEW OF DEPUTY BARRY RYAN
- 3 BY MS. SANZO:
- 4 O. And if we could just start by telling us when you
- 5 were first notified and just take us through the afternoon.
- 6 A. Okay. Basically I was assigned -- I was working
- 7 overtime. I was assigned to the Orange Line, Unit 670 King 1,
- 8 and was currently northbound on Canoga, I want to say probably
- 9 a half mile south of Division 6, or no, I'm sorry, Division 8.
- 10 I can't remember -- I don't know what street that is, just
- 11 south of there, but when I heard the initial call go out that
- 12 there was a train versus car, the initial call that came out
- 13 over our radio dispatch. And they were asking units, you know,
- 14 ETAs and Code 3. There was a slight pause there. Nobody
- 15 answered because a lot of people didn't hear it. I got on the
- 16 radio and said, you know, 670 King 1, I can be there in
- 17 probably 2 to 3, but I got cut off. There was so much radio
- 18 traffic. So basically I responded northbound Canoga, made the
- 19 turn, got to Owensmouth and went northbound Owensmouth until it
- 20 dead ends into -- I'm not sure of the street, Lark Ellen or
- 21 Ellen Court or something of that nature. When I got to that
- 22 street, there was already a paramedic unit and a fire unit that
- 23 was still rolling Code 3 northbound on that street. We got to
- 24 the dead end. I exited the radio car. We ran through I
- 25 believe one or two front yards and maybe a rear yard at the

- 1 house, and someone had cut the fence, a hole in the fence, just
- 2 adjacent, west of the tracks. When I got to the fence, I
- 3 looked over. There were a couple of firemen that were
- 4 deploying hoses. The fire was still going on, on the train.
- 5 There were numerous people running around yelling and
- 6 screaming, people that were injured. They were yelling for us
- 7 to get down to help them. Basically we jumped through the
- 8 fence. Little did I know that it was a three or four foot
- 9 drop. At the time I didn't know it was there. We just jumped
- 10 through the fence and landed on the ground. I believe it was a
- 11 passenger or maybe it might have been a resident who was
- 12 already up on the berm came halfway down and grabbed my hand
- 13 and pulled me up the berm because it was -- the track berm was
- 14 kind of steep. The first thing I saw was obviously the first
- 15 car laying on its side, and I could see what appeared to be
- 16 freight cars and a freight engine in front of that. At that
- 17 time, I didn't know that there was another engine embedded into
- 18 the car. It just looked like a regular car from one of the
- 19 Metrolink. So at that point, my attention was drawn to the
- 20 rear door, which was now sideways, and there was a guy that
- 21 seemed like he was trying to get out through that rear door and
- 22 he was hollering and screaming, couldn't figure out, you know,
- 23 where he was injured, but obviously he was having a hard time
- 24 getting out. So I ran over to the door and I pulled him out of
- 25 the train, and at that point, I saw that he had a lot of blood

- 1 on his legs and had trouble walking. I turned around and
- 2 handed him to a fireman. I don't know who it was. I just know
- 3 that he was in turnout gear, and then we heard some other
- 4 individual yelling. So we -- I went around to the side of the
- 5 train and looked up into the train. Now, looking up into the
- 6 upper section of the train, and I saw two people. One was a
- 7 young gentleman, Hispanic male, pinned. It looked like he was
- 8 pinned between two cars or two seats, and he was hollering and
- 9 yelling, and then there was another man that was bleeding from
- 10 a head wound and he was making his way, it looked like down
- 11 from the stairwell from the lower level. So again, all of a
- 12 sudden out of nowhere, a fireman showed up, and we pulled him
- 13 out of the train and handed him off to another fireman. So I
- 14 went around to the back, back door because I couldn't get up in
- 15 the train from that, from that angle. I went around to the
- 16 back door, and somebody handed me a fire extinguisher and said,
- 17 hey, there's a fire in the front of the train. Well, I knew,
- 18 you know, a fire extinguisher is not going to do much for that.
- 19 So I dropped it and I crawled into the back door of the train.
- 20 By that time, there was a fireman trying to extricate the guy
- 21 that was pinned, and then there was another fireman that had
- 22 made his way up on top of the train and was coming down through
- 23 that rear entrance, exit door. I crawled up in there, and then
- 24 there were numerous fatalities in that section of the train.
- 25 We did hear somebody moaning, couldn't figure out where that

- 1 was coming from. We thought it might have been somebody
- 2 outside the train, but with all the noise and the confusion,
- 3 and we had helicopters and people hollering and screaming and
- 4 saws going, and it was kind of confusing at that point. So
- 5 there was one fireman there, an older gentleman. He turned to
- 6 me and he says, hey, you know, we need to start clearing this
- 7 debris out. We've got some people in here we think are alive.
- 8 So we started -- I started digging stuff out, you know, pieces
- 9 of fiberglass, seat cushions, things of that nature, and he
- 10 noticed I didn't have any gloves on. So he handed me some
- 11 gloves, he said, here, put some gloves on. So I put some latex
- 12 gloves on, and he pulled out, I want to say it was an older
- 13 gentleman or heavy-set gentleman, tried to pull him out. So we
- 14 tried to pull him, but he was stuck. We couldn't get him out.
- 15 There was a black female that was obviously -- she looked like
- 16 she was dead. She had a big huge wound on her leg. She was
- 17 stuck. There was a Hispanic female, long black curly hair, she
- 18 was sitting in an upright position and she was dead. There was
- 19 another younger kid, I'd say real young boy, probably in his
- 20 teens, early twenties, that was actually upside down, hanging
- 21 down, and fire -- one of the firemen reached down in there and
- 22 tried to get a pulse from him. While all this was going on,
- 23 all of a sudden some guy that had blood all over him, and I
- 24 don't know if he was injured. There was a -- somebody tapped
- 25 me on the back of my shirt and said, hey, I need some help. I

- 1 turned around, and there was a gentleman in there who was just
- 2 covered in blood from his head down to his chest, and I didn't
- 3 know whether he was injured or he was somebody helping out and
- 4 got blood off somebody else. But I said, well, you need to get
- 5 down, you know, through that window. And so he crawled -- I
- 6 assisted him, crawled him down or assisted him, getting him to
- 7 go down through that window and he left. I never saw him
- 8 again. I don't know who -- I don't even know if he was one of
- 9 the injured passengers. He was a civilian. He didn't have a
- 10 uniform on. At that point, the firemen started showing up.
- 11 They started -- one handed me a sawzall, a circular saw,
- 12 through the window. I grabbed that. There were two or three
- 13 pry bars that were in there, and it was really super -- and the
- 14 one thing I noticed, it was so hot, hot, and we were all about
- 15 ready to pass out. We were just dripping in sweat. So at that
- 16 point, I was just -- we were -- the fireman that was down in
- 17 that -- it was in the lower level but which was above us, was
- 18 handing me just debris and we -- and I was throwing it in the
- 19 back. At that point, Deputy Giddons (ph.) and Deputy Guerrero
- 20 showed up, and they came to the back of the door, and they
- 21 said, hey, can we, can we help, and I said get in here. We
- 22 need to clear this debris out, and we kind of formed -- I was
- 23 up in the front with the two firemen. At this point, they were
- 24 still working on the kid that was trapped between the two
- 25 seats. He was creating such a fuss that one of the fireman was

- 1 having trouble calming him down, and they were trying to get
- 2 that circular saw to cut the bolts, to get the chair off of his
- 3 legs. At some point in time, they freed him. I had left
- 4 there. I stopped looking down that way and had went back up to
- 5 where the lower compartment was, where most of the bodies were.
- 6 They tried to, I think it was another circular saw, a smaller
- 7 saw, they tried to cut through it, and I guess the battery went
- 8 dead on it. So they handed it back to me. I laid it back in
- 9 the back. Then they needed a pry bar. So I was basically at
- 10 that point assisting them with tools back and forth. At one
- 11 point, they did extract a female, and again, it was a black
- 12 female. I don't know if she was alive or dead, but they put
- 13 her on a flat board but they couldn't tie her down. So at that
- 14 point, Deputy Lynch and Deputy Brad Johnson showed up, and they
- 15 entered the train, and basically we just handed them down -- me
- 16 and the fireman in the small compartment handed -- me and Billy
- 17 Lynch, the flat board, I guess that's what you'd call it, with
- 18 the victim on it, to us, and we rotated it down, handed it to
- 19 the deputies and then they passed it out through the back door.
- 20 And we did this I think three different times. The last one
- 21 was actually somebody that was alive because he was the one
- 22 that Billy Lynch heard moaning. We were assisting the fire
- 23 department, and all of a sudden Billy Lynch is, hey, I think
- 24 there's somebody alive down there. There's somebody moaning,
- 25 and one of the fireman said, I don't think anybody else is

- 1 alive in this compartment, and then an older fireman, he was
- 2 like in charge, he was kind of ramrodding the whole operation
- 3 in there, he was digging around, and he goes, no, I think we've
- 4 got a live one, and he started pulling people off, and they
- 5 couldn't get to that person because there was another gentleman
- 6 and another lady on top of him. And so they had to extricate
- 7 them, and they put them on some ropes or some type of harness
- 8 and they lifted them up through the top door with the fire
- 9 ladders. And then we were able to get this gentleman out, and
- 10 he was definitely alive because he was moaning and hollering,
- 11 and they put him on the backboard and we basically took him out
- 12 through the back of the train. And I basically stayed in there
- 13 until search and rescue showed up. Search and rescue people
- 14 were showing up, and me and Billy Lynch stayed up in the front.
- 15 The one thing that I asked for when I was in the train was for
- 16 bottled water. I could see everybody was getting dehydrated.
- 17 People were having a hard time. One of the fireman said, hey,
- 18 I can't work in here with my oxygen bottle. So I grabbed it
- 19 off his shoulders, took it off, and laid it down behind him,
- 20 took of his helmet and basically was assisting him in any way I
- 21 could so he could move around because it was kind of tight
- 22 quarters in there. At that point, a female CHP officer showed
- 23 up with case of bottled water, and she just basically threw it
- 24 in the back of the train, and I started grabbing water and
- 25 handing it to the firemen who were trying to extricate these

- 1 people. And I stayed in there probably another -- at the time
- 2 I thought it was only maybe 45 minutes, but I've since been
- 3 told that I was in there for like 3 1/2, 4 hours. So at that
- 4 point, the search and rescue guys came in, and they said you're
- 5 looking kind of peaked, you know, you need to get out of here
- 6 and get some water in you. And so I basically exited the
- 7 train. A lot of confusion, a lot of blood, a lot of body, you
- 8 know, body tissue and it was just -- I got such tunnel vision.
- 9 I was trying to help the firefighters to do what they had to
- 10 do, and then once I got off the train, I went and got some
- 11 water, rehydrated, and then we went around to the front of the
- 12 train and assisted firemen taking debris out, and then that's
- 13 when one of the -- later on, that's when one of the firemen, he
- 14 passed out or they lowered him down the ladder, give him some
- 15 water. And at that point we just, we basically stood by. One
- 16 of the firemen wanted to, you know, check my finger because I
- 17 cut my finger on the -- some of the debris, and I told him to
- 18 get away, you know, it's no big deal. So -- and at that point,
- 19 we stayed there until we were relieved, and that was probably,
- 20 I don't know, 7:00, 8:00 that night.
- 21 MS. SANZO: I'd like to ask the team members for
- 22 questions and, Sergeant, you can go first for any follow-up
- 23 questions.
- SGT. SUTTER: Mr. Ojeda, why don't you go ahead.
- 25 BY MR. OJEDA:

- 1 O. I have a question for you. Being that you were one
- 2 of the first ones there, did you at anytime or do you know if
- 3 anyone thought about shutting down the railroad, making that
- 4 call to secure, make sure no other trains come into the area?
- 5 Do you know if anyone --
- 6 A. I, you know, my first thing -- I don't remember
- 7 really talking to anybody or hearing anybody, just a lot of
- 8 people screaming and hollering. The first thing I did when I
- 9 got there was put out a radio transmission that we had a head-
- 10 on collision, that there was an active fire at the engine -- at
- 11 both -- at the engine. At the time, I only thought there was
- 12 one engine because I'm familiar Metrolink. Sometimes they push
- 13 and pull, and I thought this was a push because I only saw the
- 14 main car and then the engine, the freight engine there.
- 15 didn't actually see the Metrolink engine. Later on, once I got
- 16 in the train, I realized that the Metrolink engine was actually
- 17 in the car, but when I got there, the first three things that I
- 18 saw was the firemen deploying the hoses, getting ready to put
- 19 out that fire because it was still going, there was still a lot
- 20 of smoke, and then the passenger helping me up the berm and
- 21 then the guy sticking halfway out through the back door of the
- 22 train. And those are the very first three things I did, and
- 23 once we pulled that guy out of the back of the train, and I
- 24 went around the front, I started putting out more broadcasts
- 25 that we needed at least 10 or 12 more units here that -- and

- 1 then I eventually, because they kept asking me questions over
- 2 the radio, and while I was trying to talk in the radio, I was
- 3 having people hand me stuff, and that other gentleman was
- 4 trying to come out through the door or down through the
- 5 stairwell and he was all bloody, and I eventually advised my
- 6 dispatch, look, I can't talk no more. I've got to get off the
- 7 radio, you know, and at that point, I had no further
- 8 communication with anybody outside the train until I got pulled
- 9 out of there.
- 10 BY SGT. SUTTER:
- 11 O. Did you contact the conductor? Did you see the
- 12 conductor?
- 13 A. I never saw the conductor.
- Q. Did you see the deputy, Ebbert (ph.)?
- 15 A. No. Apparently -- when I was in the train and I was
- 16 looking out through the back door, I did see a deputy, but I
- 17 don't know if it was Ebbert coming from the third or second
- 18 train. There was a lot of people still coming out of the two
- 19 trains, the two cars behind the main train, behind the man car
- 20 but they were all walking, and I saw a fireman jump in one of
- 21 those trains and I saw another uniformed personnel, I don't
- 22 know who it was, I don't know if it was a fireman or if it was
- 23 a paramedic, they were jumping in that training and people
- 24 seemed like they were coming off the train on their own. So my
- 25 concentration was that first train because I could hear people

- 1 and see people trying to get out, and I could see the fire. So
- 2 I figured, okay, that's the priority to get to. And once I got
- 3 in the train, I have, I have really no clue what went on
- 4 outside.
- 5 MR. OJEDA: Thank you.
- 6 BY CHIEF QUINTANAR:
- 7 Q. Deputy, did you -- when you arrived on scene, you
- 8 mentioned that when you were dispatched, you went to a train
- 9 versus car, and then we call a size up, when you get on the
- 10 scene.
- 11 A. Right.
- 12 Q. It sounds like you did that, right?
- 13 A. Uh-huh.
- 0. What did you say? I'm just curious. What did you
- 15 say? Derailed car, what --
- 16 A. The first problem I had was that for some reason, the
- 17 radio traffic, we went to what we call the patch, which
- 18 basically allows everybody to hear everybody talk as opposed to
- 19 going through the dispatcher. Basically the first thing I
- 20 said, you know, we've got a major train derailment, a head-on
- 21 collision, it looks like with another train and, you know, it's
- 22 obvious when two are facing the -- and I said we've got an
- 23 active fire, and we've got numerous injured, and we've got some
- 24 -- I don't believe I mentioned the fact that anybody was dead,
- 25 but I said we've got numerous victims, both outside the train

- 1 and trapped inside the train. And then that was probably over
- 2 a period of maybe a minute or so I made those transmissions. I
- 3 didn't make them all at the same time. I was just too busy
- 4 trying to talk to people and cutting in and out of the radio,
- 5 but the big thing that I saw the fire, and when I saw the fire,
- 6 I said, okay, don't know, don't know where it's coming from. I
- 7 just see flames and a lot of smoke, and at that point, it was
- 8 coming through the whole train. I mean, it was coming out even
- 9 the rear door of that car, not thick, but just enough where it
- 10 was a haze, and then I saw a fireman go in there. So I
- 11 followed right after him, it wasn't really my part, but, you
- 12 know, you get tunnel vision, and at the moment you don't think
- 13 of those things, at least I didn't.
- Q. Did you call for that -- I know that helicopter, your
- 15 large helicopter got there really quickly and started moving
- 16 people.
- 17 A. No. That was later on. I --
- 18 Q. No.
- 19 A. No, it wasn't me.
- Q. Okay. You said you didn't see the deputy that was on
- 21 the train?
- 22 A. No.
- Q. Okay. The berm, you call the berm, that area.
- A. Uh-huh.
- Q. We were told that there was possibly a passenger that

- 1 was thrown. Were you aware of that?
- 2 A. No. No. Where I came through was, there was a
- 3 fence, there was a brick wall, and then there was a chain link
- 4 fence, and somebody had cut a hole in the fence and parted it,
- 5 and then once you got through the fence, there was like maybe a
- 6 four or five foot drop down to the ground, and then there was
- 7 like a gully, and then the berm started up toward where the
- 8 track was, and that dirt was all loose and, and, you know, it
- 9 was hard to get footing, and that's when the passenger, I know
- 10 it was passenger because he had, he had a train pass hanging
- 11 off his, off his collar, you know, kind of like the sling, and
- 12 I -- when he reached down, it hit me in the face. So I knew, I
- 13 knew it was a passenger from the train. He said, hey, get up
- 14 here. There's people trapped in the train. There's, you know,
- 15 people dying. So he grabbed my hand and basically helped pull
- 16 me up, and that's when I went right to the front car. Once I
- 17 got up to the top of the berm is when I started making my radio
- 18 transmissions but, you know, I was so out of breath trying to
- 19 get -- once I had gotten there and, you know, the adrenaline I
- 20 guess was pumping, I had to my transmissions, you know, a
- 21 couple of seconds and then stop, a couple of seconds and stop
- 22 again. So --
- Q. You mentioned that when you first came in, did you
- 24 make an attempt to observe the two other cars or you just went
- 25 for the, you went for the --

- 1 A. I looked back and I saw that the two other cars were
- 2 separated from the other car, and when I looked through that
- 3 door, I saw people exiting out of the train. But I made no
- 4 attempt to go back to those two cars. I went forward to the
- 5 first car. I looked back, and from what I could see, you know,
- 6 people were getting off the train on their own, and the cars
- 7 both looked intact. So I'm assuming they were probably injured
- 8 in those trains, but from what -- I made the decision,
- 9 conscious decision to go for the first train because that guy
- 10 was hanging out that door and I, you know, I didn't know
- 11 whether the car was on fire or what. I just saw the smoke. So
- 12 I grabbed him. And then I just focused on that first train.
- 0. Did you notice if there was power on that train?
- 14 A. I don't believe so. I don't believe I heard any
- 15 engines or any power whatsoever.
- 16 Q. Okay. And you mentioned the four additional deputies
- 17 that assisted you.
- 18 A. Uh-huh.
- 19 O. What was the timeframe on that? Five minutes, ten
- 20 minutes, two and two came.
- 21 A. In all estimation, I must have been in the train by
- 22 myself with the fireman probably for a good I want to say 20,
- 23 25 minutes before the deputies started showing up, and then the
- 24 first deputies that showed up was Giddons and Guerrero, and I
- 25 said, look, you guys need to get in here. We need to get all

- 1 this debris out of here, and I remember a fireman passing some
- 2 tools to one of the deputies, and he passed it to another
- 3 deputy, and then I grabbed it and handed it to the fireman.
- 4 And then Lynch and Brad Johnson showed up, and then Lynch told
- 5 me, he says, hey, dude, you look peaked. You need to get out
- 6 of the train, and I told him no, just get up here, grab some of
- 7 that water that was by the train and bring it up here, not just
- 8 for me but for the firemen. And then we just concentrated on
- 9 trying to get all the debris to take people out.
- 10 Q. What's your first name again?
- 11 A. Barry, B A R R Y.
- 12 O. MYERS.
- 13 A. R Y A N is my last name, first name Barry.
- Q. Oh, Ryan. I'm sorry. By the way, we interviewed a
- 15 chief officer that was -- he was the operations chief, and he
- 16 spoke very highly of you and appreciated the work you did with
- 17 us. Thank you very much.
- 18 A. Yeah, you know, it's just -- I, you know, I could see
- 19 those guys were just busting their rear ends trying to get at
- 20 those people, you know, and there wasn't enough personnel.
- 21 That first two or three or four minutes that we were in there,
- 22 there just wasn't enough people in there to help out. So, you
- 23 know, I figured what the heck, I might as well get in there and
- 24 -- and then the gear. That one fireman, he was having such a
- 25 hard time maneuvering around, and he said I've got to take this

- 1 bottle off. So I grabbed it and he said just let it drop, and
- 2 I go, no, I'm not going to let it drop because you might need
- 3 it again because we didn't think the fire was out. So I
- 4 grabbed it, and I just set it right there and held onto it and
- 5 then held onto him because his angle, where he was trying to
- 6 get down, he could have fell through. So I'm trying to hold
- 7 onto him. Now, I don't know if he needed that or not but --
- 8 and then that kid was trapped in those -- between those two
- 9 seats and he was just creating such a ruckus, and then he says,
- 10 you know, this guy's going to be all right. Go upstairs and
- 11 see what they -- you can do up there. So I went up and started
- 12 dealing with the people that were already deceased and some of
- 13 the ones that were trapped up there. So --
- 14 CHIEF QUINTANAR: That's all I have.
- 15 BY MR. TAPIA:
- Q. When you're going to a patch for all to hear, was
- 17 that one frequency?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. As opposed to when you said that you received a
- 20 notice that it was a train versus a car and you were on the
- 21 radio and was cut off.
- 22 A. Right.
- Q. That's a different frequency?
- 24 A. No. It's the same frequency. The dispatch or our
- 25 SRC, our radio communication center has an ability to patch in

- 1 everybody, open up the frequency and patch in everybody. When
- 2 the frequency is not on the patch, it's, it's radio car to SRC
- 3 or SEC. You can only talk to the dispatch. So she's relaying
- 4 information back and forth to you. When they go on the patch,
- 5 you're able to talk to everybody.
- 6 Q. Okay.
- 7 A. So it's like an open mic. It's an open communication
- 8 to everyone, and the initial call came out through out
- 9 dispatch. They dispatched it. They hadn't gone to patch at
- 10 that time. The only -- I think they went on the patch.
- 11 Somebody put us on the patch right before I got there because
- 12 when I got out of the car, they asked me if I was 97, and then
- 13 I heard deputies talking, which usually means that we're on the
- 14 patch, and I told them that I was, you know, 97 and I was at
- 15 the location and to stand by, and then that's when I got to
- 16 where the train was.
- 17 BY SGT. SUTTER:
- 18 Q. Did you hear Deputy Ebbert's transmission?
- 19 A. I heard just a little bit of it. I think he's the
- 20 one that put out initially that he thought they'd hit a car,
- 21 and then he put out something that the train had derailed, but
- 22 that's all I could make out. I wasn't focused. I mean, I knew
- 23 there was somebody -- I knew there was a deputy there. I
- 24 didn't realize a passenger on the train. So when I got there,
- 25 you know, somebody -- I looked back, and I didn't see any

- 1 deputies, and then that's when the person coming out of that
- 2 back door all bloody got my attention. So I figured, you know,
- 3 let's get to him first because obviously the deputy's
- 4 transmitting, I'm on the radio, he must be somewhat okay.
- 5 Later we found out that he was seriously injured, but I never
- 6 saw him at the scene, at least up front.
- 7 MR. TAPIA: The only other thing I would say is that
- 8 I hear on TV Arnold, the Governor, and other people saying
- 9 thanks for all the help, for all the things that you did and
- 10 participating in this interview, I see what they're saying.
- 11 You guys did, I don't know how to say it, a fantastic job.
- 12 THE WITNESS: Yeah, we were talking about it earlier
- 13 today about, you know, we didn't realize -- I didn't realize
- 14 how long I was in that car, and neither did Brad Johnson and
- 15 all the rest of them. I mean, you know, they said that we were
- 16 in there for four, close to five hours, and I'm thinking, man,
- 17 it only seemed like we were in there for an hour and a half,
- 18 you know, just time goes by real quick. So, you know, it's --
- 19 I was -- if I may add this, I was one of the first deputies on
- 20 the scene in the Glendale crash. So this is like déjà vu to
- 21 me, you know, and fortunately that crash wasn't as serious as
- 22 this one as far as, you know, people losing their lives and
- 23 such but, you know, I mean we're going up that berm, and in the
- 24 back of my mind I'm thinking, here we go again. And, you know,
- 25 it was -- because from what we had heard, you know, on the

- 1 radio it was a train versus car, but when I got there, I went
- 2 no, it ain't a train versus car, it's train versus railroad,
- 3 you know, car maybe but not a regular car. So -- and then like
- 4 I said, once we were relieved, Sergeant Sutter came and got us
- 5 and we went and had to brief our command staff, and then we had
- 6 to stick around for a while, and then I didn't get sent home
- 7 until like 1:00 or 2:00 that morning because I assume they were
- 8 going to interview, it was soon afterwards that people wanted
- 9 to talk to us, but then they went ahead and let me go. So --
- 10 and I just returned back to work today.
- 11 MR. TAPIA: That's all I have.
- MR. OJEDA: That's all I have.
- MS. SANZO: Thank you very much for participating in
- 14 this interview. It will be extremely helpful to us --
- THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.
- MS. SANZO: -- in our investigation. That will
- 17 conclude the interview.
- 18 (Whereupon, the interview in the above-entitled
- 19 matter 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: HEAD-ON COLLISION OF A METROLINK

COMMUTER TRAIN WITH A UNION

PACIFIC FREIGHT TRAIN September 12, 2008, Los Angeles, California

Interview of Deputy Barry Ryan

DOCKET NUMBER: DCA-08-MR-009

PLACE: Los Angeles, California

DATE: September 16, 2008

was held according to the record, and that this is the original, complete, true and accurate transcript which has been compared to the recording accomplished at the hearing.

Kathryn A. Mirfin Transcriber