

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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WMATA INCIDENT AT L'ENFANT PLAZA  
STATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.  
JANUARY 12, 2015

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\* Docket No.: DCA-15-FR-004

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\* \* \* \* \*

Central Control - Ext 12062

Monday,  
January 12, 2015

R E C O R D I N G

1

(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 14:33:40)

2

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(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 14:35:22)

4

(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 14:39:31)

5

CENTRAL CONTROL: Central, Williams.

6

CENTRAL CONTROL 1: You know what I was thinking.

7

CENTRAL CONTROL: What was you thinking?

8

CENTRAL CONTROL 1: This home meal prep thing for a bunch of people, it's not going to be conducive to what I have going on in my life right now as far as -- because I'm thinking last night, all that time I took cooking, I could have been --

12

CENTRAL CONTROL: You're not helping me, you know.

13

CENTRAL CONTROL 1: Huh?

14

CENTRAL CONTROL: You're really going to be helping me, huh? And I really been tired.

16

CENTRAL CONTROL 1: No, that's not what I was going to say.

18

CENTRAL CONTROL: (Indiscernible).

19

CENTRAL CONTROL 1: Because you not planning properly doesn't mean I'm supposed to drop --

21

CENTRAL CONTROL: Not at all.

22

CENTRAL CONTROL 1: I didn't do anything for myself as far as reading.

24

CENTRAL CONTROL: Hold on. Fire equipment, (indiscernible) next train, track number 1, next train, track 1.

25

1 (indiscernible).

2 CENTRAL CONTROL 1: And that's bad especially I have a  
3 certain time to get this done and to study --

4 CENTRAL CONTROL: Um-hum.

5 CENTRAL CONTROL 1: -- in order to pass the test, and  
6 only those days I can't do it.

7 CENTRAL CONTROL: Um-hum.

8 CENTRAL CONTROL 1: I don't have a lot of time.

9 CENTRAL CONTROL: Um-hum.

10 CENTRAL CONTROL 1: But the meal prep stuff, like got  
11 me --

12 CENTRAL CONTROL: I keep telling you, and I'm going to  
13 tell you right now, another thing I noticed. I'm a man  
14 (indiscernible) going to do it. Coby's not going to do it.

15 CENTRAL CONTROL 1: Not going to do what?

16 CENTRAL CONTROL: Coby's not going to give you no money.

17 CENTRAL CONTROL 1: I know. And I'm not feeding them.  
18 They're (indiscernible).

19 CENTRAL CONTROL: He might -- he going to give you  
20 money.

21 CENTRAL CONTROL 1: Yeah, he tried to give me \$20 and I  
22 was like, I was like, hold onto that. We trying to figure  
23 something out.

24 CENTRAL CONTROL: (Indiscernible), but I don't know  
25 (indiscernible).

1           CENTRAL CONTROL 1: He's not. He's a freeloader.

2           CENTRAL CONTROL: So -- you been able to help me vastly  
3 even though -- but, you know what? That's not going to happen any  
4 more. I'm going to be ahead of the game.

5           CENTRAL CONTROL 1: Yeah, (indiscernible) --

6           CENTRAL CONTROL: I'm going to stop my (indiscernible)  
7 today. I've got a paper --

8           CENTRAL CONTROL 1: You know, you said that prior to you  
9 starting and then you still fell on hard ground --

10          CENTRAL CONTROL: You know what? Hold on. Hold on.

11   \* \* \*

12          CENTRAL CONTROL: Central, Williams.

13          CENTRAL CONTROL 1: I'm still here. (Singing)

14          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Central (indiscernible) drop back  
15 here (indiscernible).

16          CENTRAL CONTROL 1: Drop back, sir, at west side. All  
17 Yellow Lines drop back at west side. Yellow Line trains will  
18 clear the (indiscernible).

19          CENTRAL CONTROL: What's up?

20          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hey, Playboy. 059 looking for a  
21 purple wallet, track 2, Woodley Park.

22          CENTRAL CONTROL 1: Yeah, me being a team player, I only  
23 play for one team, actually one and a half now, you being the  
24 half. So everybody else, I'm just not interested.

25          CENTRAL CONTROL: I think you need to get a gym

1 membership.

2           CENTRAL CONTROL 1: Yeah, so you don't have to get up  
3 and -- yeah.

4           CENTRAL CONTROL: You need you a membership. But  
5 besides that, you know, yesterday really made me feel like  
6 (indiscernible), and number 2, I didn't even like how -- I tried  
7 to look at the paper today. I ain't like how it flow.

8           CENTRAL CONTROL 1: You know, it's funny, I can only  
9 correct what you've already written. I don't know what's in your  
10 head. So it's hard for me to rewrite for you.

11           CENTRAL CONTROL: I know that.

12           CENTRAL CONTROL 1: That's what makes it difficult.

13           CENTRAL CONTROL: Um-hum. Like I got a paper due what?  
14 Sunday or next Sunday.

15           CENTRAL CONTROL 1: Did you submit it already?

16           CENTRAL CONTROL: Yeah, I already did but I got papers  
17 due. So what I'm going to do is I'm going to start writing it  
18 now.

19           CENTRAL CONTROL 1: If you start writing it now, I can  
20 look at it when you're done. I mean even if you don't need me  
21 to --

22           CENTRAL CONTROL: Yeah.

23           CENTRAL CONTROL 1: -- that's fine. Just start writing  
24 it ahead of time.

25           CENTRAL CONTROL: I guess. I got you.

1 CENTRAL CONTROL 1: Bye.

2 CENTRAL CONTROL: Bye.

3 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 14:50:55)**

4 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 14:58:49)**

5 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 15:07:17)**

6 CENTRAL CONTROL: Central, (Indiscernible).

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (indiscernible) red signal  
8 (indiscernible) Greenbelt.

9 CENTRAL CONTROL: Train 302, approaching Gallery Place,  
10 track 2.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) 302.

12 CENTRAL CONTROL: 302, approach to L'Enfant. Approach  
13 to L'Enfant. I need a track inspection into Archives, track  
14 inspection into L'Enfant please. Report there's smoke coming up  
15 in the interlocking. Again, perform a track inspection, approach  
16 to L'Enfant (indiscernible).

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Central Control, be advised, I  
18 was just getting ready to contact you. Chain marker T2014+00,  
19 track 2 --

20 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 15:10:37)**

21 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 15:11:14)**

22 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 15:12:52)**

23 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 15:28:41)**

24 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 15:32:45)**

25 HUNTINGTON: Huntington, Fairmont.

1           CENTRAL CONTROL: Hi, do no dispatch no more Yellow Line  
2 trains, all right.

3           HUNTINGTON: Yeah, you already told me that.

4           CENTRAL CONTROL: Thank you.

5           HUNTINGTON: You're welcome.

6           **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 15:33:00)**

7           GREENBELT: Greenbelt, (Indiscernible).

8           CENTRAL CONTROL: Do not dispatch any more trains.

9           GREENBELT: I'm not.

10          CENTRAL CONTROL: Thank you.

11          GREENBELT: Okay.

12          **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 15:36:49)**

13          **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 15:43:24)**

14          **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 15:44:36)**

15          CENTRAL CONTROL: (Indiscernible) Central.

16          ENGINE 18: Yeah, this is Engine 18. We're at -- track  
17 number is (indiscernible). Is (indiscernible) confirmed now?

18          CENTRAL CONTROL: Smoke, hold on (indiscernible).

19          **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 15:47:05)**

20          **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 15:48:56)**

21          **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 15:52:00)**

22          **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 15:53:21)**

23          **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 15:54:43)**

24          (Phone ringing)

25          **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 15:54:59)**

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What's your ATA, bro?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm on my way back. I'll be  
4 there in about 30 minutes.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All right.

7 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 15:58:08)**

8 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:03:39)**

9 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:04:03)**

10 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:05:33)**

11 (Phone ringing)

12 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:06:14)**

13 GREENBELT: Greenbelt, Atkinson (ph.).

14 CENTRAL CONTROL: Who telling you to dispatch?

15 GREENBELT: The control. She just told me to send one  
16 train out.

17 CENTRAL CONTROL: Okay.

18 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:07:40)**

19 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:08:09)**

20 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:11:46)**

21 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:26:29)**

22 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:35:21)**

23 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:41:17)**

24 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:43:03)**



1 (Phone ringing)

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is Herc (ph.) in his office?

3 (Phone ringing)

4 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:43:18)**

5 MS. LEE: Good afternoon, Road Transportation. Mr.  
6 Ballard's office.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, Herc in, Ms. Lee.

8 MS. LEE: Yes, he is. He's on another call.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I know. Tell him I'm on hold.  
10 It's about the incident.

11 MS. LEE: Okay. Hold on.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

13 MS. LEE: Delphin (ph.), he's going to call you on his  
14 cell -- on your cell.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Shoot, I'm on the doggone cell on  
16 a call. Okay. No problem. Whatever you want to do.

17 MS. LEE: Yes, he's on a conference call.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you give him a message?

19 MS. LEE: Sure.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just tell him I wanted to know if  
21 Darvin Kelly (ph.) can e-mail us the photos of the incident.

22 MS. LEE: If Darvin can e-mail the photos of the  
23 incident?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

25 MS. LEE: Okay.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

2 MS. LEE: All right.

3 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:50:25)**

4 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:52:03)**

5 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:52:48)**

6 (Phone ringing)

7 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:53:00)**

8 HUNTINGTON: Huntington, Fairmont.

9 CENTRAL CONTROL: Hey, Fairmont. This is White. Can  
10 you give me the operator's information on that 302. I think it's  
11 -- I have it written down as Bulyon Bembe (ph.). Is that right?

12 HUNTINGTON: Oh, I don't know because I don't know -- he  
13 was gone before I got here. You know what time?

14 CENTRAL CONTROL: It was at 15:08. That's the train  
15 that went down at L'Enfant.

16 HUNTINGTON: (Indiscernible). Okay. Let me see.

17 CENTRAL CONTROL: The ID number is 302 at 3:08.

18 HUNTINGTON: Okay. Let's see. That would have been --  
19 I don't know. 02, 03, 302. It says Jonathan (indiscernible)  
20 Sorrell.

21 CENTRAL CONTROL: It was (indiscernible).

22 HUNTINGTON: Sorrell took it out, and it must be -- I  
23 don't know, Darling. I can't answer that because I don't, I don't  
24 understand his handwriting and I don't know what was going on.  
25 It's either someone by the name of Adams. No, it can't be him. I

1 don't know who it was. You have to give me a few minutes. Let me  
2 try to do some investigating.

3 CENTRAL CONTROL: Call me back.

4 HUNTINGTON: Okay.

5 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:54:08)**

6 (Phone ringing)

7 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:54:22)**

8 MR. WASHINGTON: (Indiscernible), Washington.

9 CENTRAL CONTROL: Hey, Washington, it's White. What's  
10 up? I know, I know, I know. I don't know what that's for.

11 MR. WASHINGTON: Yeah, it's just -- it's a lot going on.

12 Actually, I'm getting ready to leave. So you might want me to  
13 give --

14 CENTRAL CONTROL: No, no, no, no. Before you leave,  
15 find out who 509 is that came out earlier at 15:09, right? Who  
16 was the operator?

17 MR. WASHINGTON: Who was 1509? Let me see.

18 CENTRAL CONTROL: No, that was the time. The ID is 509.

19 MR. WASHINGTON: The time is 15:09.

20 CENTRAL CONTROL: 3, 3 --

21 MR. WASHINGTON: Okay. 3-0 --

22 CENTRAL CONTROL: that 509, that was Anacostia. I told  
23 him to stop at -- the switch (indiscernible). I need his  
24 information.

25 MR. WASHINGTON: Oh, that was a lady.

1           CENTRAL CONTROL: No, that was a man. 503 was a lady.  
2 509 was a man.

3           MR. WASHINGTON: Oh. It was Thompson.

4           CENTRAL CONTROL: Thompson. What's his first initial?

5           MR. WASHINGTON: Why you sound like that?

6 (Indiscernible) --

7           CENTRAL CONTROL: It's just a lot going on. No, it's  
8 just a lot going on.

9           MR. WASHINGTON: Okay. Hold on. I'll give it to you.

10          CENTRAL CONTROL: All right.

11          MR. WASHINGTON: Hang in there, hear. You hear me.

12          CENTRAL CONTROL: Yeah.

13          MR. WASHINGTON: Let me see. Thompson -- do you know  
14 Thompson's first initial, the -- shoot. You know the Thompson  
15 that kind of float, he got a mental problem.

16          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

17          MR. WASHINGTON: Oh, wow. Okay. Hold on a second.

18          CENTRAL CONTROL: All right.

19          MR. WASHINGTON: Hold on.

20          CENTRAL CONTROL: All right.

21                           \* \* \*

22          CENTRAL CONTROL: Central, White.

23          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi, Ms. White. Mr. James it  
24 sounded like, Operator C. James.

25          CENTRAL CONTROL: Where originally is he out of on his

1 payroll?

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Alexandria Payroll. [REDACTED].

3 I think that's right. Don't quote me on that one.

4 CENTRAL CONTROL: It's going to have to do for now.

5 Thanks, (indiscernible).

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. You're welcome.

7 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:56:04)**

8 CENTRAL CONTROL: Central, White.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi, Ms. White. It's Mr. James it  
10 sounded like, Operator C. James.

11 CENTRAL CONTROL: Where originally is he out of on his  
12 payroll?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Alexandria Payroll. [REDACTED].

14 I think that's right. Don't quote me on that one.

15 CENTRAL CONTROL: It's going to have to do for now.

16 Thanks, (indiscernible).

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. You're welcome.

18 CENTRAL CONTROL: Hello.

19 (Phone ringing)

20 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:56:35)**

21 MR. WASHINGTON: I lost you.

22 CENTRAL CONTROL: Yeah, my fault. I had to click over  
23 to the next line.

24 MR. WASHINGTON: That's okay. [REDACTED]. He's out of  
25 Greenbelt.

1 CENTRAL CONTROL: And what's his first initial?

2 MR. WASHINGTON: S as in Sam.

3 CENTRAL CONTROL: Sam. Thank you.

4 MR. WASHINGTON: You're welcome.

5 CENTRAL CONTROL: All right. Bye.

6 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 16:57:27)**

7 CENTRAL CONTROL: (Indiscernible) ready to go.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Roger.

9 CENTRAL CONTROL: He walking across the room saying Ms.  
10 White, you were good but, Sam, I need you.

11 MR. WASHINGTON: Hello.

12 CENTRAL CONTROL: Yeah. I need 508 also  
13 (indiscernible).

14 MR. WASHINGTON: At what time?

15 CENTRAL CONTROL: He came out probably like at 1450  
16 something, because he was at Mount Vernon. He was the one that  
17 initially called about the smoke. Thank you.

18 MR. WASHINGTON: Okay. 643.

19 CENTRAL CONTROL: Um-hum.

20 MR. WASHINGTON: 973.

21 CENTRAL CONTROL: Who's that?

22 MR. WASHINGTON: Mohammed.

23 CENTRAL CONTROL: First initial.

24 MR. WASHINGTON: B as in --

25 CENTRAL CONTROL: Division.

1 MR. WASHINGTON: B as in boy.

2 CENTRAL CONTROL: Division.

3 MR. WASHINGTON: Branch.

4 CENTRAL CONTROL: All right. Thanks.

5 MR. WASHINGTON: You're welcome.

6 CENTRAL CONTROL: All right.

7 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 17:15:58)**

8 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 17:24:25)**

9 GREENBELT: Greenbelt, Atkinson.

10 CENTRAL CONTROL: Give me one minute. You see how many  
11 trains we got between Greenbelt and Mount Vernon.

12 GREENBELT: Uh-huh. She getting ready to leave right  
13 now.

14 CENTRAL CONTROL: Okay. Give me like every seven  
15 minutes.

16 GREENBELT: Okay.

17 CENTRAL CONTROL: Because we got to, you know, get some  
18 of the people down and then turn and come back.

19 GREENBELT: Okay.

20 CENTRAL CONTROL: Thank you, bro.

21 GREENBELT: All right.

22 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 17:26:05)**

23 GREENBELT: Greenbelt.

24 CENTRAL CONTROL: Yeah, Atkinson.

25 GREENBELT: Yes, sir.

1           CENTRAL CONTROL: Release that train, release the next  
2 one in four minutes.

3           GREENBELT: Okay.

4           CENTRAL CONTROL: As soon as that one get the cars  
5 parked, release the next one.

6           GREENBELT: Okay.

7           **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 17:28:23)**

8           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We've got three ready to move.

9           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) block --

10          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What's up, brother? What's up?  
11 Give me one.

12          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you want them now?

13          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Give me one. What's up, man?

14          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hey, man.

15          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We just trying -- everybody's,  
16 everybody's trying to come back to (indiscernible). So we can  
17 push them on down and turn around but one at Anacostia. Every  
18 seven minutes.

19          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, they told me 10. You want  
20 to go to seven now?

21          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, seven, seven, look like we  
22 can do that. We can handle seven because we don't got but two,  
23 four -- we got six.

24          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Six trains out, yeah. I can pull  
25 one.



1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Huh? Don't do that.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible). You got about  
3 six. All right. Okay.

4 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 17:31:18)**

5 GREENBELT: Greenbelt, Atkinson.

6 CENTRAL CONTROL: All right. I need you to release some  
7 more trains.

8 GREENBELT: Okay.

9 CENTRAL CONTROL: Bring a couple of more out the yard,  
10 too.

11 GREENBELT: Okay.

12 CENTRAL CONTROL: All right.

13 GREENBELT: All right.

14 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 17:33:13)**

15 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 17:33:58)**

16 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 17:42:02)**

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Are they six minutes now? Six or  
19 seven, six or seven minutes?

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He told me four.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Four for that first one because  
22 the other one was sitting there forever.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh. Okay. (Indiscernible).

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. You want me to slow down a  
25 little bit?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, seven minutes.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Because he told me --

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, because you held the other  
4 one for so long, the space was so large.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I had said seven. I know what he  
6 had told you, the wanted we wanted to get to Gallery.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, okay.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So, yeah.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you all want more trains out  
10 of the yard?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, no, no, no. We don't need  
12 nothing.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All we doing is circling the  
15 wagons right now.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All right.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All right. Sound good.

19 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 18:03:50)**

20 **(Talking clock: Monday, January 12, 2015, 18:09:17)**

21 (End of recording)

22

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           WMATA INCIDENT AT L'ENFANT PLAZA  
                                  STATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.  
                                  January 12, 2015  
                                  Central Control - Ext 12062

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-15-FR-004

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.

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Kathryn A. Mirfin  
Transcriber