

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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 IN RE: :
 :
 THE HEAD-ON COLLISION : NTSB Accident No.
 THAT OCCURRED NEAR : DCA16FR008
 PANHANDLE, TEXAS ON :
 JUNE 28, 2016 :
 :
 :
 ----- :

Interview of: MYKA GUANA

July, 2016

Panhandle, Texas

BEFORE:

TOMAS TORRES, NTSB
 AARON RATLEDGE, BNSF
 STEVE DUPONT, FRA
 RAFAEL MARSHALL, NTSB
 CHRIS MARTINEZ, FRA

This transcript was produced from audio provided by the National Transportation Safety Board.

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 (Time not disclosed)

3 MR. TORRES: My name's Tomas Torres, with
4 the NTSB. T-O-M-A-S, T-O-R-R-E-S.

5 MR. MARSHALL: I'm Rafael Marshall. I'm
6 also with the NTSB. It's R-A-F-A-E-L, M-A-R-S-H-A-L-L.

7 MR. MARTINEZ: Chris Martinez with the
8 Federal Railroad Association C-H-R-I-S, M-A-R-T-I-N-E-
9 Z.

10 MR. DUPONT: Steve Dupont, with Federal
11 Railroad Association. S-T-E-V-E, D-U-P-O-N-T.

12 AARON RATLEDGE, My name is Aaron Ratledge,
13 with the BNSF Railway. A-A-R-O-N, R-A-T-L-E-D-G-E.

14 MS. GAUNA: Myka Gauna. M-Y-K-A, G-A-U-N-A

15 MR. TORRES: Okay, Myka. This is informal,
16 okay? It's not a -- it's an informal interview so if
17 you could please tell us, the day of the incident,
18 anything that you can recall, you know, what you were
19 doing, you know, if you explain to us.

20 MS. GAUNA: I was sitting in my livingroom
21 when I heard a, it sounded like a airplane coming over
22 my house. And I ran out to the back door and I just
23 saw smoke and the box cars piling on top of each other.
24 And then it sounded like explosions and there just was
25 more fire, and more fire, and we called 911 and watched

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1 it until emergency personnel got here.

2 MR. TORRES: Yes. So you called 911?

3 MS. GAUNA: Yes.

4 MR. TORRES: Did they answer?

5 MS. GAUNA: Yes. My mom was here also, and
6 she called and they answered her phone call. It was
7 busy when I called.

8 MR. TORRES: Okay. When you heard those
9 sounds what did it sound like? Impact? Or was it
10 screeching?

11 MS. GAUNA: It was screeching.

12 MR. TORRES: And then --

13 MS. GAUNA: It was a screeching and then
14 like a buzzing, I would say. It sounded like an
15 airplane had -- it was right over my house, is the best
16 way to describe it, and then impact.

17 MR. TORRES: Okay. Where did the screeching
18 come from? What direction?

19 MS. GAUNA: South, southeast of my house.

20 MR. TORRES: That way? Is that where you --

21 MS. GAUNA: No.

22 MR. RATLEDGE: In front of the house so,
23 yes, I mean --

24 MR. TORRES: How many, okay, so if you're
25 looking at your house, did the screeching come from --

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1 MS. GAUNA: It was --

2 MR. TORRES: Here or --

3 MS. GAUNA: Yes, it was almost directly
4 behind my house is where I heard it.

5 MR. TORRES: That's where you heard the
6 screeching?

7 MS. GAUNA: Yes.

8 MR. TORRES: Before the impact?

9 MS. GAUNA: I think so.

10 MR. TORRES: And then you heard like a
11 buzzing sound?

12 MS. GAUNA: Yes. Yes, sir.

13 MR. TORRES: And then when you came out, you
14 heard the sound, you came -- were you inside?

15 MS. GAUNA: Yes.

16 MR. TORRES: And you came out and --

17 MS. GAUNA: Yes.

18 MR. TORRES: And then you saw -- what did
19 you see?

20 MS. GAUNA: It was, I just saw the box cars
21 piling on top of each other. I couldn't -- I didn't
22 see either engine. I thought it had derailed because I
23 couldn't see an engine in the middle.

24 I just saw box car on top of box car. And
25 they just started crumbling.

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1 MR. TORRES: Was it slow or --

2 MS. GAUNA: No.

3 MR. TORRES: I mean, did it happen like real
4 quick or was it kind of a --

5 MS. GAUNA: I don't know what would be slow
6 or fast. I could see them piling on top of each other,
7 so it wasn't very quickly but it wasn't like it was in
8 slow motion either.

9 MR. TORRES: But you could see the sequence
10 of events --

11 MS. GAUNA: Yes.

12 MR. TORRES: -- unrolling?

13 MS. GAUNA: Yes. I could see them falling
14 and, like I said, by the time I got out there, I never
15 saw an engine.

16 MR. TORRES: And did you see, did it burst
17 into flames right away or?

18 MS. GAUNA: Not immediately, probably a
19 minute maybe, I would say, and then it, you would see a
20 flame and then it was almost like another box car would
21 explode is the best -- what we thought it was. I don't
22 know if that's what it was because then there would
23 just be another loud pop and another flame. And then
24 it would just -- it just grew.

25 MR. MARTINEZ: Chris Martinez, FRA. Do

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1 youhave -- you said you called 911?

2 MS. GAUNA: Yes.

3 MR. MARTINEZ: Do you still have that on
4 your phone, the time that you tried to call?

5 MS. GAUNA: I don't have -- it's -- I left
6 my phone with my kid.

7 MR. MARTINEZ: (Inaudible). Okay.

8 MS. GAUNA: But it would, still should be on
9 there.

10 MR. MARTINEZ: Okay.

11 MS. GAUNA: Whenever we, like I can show it
12 to you or check.

13 MR. MARTINEZ: Before the crash, before the
14 noise you heard, of course, you're pretty close to the
15 railroad tracks so I'm sure -- I live one block away,
16 so I'm sure you hear them all night long, all day long.

17 Did you hear the train coming from the west
18 to the east, the one coming directly behind your house.
19 Did you hear a noise sort of crossing track down here?
20 Did you hear any of that process?

21 MS. GAUNA: They're so normal to us, I don't
22 even notice them.

23 MR. MARTINEZ: Right.

24 MS. GAUNA: So I couldn't tell you one way
25 or the other.

1 MR. MARTINEZ: Okay. Okay.

2 MS. GAUNA: I mean, I pay them no mind
3 anymore.

4 MR. MARTINEZ: Right. When you walked out
5 and you saw everything coming together, did you see
6 anybody coming from the crash?

7 MS. GAUNA: No, I didn't.

8 MR. MARTINEZ: In other words, one of the
9 people?

10 MS. GAUNA: I didn't.

11 MR. MARTINEZ: No?

12 MS. GAUNA: I saw it happening and I ran
13 back inside and got my phone and came back outside.
14 And I told my mom, she was in there holding my baby,
15 and I said, there was a train wreck. Call 911. And I
16 started calling and she started calling.

17 MR. MARTINEZ: Did someone around your area
18 video? Did you video?

19 MS. GAUNA: I did not.

20 MR. MARTINEZ: You didn't?

21 MS. GAUNA: Somebody vidoe'd it from the
22 other side. There's an RV park over there.

23 MR. MARTINEZ: Okay.

24 MS. GAUNA: I did not video it though.

25 MR. MARTINEZ: Okay.

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1 MS. GAUNA: I called 911.

2 MR. MARTINEZ: All right. Thank you. That's
3 all I have.

4 MR. DUPONMR. TORRES: I don't have any
5 questions.

6 MR. TORRES: You didn't hear the other train?

7 MS. GAUNA: I don't think I did. But this
8 one would have been the one I heard, right directly
9 behind my house, so.

10 MR. MARSHALL: This is Rafael Marshall with
11 NTSB. Were there other witnesses around you at that
12 time?

13 MS. GAUNA: I didn't see anybody else
14 outside whenever I went out. Like I said, my mom was
15 there, but I went in and got her. And by the time she
16 came back out there were no -- it was already piled up
17 and --

18 MR. MARSHALL: Yes.

19 MS. GAUNA: -- the train had stopped, I
20 guess.

21 MR. MARSHALL: Okay.

22 MR. TORRES: This is Tomas with the NTSB.
23 After you called 911, how quickly did the emergency
24 personnel show up? I mean, was it --

25 MS. GAUNA: I'd say approximately less than

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1 five minutes, so they were pretty quick, by the time I
2 heard the sirens. I don't -- they went to the highway
3 side first because I could hear them and I could see
4 the sirens on the other side. So less than five
5 minutes to the time I heard the sirens.

6 So, and then they came to my side after
7 that. That was within a couple minutes after that.

8 MR. TORRES: Chris? I don't have any more
9 questions myself. But if you know of somebody who
10 might have seen it too from the south corridor side --

11 MR. MARTINEZ: You do want to get that time
12 off of her --

13 MR. GAUNA: I'll get that.

14 MR. TORRES: Oh, that's right. Well, we
15 need to get your phone.

16 MS. GAUNA: Oh, you called me.

17 MR. GAUNA: Right. And 8:21 is when I
18 called her, right before, right when she said the train
19 is crashing. So --

20 MS. GAUNA: I should -- sorry, it's my son.

21 MR. GAUNA: Hello?

22 MR. TORRES: So --

23 MS. GAUNA: So it was approximately that
24 time, but I can check on my phone --

25 MR. GAUNA: Yes.

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1 MS. GAUNA: -- when I get there.

2 MR. GAUNA: What's up?

3 MS. GAUNA: So.

4 MR. TORRES: Okay. Yes, we'll take a look
5 at your phone and we appreciate it. Actually, thank
6 you for giving us your time.

7 MR. DUPONT: Yes, thank you.

8 MS. GAUNA: No problem.

9 MR. DUPONT: Thank you very much. You've
10 been a big help.

11 MR. TORRES: Because every little bit helps.

12 MR. DUPONT: Sure does.

13 MS. GAUNA: Okay.

14 MR. TORRES: So we'll go back and if you
15 could show us your phone --

16 MS. GAUNA: No problem.

17 MR. TORRES: Your log, we appreciate it.

18 MS. GAUNA: Okay.

19 MR. TORRES: Thank you.

20 MR. GAUNA: I would not want you all's job.

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went
22 off the record at an undisclosed time.)

23

24

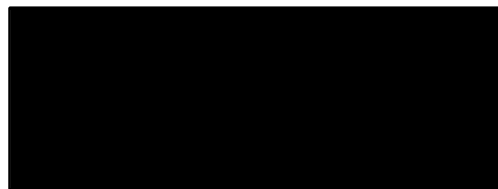
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C E R T I F I C A T E

MATTER: Head-on Collision that Occurred
Near Panhandle, TX on June 28, 2016
Accident No. DCA16FR008
Interview of Myka Guana

DATE: July, 2016

I hereby certify that the attached transcription of page 1 to 11 inclusive are to the best of my professional ability a true, accurate, and complete record of the above referenced proceedings as contained on the provided audio recording; further that I am neither counsel for, nor related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action in which this proceeding has taken place; and further that I am not financially nor otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.



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