



**SURVIVAL FACTORS ATTACHMENT**

**NTSB Interviews of Bus Passengers**

**Williamsburg, VA**

**HWY23MH004**

(96 pages)

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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FATAL TWO-VEHICLE CRASH IN YORK  
COUNTY NEAR NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA  
ON DECEMBER 16, 2022

Accident No.: HWY23MH004

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Interview of: ANTONIO HARDEE

Riverside Regional Medical Center  
Newport News, Virginia

Saturday,  
December 17, 2022

APPEARANCES:

TOM BARTH, Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

JASON ZEITLER  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

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Interview of Antonio Hardee:

By Mr. Barth

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I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. BARTH: The thing is if it's okay, we'd like to record  
3 the conversation because it helps us to make sure we have accurate  
4 notes. Is that okay?

5 MR. HARDEE: Okay.

INTERVIEW OF ANTONIO HARDEE

7 BY MR. BARTH:

8 Q. Okay. So, yeah, if you could just if you can describe kind  
9 of like the first time you remember something, like, when did you  
10 realize that something was wrong and, and what do you remember  
11 about the crash

12 A. You talking now or (indiscernible) is it recording now?

13 Q. Did you start? Yeah, it is.

14 A. Okay. What I do, do I remember, I remember going to the  
15 event, and we didn't even go to the event. I know we went to I  
16 guess it was (indiscernible) and --

17 Q. So this is before you left for --

18 A. Yeah, yeah.

19 Q. -- the home trip, you guys had skipped the event event?

20 A. This is, this is way before the accident happened.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. (Indiscernible). I remember, I remember, like, just  
23 -- because it was a long ride, and I remember my sister saying,  
24 oh, yeah, we like a hour 30 minutes away when we got down there  
25 almost 30 minutes away, I think. And probably like maybe 10

1 minutes after (indiscernible). She was, like you like 30 minutes  
2 away. It's like all I, all I remember is, I looked at my phone a  
3 few times that night, and all I remember, man, is just -- I  
4 believe, I believe (indiscernible). All I remember is  
5 (indiscernible) flipping over. It was like lights flashing before  
6 my eyes, and the whole bus just turned over, right? It was  
7 like --

8 Q. How did you know it flipped over? Did you feel yourself get  
9 thrown in the air? Did you -- what do you remember about that?

10 A. I felt like, like, I blacked out, but I felt movement at the  
11 same time. So when I got up, I was on the ground. When I got up,  
12 like, they showed me before and after pictures. My, my whole  
13 ground, like, the whole, my whole (indiscernible) leaking blood.  
14 It was like leaking blood.

15 Q. And so what you're saying --

16 A. It wasn't ain't nothing break or nothing like, but, but it  
17 was like --

18 Q. Just really scraped up?

19 A. It was like deep, deep (indiscernible) pain.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And he had a lot of skin  
21 (indiscernible).

22 BY MR. BARTH:

23 Q. Your whole back and everything?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. And did you -- so when you say the ground, do you remember

1 where you ended up? Like were you on the -- in the middle of the  
2 highway, on the side?

3 A. Well, I notice on the side it was a big hole beside --

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A ditch.

5 BY MR. BARTH:

6 Q. A big hole beside you?

7 A. Like a big, like a real, real big hole, and I remember me  
8 seeing the (indiscernible).

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It was a ditch.

10 BY MR. BARTH:

11 Q. A ditch?

12 A. Right. I was -- I remember seeing the 18-wheeler in the  
13 ditch. I remember seeing the bus just all into pieces, but I was  
14 like beside the ditch.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. Like luckily I felt like I supposed to have been in the  
17 ditch, but I was --

18 Q. Yeah. So you were beside the ditch but still on the highway?

19 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

20 Q. Okay. And so when -- so you wake up. Were you knocked  
21 unconscious at some point then?

22 A. I believe I could have been unconscious maybe for a minute or  
23 two, but I, I got up. I walked real slowly try to see whoever was  
24 around. I ran into her. I ran into my cousin. I ran into a few  
25 other, a few other people that I knew. So but I was walking, I



1 was walking very slowly because I still had nerve pain going on.

2 I was trying to register what was going on.

3 Q. Right. And then what do you remember? What happened after  
4 that?

5 A. I just remember talking to (indiscernible) you need help. I  
6 remember her getting -- I remember her getting the ambulance  
7 people. Getting to go back to the (indiscernible). I mean --

8 Q. Did they, did they, like guide you over to an area where  
9 there were other injured or did they --

10 A. Yeah. It was a lot of injured people.

11 Q. Uh-huh.

12 A. Yeah. It was a lot of injured people.

13 Q. And did they, did they put you on a stretcher or --

14 A. Yeah. They put me on a stretcher.

15 Q. And then into an ambulance?

16 A. Um-hmm.

17 Q. Okay. And then the ambulance took -- where did they take  
18 you? Did they take you straight here or somewhere else?

19 A. Ambulance took me straight here, but I was, I was in the  
20 ambulance probably like five, about five, minutes six minutes.  
21 They gave me (indiscernible) and stuff like that. Made sure I was  
22 okay, and then told me (indiscernible).

23 Q. Okay. And they took you alone in that ambulance?

24 A. Um-hmm.

25 Q. Okay. Right before the crash happened were you -- you were

1 awake you said, right?

2 A. Yeah, I was awake.

3 Q. Okay. Let's see what else did I -- anything else? I'm  
4 trying to remember. Do you know -- you were really helpful with  
5 -- she was helping us set up kind of where everybody was seated in  
6 the bus.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I forgot (indiscernible).

8 MR. HARDEE: I was in the back.

9 BY MR. BARTH:

10 Q. Can you see where you were in the back?

11 (Crosstalk)

12 A. Yeah, that's exactly where I was at.

13 Q. Okay.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who was in that --

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What was that?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who was sitting besides them?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Who (indiscernible).

19 MR. HARDEE: I don't remember.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're the buddy.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No. He never (indiscernible).

22 MR. HARDEE: Oh, the other (indiscernible).

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who was sitting --

24 MR. HARDEE: It was a girl.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Simone.

1 MR. HARDEE: Simone, yeah.

2 BY MR. BARTH:

3 Q. So seated right here do you remember who that -- there was a,  
4 I think you said it was a, a boy. I thought you said --

5 A. That was they friend, that was they friend.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It was a friend.

7 MR. HARDEE: But she told you, right, that's exactly how  
8 (indiscernible).

9 BY MR. BARTH:

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. So this guy was -- what was his name?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I (indiscernible) don't know his name  
14 either.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, okay.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It was a friend that they brought with  
17 them.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

19 (Crosstalk)

20 BY MR. BARTH:

21 Q. Yeah, that's cool, yeah. And then these, and then these --  
22 there are two girls up here that you didn't know the name of. Do  
23 you happen to know either of those girls?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, the two girls --

25 MR. HARDEE: This was --

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He don't know the names  
2 (indiscernible).

3 MR. HARDEE: Yeah, I don't know.

4 MR. BARTH: Okay. Okay. Well, that's super helpful. I  
5 mean, you -- that's really great information. So okay. I can't  
6 think of anything else. If you -- if there's anything else you  
7 think you feel like is important or, or anything we should know  
8 about the crash --

9 MR. HARDEE: I definitely know that it wasn't the driver, our  
10 driver fault because our driver took us to a lot of places, and he  
11 never (indiscernible).

12 MR. BARTH: Okay. So you guys have used -- this family you  
13 have used this bus company before?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This bus company is my mom's business.

15 MR. BARTH: Okay, oh, that's right, right. Okay. And do you  
16 have any questions for us?

17 MR. HARDEE: No.

18 MR. BARTH: Okay. Thanks.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sorry?

21 (Crosstalk)

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, talked to a couple others.

23 MR. HARDEE: But, yeah, the seating plan and (indiscernible)  
24 that's exactly how the seating thing was.

25 MR. BARTH: You have a good memory, and she had it

1 (indiscernible).

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I was awake the whole time.

3 MR. BARTH: All right. Well, like we were saying I really am  
4 sorry this all happened to you guys, and we wish you the best on,  
5 on the recovering from it.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

7 MR. BARTH: And but we really appreciate you talking to us so  
8 that we can try to stop these things from happening in the future.  
9 So all right.

10 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

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NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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COUNTY NEAR NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA  
ON DECEMBER 16, 2022  
Interview of Antonio Hardee

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY23MH004

PLACE: Newport News, Virginia

DATE: December 17, 2022

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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Katherine Motley  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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FATAL TWO-VEHICLE CRASH IN YORK  
COUNTY NEAR NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA  
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Interview of: DARRELL MORGAN

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Interview of Darrell Morgan:

By Mr. Barth

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I N T E R V I E W

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2 MR. MORGAN: (Indiscernible) underground. That's all I have  
3 to tell you because we got -- I know we got hit. It happened too  
4 fast. So when we got hit that's when the bus split apart, like,  
5 at the same time.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's why I was, like --

7 MR. MORGAN: They was -- she was not -- I don't know if --  
8 (Crosstalk)

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- sleep. I was like (indiscernible).

10 MR. MORGAN: Yeah.

11 (Crosstalk)

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hit it too hard. It came apart.

13 MR. BARTH: So if it's okay with you, we'd like to record the  
14 conversation so that we can take -- that way we have accurate  
15 notes about -- and what we'll do is have you just describe what  
16 you remember from the crash.

17 MR. MORGAN: I don't remember much.

18 INTERVIEW OF DARRELL MORGAN

19 BY MR. BARTH:

20 Q. Like how you were seated and --

21 A. That's all I remember. That's all I remember, like me inside  
22 the --

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

24 Q. So were you --

25 A. I was the (indiscernible).

1 Q. So you were awake?

2 A. Yeah, I was awake, but it happened so fast, like, that's all  
3 I remember.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

5 A. I was (indiscernible) like being outside like that. I was  
6 just --

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

8 BY MR. BARTH:

9 Q. When is the first time you noticed something wrong? Was it  
10 movement of the bus or did you see --

11 A. When we got hit, when we got hit, that's when I knew -- or as  
12 soon we got hit that's when it happened.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He said how did you know what that be  
14 like? What did you feel like? You just, you saw the lights --

15 MR. MORGAN: We felt it from the back. We felt it from back,  
16 close from the back.

17 BY MR. BARTH:

18 Q. So you got -- the bus got hit from the back?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. So you got --

21 A. Yeah, that's how, yeah. The bus got hit. Yeah, that's how  
22 they lost their lives --

23 (Crosstalk)

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- sitting in the back.

25 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, they got -- they was sleep. So --

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

2 BY MR. BARTH:

3 Q. So after, after the bus, after you felt the truck hit from  
4 the back, what do you remember next?

5 A. Me flying out (indiscernible).

6 Q. Do you remember what you -- do you remember hitting a window  
7 or parts of the bus or the street or --

8 A. I do not remember. All I remember me -- I was on the ground,  
9 but I was (indiscernible) trying to get up make sure everybody  
10 else be good.

11 Q. So you -- so the next thing you know you're out on the  
12 ground. Were you on the -- do you remember where on the ground?  
13 Like on the side of the highway or the grass? You don't remember?

14 A. No. I really don't.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. That's somewhere I ain't like never been --

17 (Crosstalk)

18 MR. MORGAN: Really, it's like it happened in the middle of  
19 nowhere.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And we (indiscernible).

21 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, we got hit by, we got hit by --

22 (Crosstalk)

23 BY MR. BARTH:

24 Q. Okay. And then so, so you, so you find yourself on the  
25 ground. What did you do next?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

2 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I got up. I'm still off conscious thought  
3 a little bit trying to -- like trying to process everything --

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What just happened.

5 MR. MORGAN: -- like this actually really just happened.  
6 Yeah, then I just shook it off (indiscernible) I'm still hurting.  
7 I'm trying to make sure everybody else good like the elders and  
8 two adults (indiscernible) and a lady. Also the girl that's her  
9 mama.

10 BY MR. BARTH:

11 Q. So you feel like you were -- did you lose consciousness or --

12 A. A little bit. I kind of did.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think everybody from that --

14 MR. MORGAN: I kind of did.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

16 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I had --

17 (Crosstalk)

18 BY MR. BARTH:

19 Q. And then do you remember -- so after you kind of were  
20 checking on people did they -- what happened when the, when the  
21 emergency responders came?

22 A. I don't really know, man. Everything just -- I ain't going  
23 to say (indiscernible) just I don't really know.

24 Q. Do you remember if they put you in an ambulance?

25 A. Yeah, I, yeah, I was in the ambulance. Yeah, they put me in

1 a stretcher. Made sure her mama and other ones were  
2 (indiscernible) before anybody else get in the stretcher.

3 Q. So you made sure they were --

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He (indiscernible).

5 Q. -- taking other people in --

6 A. Before I get in, yeah (indiscernible).

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: After he got up trying to --

8 (Crosstalk)

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- my mama --

10 MR. MORGAN: Everybody was hurt.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Everybody be okay.

12 BY MR. BARTH:

13 Q. So they put you on a stretcher, and were you the only person  
14 in the ambulance that --

15 A. In that, in that ambulance, yeah. Because I think they had  
16 separated everybody. Some people got on the bus went to -- they  
17 said some of them were going to different, three different  
18 hospitals.

19 Q. Right.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) different hospitals.

21 Q. And where did you go first?

22 A. This hospital.

23 Q. This one? Came straight here?

24 A. Yeah, I came straight here.

25 Q. Can you give me like a, a short description of the types of

1 injuries you suffered?

2 A. My knee I think kind of like -- little blood clot whatever.  
3 I had to have surgery.

4 Q. So you had surgery on your knee?

5 A. Yeah (indiscernible).

6 Q. On your -- which knee? Left knee?

7 A. Yeah, left -- yeah, left knee. I had scraped  
8 (indiscernible).

9 Q. So basically scrapes and bruises and stuff on your hands,  
10 your head, and your legs too?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. I'm traumatized. I'm traumatized.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This is really --  
15 (Crosstalk)

16 MR. BARTH: Yeah, these are --

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- this is not -- or this was a  
18 failed --

19 MR. MORGAN: This is like some final destination --

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah (indiscernible).

21 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, final destination.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) blood and smoke  
23 coming, fire --

24 MR. BARTH: Usually if we're out investigating it's usually a  
25 bad event.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) vision out my head.  
2 It won't get out my head. Keeps playing back --

3 (Crosstalk)

4 MR. MORGAN: That's the second time, this the second -- my  
5 second time. I know I ain't got no choice to be --

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You (indiscernible) I'm glad. I'm  
7 glad he okay. (Indiscernible) be right back, okay?

8 BY MR. BARTH:

9 Q. You notice anything about the driver, about the trip, you  
10 know, like, was he driving well, was he --

11 A. Can't really see (indiscernible).

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, all that happened when we was,  
13 like, 20 minutes away from home, 30 minutes away from home. It  
14 was a normal ride, a ride, a normal ride there, a normal ride  
15 back. Towards the end (indiscernible) go home that's when it --

16 Q. Okay. Let me think. I'm going to try to think what else.  
17 Did you -- so we were trying to put together a, a list of where  
18 everybody was seated in the bus, and maybe actually your friend's  
19 helped us a bunch. Does this -- I'm looking -- do you happen to  
20 know, like, this is the -- where the driver is up here, and the  
21 stairs are over here, and then this is -- and you were seated,  
22 like -- got you in the right spot?

23 A. I'm way over there. I'm way over here.

24 Q. And do you know -- there were two girls seated over here?

25 A. Like close across from (indiscernible) my cousin across from



1 me right beside two girls, and they (indiscernible).

2 Q. Do you know who these -- any of these two girls? Like you,  
3 like you probably recognize these other names.

4 A. I don't, I don't really, I don't really know them. I just  
5 know my cousin (indiscernible) I didn't really know, I didn't  
6 really know all them.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. I'm not really sure.

9 Q. No problem.

10 A. I don't even know -- my cousins and the one that was  
11 (indiscernible).

12 Q. Okay. All right. Well, then do you have any -- I don't know  
13 if you have any questions for us.

14 A. I don't (indiscernible).

15 Q. It's so tragic. And we're really sorry about -- it's a  
16 terrible thing to have to go through.

17 A. I don't know if they (indiscernible). Was he the drunk  
18 driver, or he was sleep or what? Because it (indiscernible) for  
19 them to just roll over them like that that don't make sense.

20 Q. Yeah, yeah. All right. Well, we really appreciate you  
21 talking to us. Do you want to --

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. So I just want you to know that  
23 I (indiscernible) so I will, if you would like them, as we do our  
24 investigative updates and put out reports, I can send those to  
25 you. And I wanted to ask if you had (indiscernible)?

1 MR. MORGAN: (Indiscernible).

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is there -- you might get a new  
3 number, but would your e-mail change also? Is that something that  
4 I can reach out to you and send you things?

5 MR. MORGAN: (Indiscernible).

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can also send it to you by regular  
7 mail. You want to give me your home --

8 MR. MORGAN: (Indiscernible).

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 89 (indiscernible). And I'm really  
10 sorry for the loss that your family (indiscernible). Is there  
11 anyone in your family that would like to receive updates as well  
12 or your parents (indiscernible) know that you lost your brother.

13 MR. MORGAN: No (indiscernible).

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No one else. Okay. I just wanted to  
15 make sure. This is my contact information. When you do get a  
16 phone, if you want to reach out to me or e-mail me, and you can  
17 reach out to me that way (indiscernible). If I -- I think  
18 everybody is pretty connected.

19 MR. MORGAN: Yeah.

20 MR. BARTH: Is there somebody in the group that might be  
21 best? Like if I get contact information for the State Police  
22 they'll let you know who to get in touch with for your phone and  
23 your watch. Is it --

24 MR. MORGAN: My cousin (indiscernible).

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

1 MR. MORGAN: They (indiscernible).

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right. Okay. Okay. So if I get in  
3 touch with them, I'll be able to touch base with you?

4 MR. MORGAN: Yeah.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. I just want to give you that.  
6 Do you have any questions for me while I'm here?

7 MR. MORGAN: No, ma'am.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All right. I appreciate you taking  
9 the time. Thank you very much.

10 MR. BARTH: Wish you the best.

11 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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Interview of Darrell Morgan

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY23MH004

PLACE: Newport News, Virginia

DATE: December 17, 2022

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complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

  
Katherine Motley  
Transcriber

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FATAL TWO-VEHICLE CRASH IN YORK  
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ON DECEMBER 16, 2022

Accident No.: HWY23MH004

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Interview of: TYQUIRA ROGERS, Passenger  
CEESHA GIST, Passenger  
TANIJA FUTRELL, Passenger

Williamsburg, Virginia

Saturday,  
December 17, 2022

APPEARANCES:

TOM BARTH, Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

JASON ZEITLER, Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

JOHN HUMM, Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. BARTH: Okay. So we are at Riverside Regional Medical  
3 Center. My name is Tom Barth. And I'm speaking with Ms. Gist, or  
4 Gist? Sorry. And Ms. Rogers. Both passengers on the bus crash  
5 on I-64.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's her too.

7 MR. BARTH: Okay. And Ms. Futrell.

8 MS. FUTRELL: Hi, everyone.

9 MR. BARTH: So, I have, this is John and Jason. And they're  
10 in training, so, that's why we have so many people here. So, I  
11 asked if it was okay if that they came in.

12 And, so what I'd like to do first is just have each of you  
13 just describe what you remember from the crash. And if you have  
14 things that, you know, feel are important to like, when you, how  
15 you were treated in the medical response. How -- if you have  
16 information about when the crash happened, you know, how you got  
17 out of the bus, or if you were knocked unconscious, or if you were  
18 helped medically -- that kind of information is what I'm looking  
19 for.

20 INTERVIEW OF CEEASHA GIST, TANIJA FUTRELL & TYQUIRA ROGERS

21 MS. FUTRELL: You said, through the moment I went and got  
22 all -- what happened. Okay. So, what I do remember, I remember  
23 checking the GPS saying we're almost 30 minutes away from home.  
24 We'll get something to eat.

25 Then --

1 MR. BARTH: This is Ms. Futrell.

2 MS. FUTRELL: Yeah. Then, we was just driving and the bus  
3 went side to side and dark. Blackness. The lights on the bus had  
4 cut off. We got his from the side. And then once it got hit from  
5 the side, we got hit from the back. Once it got from the back,  
6 that was the worst part. I just remember falling down. It's  
7 dark. And rolling on the road. And when I looked up, I saw my  
8 friend, dead, right in front of me.

9 I saw her. She was standing, I was trying to go to her. I  
10 was calling my sister, Nonine (ph.).

11 MR. BARTH: So when's the first time you notice that  
12 something was wrong? You guys were going down the freeway, what's  
13 the first --

14 MS. FUTRELL: A lot of people was asleep. So, I was still  
15 up. The bus went side to side, like we was hit from the back or  
16 something.

17 MR. BARTH: So it just started moving side to side --

18 MS. FUTRELL: Yeah.

19 MR. BARTH: -- and that's when you realized --

20 MS. FUTRELL: When it moved side to side, I said what in the  
21 fuck, then boom. That's when it happened.

22 MR. BARTH: And then, after the crash -- so, during the  
23 crash, do you remember like, flying around the bus, or getting  
24 thrown outside of the bus?

25 MS. FUTRELL: Everybody got thrown out.



1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Some people got thrown out, some  
2 people was going through the bus, like, falling down.

3 I did too.

4 (Crosstalk)

5 MS. FUTRELL: I went through the bus.

6 MR. BARTH: What do you mean through the bus?

7 MS. FUTRELL: The bottom of the bus, I was falling through  
8 the roof.

9 (Crosstalk)

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The bus was breaking apart, we was  
11 going down. Some people flew out.

12 MR. BARTH: And then, after the -- so after the crash ended,  
13 do you remember, like, were you just on the side of the highway?

14 MS. FUTRELL: I was on the side of the highway.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I was still sliding.

16 MS. FUTRELL: I was rolling.

17 (Crosstalk)

18 MR. BARTH: So when you finally stopped, you were on the  
19 shoulder of the road?

20 MS. FUTRELL: Mm-hmm.

21 MR. BARTH: This is Ms. Futrell. And where did you end up,  
22 Ms. Gist?

23 MS. GIST: I was like on the side of the road.

24 MR. BARTH: Okay.

25 MS. GIST: And then, I was trying to -- I was looking at

1 everybody, I was trying to get up. But that's why I noticed my  
2 ankle's broken, I couldn't get up.

3 MR. BARTH: Okay. Which ankle did you break? Your -- is  
4 that your right?

5 MS. GIST: Right.

6 MR. BARTH: And then where did you end up?

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I ended up towards the middle of the  
8 street.

9 MR. BARTH: Right in the middle of the street?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. I -- the middle street, and  
11 landed and my arm. I seen a car, I had to hurry up and roll over  
12 towards the railing and stuff, where everybody was at. I almost  
13 got hit, again.

14 MR. BARTH: So you, yeah, you got yourself out of the middle  
15 of the street and over to where the rest of the people were?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. You were in the middle of the  
17 street and stuff?

18 MS. FUTRELL: Yeah. Like, two people was in the middle.  
19 That's was so -- because it was cars coming on the interstate  
20 like, -- that crash was just crazy. That's the worst it's been in  
21 my life.

22 MR. BARTH: Yeah. Yeah. I'm sorry you guys all had to go  
23 through it. It's difficult.

24 And, so, how long did it take for medical, like, what  
25 happened with the medical response?

1 MS. FUTRELL: They came like, 35 minutes.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They already know how they did.

3 MS. FUTRELL: They took, and then when they took us to  
4 hospital -- I don't like the way they put me on the x-ray table.  
5 They could've been better with it. -- ask me, why is y'all  
6 putting me on the x-ray table.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where you going there?

8 MS. FUTRELL: I'm going to step outside --

9 MR. BARTH: Yeah. It's up to you.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh. He's recording.

11 MR. BARTH: That's okay.

12 MS. GIST: And when we got hit by the bus, ain't nobody could  
13 find their phones.

14 MS. ROGERS: Yeah. My -- we had to jump down --  
15 Somebody gave my sister her phone, because all of our phones  
16 are scattered everywhere.

17 MS. GIST: Um-hmm.

18 MS. ROGERS: A lot of phones went dead.

19 MR. BARTH: Yeah. We'll try to get -- we'll try to  
20 coordinate as quick as we can, getting the personal possession  
21 back to you.

22 MS. GIST: Yes.

23 MS. ROGERS: We had to jump up and down in the middle of the  
24 road where the cars was coming. We tried to track it down.  
25 Somebody stopping.

1 MS. GIST: We was trying to wave at him, say call the  
2 ambulance.

3 MS. ROGERS: And we just looking up -- it was the accident,  
4 that you was like, oh my God.

5 MR. BARTH: So, you were obviously, taken off in an  
6 ambulance, correct?

7 MS. GIST: I was in a stretcher. I was the first person that  
8 it took.

9 MR. BARTH: Okay. Do you remember what kind of ambulance?  
10 Like, was it a fire department ambulance?

11 MS. GIST: It was a fire department ambulance. And when I  
12 tried to talk to them, because they tried to put a needle in my  
13 vein, but when you put needles in my vein, I never get blood out.  
14 So, I'm trying to tell him where. I'm like, just put it right  
15 here, because I always get veins, whenever I go to the doctor and  
16 they try to come right here, blood never comes out. So, and I  
17 didn't want to put a needle right there. He just said, we got it.  
18 They just took me. And then I was scared. Like I wanted somebody  
19 to come with me because I was like, so traumatized. I was sitting  
20 up watching all the trucks drive past, because I didn't want what  
21 just happened to happen again.

22 MR. BARTH: Right.

23 MS. GIST: So, I wouldn't sit back. And they kept telling me  
24 to sit back, I'm like, I'm not sitting back. I didn't even want  
25 to be in nothing, in the car, like, I didn't want to be in the

1 car. I still don't want to go in the car.

2 MS. FUTRELL: Yeah. It was traumatized. I said the same  
3 thing.

4 MS. GIST: I don't want to get back in no car. I don't mean  
5 no harm. I don't.

6 MR. BARTH: And then, were you alone in the ambulance?  
7 Or, -- do you remember, did they take directly to this hospital?  
8 Or, did you go to a different one first?

9 MS. FUTRELL: I went to Santara. Santara Williamsburg.

10 MR. BARTH: Santara.

11 MS. FUTRELL: And then they did my CT scan and they said it  
12 was bleeding in my brain. Because they can't treat stuff like  
13 that. So, that's when they brought me here.

14 MR. BARTH: Okay.

15 MS. FUTRELL: And, like, I set here for like three hours and  
16 that's when I got - I went into surgery. No, that's when they  
17 came and checked me and they said that a pulse was in my leg.  
18 They was like, we got to hurry up and do it because they want to  
19 just chop my leg off because it's no pulse. So they went ahead in  
20 surgery and then I got out. And they checked my CT scan and they  
21 like, alright, the bleed in her brain and it went down, so we  
22 don't got to do that. But, now I got to do another surgery.  
23 Because right now, I got just got plates and poles just outside my  
24 leg.

25 MR. BARTH: Have to fix that.

1 MS. FUTRELL: -- so bad, that they had to hurry up and do it.  
2 They couldn't do what they wanted to do, so they had to hurry up  
3 and do something. This is the something that they did.

4 MR. BARTH: Yeah.

5 MS. FUTRELL: So I can't unwrap this or nothing. And I've  
6 got to come back.

7 MR. BARTH: Yeah. Well, I hope you have a great recovery,  
8 it's a lot.

9 MS. FUTRELL: Thank you.

10 MR. BARTH: Lot of stuff. Lot of process.

11 So, right before -- let me ask you, so, you were taken to  
12 Santara and then transferred here. And then, how did you, were  
13 you -- did you go in one of the buses off the scene? Or how did  
14 you --

15 MS. ROGERS: I was on the bus.

16 MR. BARTH: Do you remember there were -- I think there were  
17 two buses that took people off. Do you remember if you were the  
18 first or second, or, maybe you don't know.

19 MS. ROGERS: No. I don't.

20 MR. BARTH: Okay. Do you know about how many people were on  
21 your bus?

22 MS. ROGERS: I want to say seven.

23 MR. BARTH: About seven. Okay.

24 MS. ROGERS: I don't know how many -- eight.

25 MR. BARTH: Okay. Seven or eight?

1 And where did they take you?

2 MS. ROGERS: We went to Santara Williamsburg.

3 MR. BARTH: You went to Santara.

4 MS. ROGERS: Mm-hmm.

5 MR. BARTH: And then, did they treat you there for -- what  
6 kinds of injuries did you have?

7 MS. ROGERS: I really had a whole lot of scars and just  
8 swelling.

9 MR. BARTH: So, just like, bumps and scrapes from the road?

10 MS. ROGERS: Yeah. Because they did everything, they did CAT  
11 scans and they did x-rays and all that. Wasn't nothing broken.

12 MR. BARTH: Okay. So, like bumps and scrapes on your legs?

13 MS. ROGERS: Yeah.

14 MR. BARTH: Your arms too?

15 MS. ROGERS: On one of my arms and my knees. And there was  
16 my stomach. Just pretty much sore.

17 MR. BARTH: So did they -- did you spend the night at the  
18 hospital, or did they just treat you and send?

19 MS. ROGERS: They treated me when I was down at the --

20 MR. BARTH: Okay. Do you guys remember what you were -- now  
21 I can't remember -- which ones were awake, or which ones were  
22 sleeping right before the crash happened.

23 MS. ROGERS: I was awake. Me and her was awake.

24 MR. BARTH: Okay. And then you were sleeping? Okay. So,  
25 Ms. Gist was sleeping and Ms. Rogers and Ms. Futrell were -- you

1 guys were awake?

2 MS. FUTRELL: Um-hmm.

3 MR. BARTH: Were you seated or standing, or where were you in  
4 the bus?

5 MS. ROGERS: We were seated.

6 MR. BARTH: Seated. Do you remember where in the bus? Like,  
7 kind of nearer the front, back, left or right side?

8 MS. ROGERS: I was near the front. I was near the front.

9 MR. BARTH: Do you remember which side?

10 MS. ROGERS: I was on, was that was the left side?

11 MS. FUTRELL: Yeah. That side. That side was the side  
12 was --

13 MS. ROGERS: So, I was on the left side. I was one of the  
14 second persons in the chair.

15 MR. BARTH: So the front, front left side?

16 MS. ROGERS: Yeah.

17 MR. BARTH: And it was one of the seats that was side facing?

18 MS. ROGERS: Right. Right. And there was a big space in the  
19 middle with two poles.

20 MR. BARTH: Okay.

21 MS. ROGERS: Yeah. I was on the left side. I was the second  
22 person in a chair.

23 MR. BARTH: Okay. Do you remember who was behind the driver?

24 MS. ROGERS: My sister, Ty'eisha.

25 MR. BARTH: What's her name?



1 MS. ROGERS: Tanasha --

2 MR. BARTH: What's here last name?

3 MS. ROGERS: Sprul.

4 MR. BARTH: How do you spell that?

5 MS. ROGERS: S-P-R-U-I-L-L.

6 MR. BARTH: Okay.

7 MS. ROGERS: She was asleep on me.

8 MR. BARTH: She was sleeping.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: First name is Ms. Futrell, then?

10 MS. ROGERS: No. No.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Or is it spelled differently?

12 MS. ROGERS: Hers is spelled way different.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh. Okay.

14 MS. ROGERS: I have a hard time spelling, Ms. Futrell knows  
15 how to spell it.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

17 MR. BARTH: And so, she must have been seated right behind  
18 the driver. And then, you were next to her.

19 MS. ROGERS: Right.

20 MR. BARTH: And then, who was on your right? Do you  
21 remember?

22 MS. ROGERS: -- next to me. You talking about who was next  
23 to me, beside me?

24 MR. BARTH: Yeah. On your right side.

25 MS. ROGERS: I don't know if it was a boy. That was a

1 friend, but I don't really know him.

2 MR. BARTH: Okay.

3 MS. ROGERS: So, I don't even know his name. I just know he  
4 was there. And beside him was my uncle, Germaine(ph.)Rogers.

5 MR. BARTH: Okay. And then, seated across from you. Do you  
6 remember who was seated over there?

7 MS. ROGERS: Across from me, right? In front of the like,  
8 the next -- from the right, right?

9 MR. BARTH: Yeah. So next to the staircase. Like, I think  
10 this bus had a --

11 MS. ROGERS: Oh. Ms. Donald (ph.) was right there. Yeah.  
12 She was right there.

13 MR. BARTH: Ms. Donald?

14 MS. ROGERS: Yeah. Ladonna (ph.) --

15 MR. BARTH: Ladonna?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Copeland?

17 MS. ROGERS: Yeah.

18 MR. BARTH: And do you remember who was next to her?

19 MS. ROGERS: That friend. That friend I was telling you  
20 about. I don't know him. Who was on the other side of him. So,  
21 it was Ms. Ladonna here, what a still that, -- and then, right  
22 beside her was this, it's this boy. I don't know him. And then  
23 it was my aunt and there was my friend and then, it was, just go  
24 like that.

25 MR. BARTH: So, this is driver, and that's the staircase --

1 MS. ROGERS: I'm on this side.

2 MR. BARTH: Yeah. You're right here.

3 MS. ROGERS: Yeah. I'm right there, because somebody was  
4 before me.

5 MR. BARTH: And this was --

6 MS. ROGERS: Ty'eisha, my sister.

7 MR. BARTH: Yeah.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And there was those two other girls.

9 MS. ROGERS: Yeah. The two other girls was beside me.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And there was Lee, and then there was  
11 me.

12 MS. ROGERS: Yeah.

13 MR. BARTH: So the first one seated here,

14 MS. ROGERS: Yeah. That's Ty'eisha.

15 MR. BARTH: Her last name is, that's the one --

16 MS. ROGERS: Spruill, yeah.

17 MR. BARTH: S-

18 MS. ROGERS: P-R --

19 MR. BARTH: I'll figure it out. Ty'eisha Spruill. And then,  
20 you, and then -- this was a boy that you didn't know.

21 MS. ROGERS: No. No. Not beside me.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There was two --

23 MS. ROGERS: Two mixed girls. I don't them either.

24 MR. BARTH: Okay. Girl. Girl.

25 MS. ROGERS: The other girl is my cousin Lee.

1 MR. BARTH: What's her name?  
2 MS. ROGERS: His name Lee.  
3 MR. BARTH: Oh. Lee.  
4 MS. ROGERS: -- Malik. His name's Malik.  
5 MR. BARTH: Okay. What's his last name?  
6 MS. ROGERS: Shaw.  
7 MR. BARTH: Shaw.  
8 MS. ROGERS: S-H-A-W.  
9 MR. BARTH: Okay.  
10 MS. ROGERS: After Malik was, you, right?  
11 MS. GIST: I was sitting beside Lee. And then, --  
12 MS. ROGERS: Ms. Futrell was behind her, beside her. Who was  
13 laying on me. Ms. Futrell was my -- she died.  
14 MS. GIST: She got thrown in the air.  
15 MS. ROGERS: Well, she flew out the bus, yeah.  
16 MS. GIST: Well, she flew out the bus, she was still in the  
17 air and then she smacked the ground.  
18 MS. ROGERS: Yeah.  
19 MR. BARTH: Oh. Yeah. And when you say ground, like, the  
20 pavement?  
21 MS. ROGERS: Concrete.  
22 MS. GIST: The pavement. And then everybody had to move her  
23 out the middle of the street so she wouldn't get hit by no other  
24 cars. To the side of the road.  
25 MS. ROGERS: And it still go around. Because the way the bus

1 hit, the seats go like that --

2 MR. BARTH: Yeah.

3 MS. ROGERS: -- and there's a big space where the pole is in  
4 the middle.

5 MR. BARTH: And then, do you remember who was next to her?

6 MS. ROGERS: Yeah. Beside -- was my cousin, Mone. M-O-N-E.  
7 Her name is Simone Copeland.

8 MR. BARTH: Simone. What's her last name?

9 MS. ROGERS: Copeland. That's Ladonna daughter.

10 MR. BARTH: With a K? Or, Copeland, like that?

11 MS. ROGERS: I think it's with a C.

12 MR. BARTH: Okay. And then,

13 MS. ROGERS: Beside her, was another friend. I really don't  
14 know who he is.

15 MR. BARTH: Okay. Boy.

16 MS. ROGERS: Beside boy was another boy.

17 MR. BARTH: Okay.

18 MS. ROGERS: And that was Jontae -- he died.

19 MR. BARTH: Okay.

20 MS. ROGERS: And beside Jontae Russell there was my baby  
21 daddy, his name was X'zavier Evans. He died too.

22 MR. BARTH: Okay.

23 MS. ROGERS: Beside X'zavier Evans was Antonio Hardy (ph.).

24 MR. BARTH: Now, is this on the other side? Or, is this the  
25 back?

1 MS. ROGERS: This still -- it's still on the right.

2 MR. BARTH: Oh. Where's the back row? When did the back row  
3 start?

4 MS. ROGERS: The back row started after Montia (ph.).

5 MR. BARTH: After Montia.

6 MS. ROGERS: Yeah.

7 MR. BARTH: So, if you look at it --

8 MS. ROGERS: No. My friend -- Mone.

9 MR. BARTH: So, she was seated forward in the back row?

10 MS. ROGERS: Yeah.

11 MR. BARTH: So, like it would be -- Mone, boy, this was  
12 Russell, Evans --

13 MS. ROGERS: And they all on the same row in the back.

14 MR. BARTH: Right. And then -- Yeah. So, Simone, Russell  
15 Evans --

16 MS. ROGERS: And then it was Antonio Hardy. They all in the  
17 back. That's all that fit in that back.

18 MR. BARTH: Right. And so then, so it's kind of like this?

19 MS. ROGERS: Yeah. That's how it was.

20 MR. BARTH: So, then this would be Maria. Was it Matia?  
21 Maria?

22 MS. ROGERS: Montia.

23 MR. BARTH: Montia Futrell. Gist. Shaw. Girl.

24 MS. ROGERS: It would be the two girls.

25 MR. BARTH: Rogers. And Spruill. Okay. And then, do you

1 remember on this side?

2 MS. ROGERS: Yeah.

3 MR. BARTH: Hardy.

4 MS. ROGERS: Yeah. That's Hardy. After Hardy it was Morgan.

5 MR. BARTH: Morgan.

6 MS. ROGERS: Over here it was -- another boy. The real  
7 one -- they was ahead. -- Morgan standing here.

8 MR. BARTH: Okay. And this -- is this a boy or a girl?

9 MS. ROGERS: That's a boy. That's Trevonte (ph.).

10 MR. BARTH: So, Trevonte is here.

11 MS. ROGERS: No. He signed himself out. So, It's  
12 Trevonte -- then the -- Morgan.

13 MR. BARTH: Okay.

14 MS. ROGERS: Kwazi. You could say it was Kwazi.

15 MR. BARTH: Kwazi.

16 MS. ROGERS: After Kwazi, it was her baby daddy, his name  
17 Percy(ph.). After Percy, it was my uncle Germaine Rogers. After  
18 Germaine Rogers it was this boy, I don't know this boy.

19 MR. BARTH: Okay.

20 MS. ROGERS: Then this boy, was Ladonna Copeland.

21 MR. BARTH: And, is that everybody?

22 MS. ROGERS: Yeah. At this point, my mom is Ms. Futrell.  
23 She walked. Like, the way the bus is, where you first walk on the  
24 bus, it's this -- the end when you walk in. So, it closes and  
25 open. When you open it, you see the driver, the stuff like that.

1 MR. BARTH: Yeah.

2 MS. ROGERS: But, my mom was right there sitting on the  
3 stairs, talking to the driver.

4 MR. BARTH: Like right here? Like, these are the stairs,  
5 that's the driver?

6 MS. ROGERS: Yeah. So she's right here. Talking to the  
7 driver.

8 MR. BARTH: Rogers.

9 MS. ROGERS: And watching the camera. The camera's in front  
10 where the driver is. But that's how that was.

11 MR. BARTH: Okay. And, do you guys know the driver from --

12 MS. ROGERS: Yeah. A friend.

13 MR. BARTH: He's a friend of everybody.

14 MS. ROGERS: Of the family. They had just watched him grow  
15 up.

16 MR. BARTH: Okay. Do you know -- so then, Ms. Futrell, does  
17 she ride on the bus to Santara too?

18 MS. ROGERS: Yeah. She rode on the bus.

19 MR. BARTH: The same bus as you? Or, a different bus?

20 MS. ROGERS: Oh. You're talking about to get here?

21 MR. BARTH: Yeah.

22 MS. ROGERS: Oh. Yeah. She got on the ambulance. She was  
23 one of the first rides too.

24 MR. BARTH: She rode in an ambulance?

25 MS. ROGERS: Yeah.



1 MR. BARTH: Do you remember where she went?

2 MS. ROGERS: What hospital?

3 MR. BARTH: Yeah. Which hospital.

4 MS. ROGERS: This one.

5 MR. BARTH: This one. Directly here?

6 MS. ROGERS: Um-hmm.

7 MR. BARTH: Okay. Okay. So, do you guys -- anything that  
8 you noticed about like, about after the crash? Like, what the  
9 police did, or, emergency response?

10 MS. GIST: I just didn't like how -- I understand everybody  
11 else was living. Everybody alive. Everybody had injuries,  
12 including me, but I just didn't like how they kept walking past  
13 Montia's dead body. Everybody that was alive, like, we all made  
14 it out. It just her dead body and they just keep going around it,  
15 like she wasn't there. And I didn't like that. They could've  
16 like, covered her up or something. They didn't cover her up until  
17 they started putting us in the ambulance. Or, they would go try  
18 to go check her pulse, like, I know that she looked dead. And I  
19 know this because I was lying next to Montia --

20 MR. BARTH: Uh-huh.

21 MS. GIST: -- on the ground. So I knew, I was looking at  
22 her. And nobody went to go check her pulse. As soon as they got  
23 out there, they just wanted to see what else was going on. And I  
24 ain't like that.

25 MR. BARTH: Did they put tags on you guys?

1 MS. ROGERS: I feel like they won't moving fast enough.

2 MS. GIST: Fast enough.

3 MR. BARTH: They weren't moving fast enough?

4 MS. GIST: I don't feel like they got there fast enough  
5 because I just feel like she should have, she could've been okay.

6 MR. BARTH: Did they give you guys tags? Like a green tag or  
7 a yellow tag?

8 MS. ROGERS: Towards the end, when they got everybody on the  
9 ambulance, they got us on the bus ride. Then when they took the  
10 information, like the first last name, the social and all that.

11 MS. GIST: What tag? Like to put on you or something?

12 MR. BARTH: Yeah. Either, sometimes they'll --

13 MS. GIST: Oh. I didn't get one.

14 MR. BARTH: You didn't get one.

15 MS. GIST: Huh-uh.

16 MS. ROGERS: The people in the ambulance probably never got  
17 one, but the ones that was on the bus had got one.

18 MR. BARTH: Did they give a tag?

19 MS. ROGERS: Yeah. They had given me one.

20 MR. BARTH: What color?

21 MS. ROGERS: It was white with some writing and lines on  
22 them.

23 MR. BARTH: Oh. Just to ask you to fill out your name and  
24 phone number and stuff?

25 MS. ROGERS: Um-hmm.

1 MR. BARTH: Okay. But they didn't give you like a green or a  
2 yellow tag, or anything like that? Okay. Sometimes they'll give  
3 you, when they have a lot of people, to make sure to figure out  
4 who's more injured or less injured, sometimes they'll give you  
5 like a --

6 MS. ROGERS: No. They didn't do that.

7 MR. BARTH: -- red tag, or a yellow tag, or a green tag.

8 MS. GIST: Yeah. They didn't have that.

9 MR. BARTH: None of that.

10 MS. ROGERS: It was too much going on.

11 MS. GIST: Uh-huh. Everywhere though.

12 MS. ROGERS: Everywhere.

13 MS. GIST: It was like, three dead people out there, and it's  
14 like they just bypassing all the dead people out there to go to  
15 the people that was alive. I was okay. I was trying to make sure  
16 the ones that were already past get some help. And they just  
17 walking past everybody. That had already passed away. Like, go  
18 try to help them.

19 MS. ROGERS: I was still waking my baby daddy up, even when I  
20 can, I was -- he sat up, then laid back down.

21 MR. BARTH: Can I ask you, maybe you remember -- I was kind  
22 of right now, where people were seated in the bus. And so we have  
23 Ms. Shaw, Ms. Gist, you here, Montia --

24 MS. ROGERS: And then Simone was behind me.

25 MR. BARTH: Like in the back row, facing forward? Does that

1 look right? Simone Russell --

2 MR. ROGERS: Simone after Montia.

3 (Crosstalk)

4 MR. BARTH: And then Harvey?

5 MS. GIST: Who's Harvey?

6 MS. ROGERS: Harvey is after Evans. That's Antonio.

7 MR. BARTH: Antonio.

8 MS. GIST: Which one is the --

9 MR. BARTH: This is the side. So, here would be the stairs.

10 MS. GIST: Yeah. Antonio was -- a t.v.

11 MS. ROGERS: But he was at the --

12 MS. BARTH: Okay.

13 (Crosstalk)

14 MS. BARTH: So, this is the right side.

15 MS. ROGERS: Yeah. That's the right side.

16 MR. BARTH: That's the back.

17 MS. GIST: On a school bus not no seat belt. On this no seat  
18 belt.

19 (Crosstalk)

20 MS. ROGERS: No. If we was in a seat belt we would've been  
21 trapped.

22 (Crosstalk)

23 MR. BARTH: So, those are good questions. That's part of  
24 what we do, is we look at what kinds of vehicles need seat belts,  
25 and which ones --

1 MS. GIST: Now, after this, if y'all suggest party buses  
2 should get seat belts, I don't think so. Because a seat belt is  
3 good, but if it was a bad accident like that one, they would've  
4 been stuck to the bus and would've been thrown over the whole  
5 interstate where the bus went.

6 MR. BARTH: But, when the vehicle breaks apart, then the seat  
7 belts don't do much good, like you said.

8 MS. ROGERS: Yeah. It would hold you down.

9 MR. BARTH: But if they could keep the vehicle together, like  
10 a school bus, they are starting to put seat belts on school buses.  
11 So, that's the kind of thing that we do with our investigations to  
12 try to figure out you know, like, what kind of vehicles need seat  
13 belts. Or, if the vehicle breaks apart, how do we keep it from  
14 breaking apart so that it, you know, can be safer.

15 MS. ROGERS: Did y'all talk with anybody else that was  
16 involved?

17 MR. BARTH: Not yet. You guys are the first ones we're  
18 talking to. That's why I was -- I didn't have much to go on. But  
19 that's really helpful for us to kind of understand where everybody  
20 was at.

21 MS. ROGERS: Yeah.

22 MS. GIST: And I don't like how if, somebody caused the  
23 accident that they don't got no charges pressed against them.  
24 Like, you know, the people that we love is gone, because of you,  
25 and I don't like that. The man who hit us, he don't have no

1 injuries.

2 MS. ROGERS: He was sent to the hospital with non-life  
3 threatening. I'm glad the man is okay. I am.

4 (Crosstalk)

5 MR. BARTH: So, who was awake?

6 MS. ROGERS: Me.

7 MS. GIST: Me, her.

8 MS. ROGERS: Ms. Rogers, Futrell.

9 MR. BARTH: Durrell (ph.)?

10 MS. ROGERS: Oh. I missed Ty'eisha. That's the one.  
11 Where Ty'eisha was at?

12 MS. GIST: Right on this side.

13 MS. ROGERS: The side rail. Yeah. There was some rows in  
14 front of Durrell.

15 MS. BARTH: So, between Durrell and Kwazi?

16 MS. ROGERS: Yeah. It was Ms. Ty'eisha Rogers.

17 It was here right there, then Kwazi, then Percy, then  
18 Germaine and then the --

19 MR. BARTH: And so the people that were awake were you two,  
20 Durrell --

21 MS. ROGERS: And Ms. Rogers --

22 MR. BARTH: -- and Ty'eisha. Okay. Yeah. That's really  
23 helpful. Okay.

24 We really appreciate you guys talking to us. Is there  
25 anything else that you think is important, or do you guys --

1 MS. GIST: I just feel like well, somebody who caused the  
2 accident they should get arrested at least. It was like they was  
3 given a slap on the wrist for three people die.

4 MS. ROGERS: I mean, he ain't got to get arrested, but I feel  
5 like he should get -- something. Because, if you took three  
6 innocent lives and injured 22 people all because you was speeding,  
7 and trying to hit the break. You can get your car back. He can  
8 get his 18 wheeler back, he can get his job, but we can't no  
9 people that we love. That hurts.

10 MS. GIST: My son don't have a father now.

11 MS. ROGERS: How am I supposed to explain to our nephew his  
12 daddy --

13 MS. GIST: All them dead, they got kids.

14 (Crosstalk)

15 MR. BARTH: Was there a lot of cars on the road? Or, was  
16 traffic really light? Like, did you guys --

17 MS. GIST: It was light traffic.

18 MS. ROGERS: It was light traffic.

19 (Crosstalk)

20 MR. BARTH: So you can't see out too well.

21 MS. GIST: But once we crashed and everybody was sliding and  
22 stuff -- because I was still conscious and I was still looking  
23 around, it was no cars.

24 Like, 5 minutes later, that's when all the cars started  
25 coming fast, fast, fast, like --

1 MR. BARTH: Okay.

2 MS. GIST: I really want to ask them, what was you doing in  
3 order to not see a big bus just like yours, right in front of you.  
4 Like, why didn't you stop? Is you drunk?

5 MS. ROGERS: I feel like we got hit twice, by two 18  
6 wheelers, because, like I said, I was up, and from my side, from  
7 my point of view, the side got hit first and it made us swerve.

8 MS. GIST: It did. That's what happened. That's what they  
9 say in the article too. We got hit from the side, and when we got  
10 hit from side we spin.

11 MS. ROGERS: We spun, and a bus hit us from the back.

12 MR. BARTH: Okay.

13 (Crosstalk)

14 MR. BARTH: So, you guys, there's two investigations. The  
15 police are doing their own investigation to try to look at how  
16 this happened and if, you know, who's responsible, that kind of  
17 thing. And then our investigation is looking at the safety. So.

18 (Crosstalk)

19 Yeah. So we look at how could this accident be prevented and  
20 if -- and also, is there ways that we could have made it more  
21 safe.

22 (Crosstalk)

23 MR. BARTH: So you guys will all have the chance, but it will  
24 take our agency about a year to release our report. But, when we  
25 do release our report, it'll explain everything we found. Who did



1 what. You know, you'll be able to read --

2 (Crosstalk)

3 It takes a long time because we do very thorough  
4 investigations to look at -- that's why we have a big team here.  
5 Like, we look at, even though it -- even things that we think  
6 might be involved. Like, we have a guy that's looking at the  
7 highway to make sure that the highway was correct, you know. A  
8 person looking at the bus --

9 MS. ROGERS: Is cameras on the highway?

10 MR. BARTH: Not in this location. But, in some places  
11 there's cameras on the highways.

12 MS. ROGERS: We was in Williamsburg.

13 MS. GIST: Yeah. It's on the interstate, no cameras out  
14 there?

15 MR. BARTH: I don't know for sure, but I don't believe so.  
16 But, if there were, we'll get that evidence.

17 But, it takes us about a year to release our stuff because we  
18 do a really thorough job and look at everything.

19 (Crosstalk)

20 Again, thank you guys so much for talking with us. I think  
21 we'll let you go now. And, if you have any questions you can  
22 follow up, she has contact information for you. And that will  
23 also tell you how to get information from what we're doing.

24 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL TWO-VEHICLE CRASH IN YORK  
COUNTY NEAR NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA  
ON DECEMBER 16, 2022  
Interview of TYQUIRA ROGERS, Passenger  
CEESHA GIST, Passenger  
TANIJA FUTRELL, Passenger

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY23MH004

PLACE: Williamsburg, Virginia

DATE: December 17, 2022

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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Allen  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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FATAL TWO-VEHICLE CRASH IN YORK  
COUNTY NEAR NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA  
ON DECEMBER 16, 2022

Accident No.: HWY23MH004

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of:

B12 - Juv.

Riverside Regional Medical Center  
Newport News, Virginia

Saturday,  
December 17, 2022

APPEARANCES:

TOM BARTH, Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

JASON ZEITLER, Engineer  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

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Interview of B12 - Juv. :

By Mr. Barth

4

I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. BARTH: And so we're talking to B12 - Juv. .

3 INTERVIEW OF B12 - Juv.

4 BY MR. BARTH:

5 Q. So if you want what we'd like to ask you about is just kind  
6 of like what you remember about the crash. So like when you first  
7 realized something was wrong what you remember about the crash  
8 itself, how they, how they treated you afterwards, that sort of  
9 thing.

10 A. (Indiscernible) I don't really remember the crash, but I kind  
11 of just remember being outside, and asking for help a lot. It  
12 took me awhile to get help.

13 Q. Okay. Were you asleep before the crash?

14 A. Um-hmm.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. I was sleeping. I just remember waking up outside in pain.

17 Q. And when you, when you woke up outside were you on the road?  
18 Were you in the ditch or where were you?

19 A. On the road.

20 Q. Do you remember like in the middle of the road or right next  
21 to --

22 A. Kind of like on the side.

23 Q. On the side? Okay. And then what happened after that?

24 A. After that is when the emergency trucks had come. Everybody  
25 was helping each other get on the emergency trucks or the buses.

1 The bus that came and got people, and take them to emergency  
2 rooms.

3 Q. Okay. So they grouped -- did they put you in a group of  
4 other people to put you on the bus or did they --

5 A. They split everybody up.

6 Q. They split everyone up. And did someone, did like a, a  
7 paramedic or somebody, like, check you out and see what kind of  
8 injuries you had or did they --

9 A. Not 'till I got to the hospital.

10 Q. Not until you got to the hospital. Okay. So you rode in  
11 -- you rode on the bus to the hospital?

12 A. Not that bus, but the emergency bus.

13 Q. Oh. You went in an ambulance?

14 A. (No audible response.)

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. It was like they brought an ambulance bus for people. It was  
17 like a bus. I don't know how to explain it. It was like a bus.  
18 It wasn't ambulance it was still -- I don't know how to explain  
19 it.

20 Q. Were you on a, were you on a stretcher or were you standing  
21 up or sitting down?

22 A. Sitting down (indiscernible).

23 Q. Okay. So they, they put you guys on the bus sitting down  
24 like multiple people?

25 A. The bus I got on only had, like, five people.

1 Q. Five people?

2 A. Yeah that came to the hospital.

3 Q. Okay. And did they take you directly to this hospital or to  
4 a different one first?

5 A. Different one first.

6 Q. Which? Do you know which one?

7 A. Which one was it?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think -- Riverside.

9 MR. BARTH: Riverside Doctors.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah (indiscernible) Williamsburg.

11 MR. BARTH: Okay. Okay. So then they --

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have the address to it.

13 MR. BARTH: I know which one.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

15 MR. BARTH: Because they took them to either here, Riverside  
16 Doctors or to the Sentera.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah (indiscernible) Sentera.

18 BY MR. BARTH:

19 Q. Okay. So you went to Riverside Doctors, and then did they --  
20 at Riverside Doctors what did they do before sending you over  
21 here?

22 A. They checked me out stuff, and then I had (indiscernible).

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They did a, a CAT scan over there.

24 MR. BARTH: Okay.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They found a laceration of the liver,



1 internal bleeding.

2 MR. BARTH: Okay.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And they did a butterfly stitch on her  
4 eyebrow as well as hook her up to the IV and draw blood.

5 BY MR. BARTH:

6 Q. And do you have -- did you have, like, especially around,  
7 like, where the liver is and stuff you had like scrapes and bumps  
8 and bruises or the kind of just kind of puncture?

9 A. I had both actually (indiscernible). I got scratches and  
10 stuff on my legs.

11 Q. Okay.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: From really (indiscernible) like  
13 nothing on her abdomen (indiscernible).

14 BY MR. BARTH:

15 Q. Okay. You have no idea what, what got you?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. So they, they took you here. They did a CAT scan,  
18 checked you out, and then they transferred you to -- I mean, they  
19 took you to doctors, and then transferred you here?

20 A. Um-hmm.

21 Q. Okay. Anything else that you can think of that might be  
22 important for us to know about the crash? Do you remember  
23 anything about, you know, anything that strikes you as important?

24 A. (No audible response.)

25 Q. No. Okay. And then we're, we're putting together a chart of

1 where everybody was seated. Do we have her on here? I don't  
2 think -- do you remember -- so this is, this is the driver up  
3 here, and this is the staircase, and then it's, you know, seated  
4 around. Do you remember about where you were seated in the bus?

5 A. Is most of the people seated?

6 Q. Yeah, we've got most. These are the name of the people we  
7 think are in the right spot. So were you towards the back or the  
8 front?

9 A. So this is Quazi (ph.), right? I was sitting -- right  
10 across --

11 Q. Across from Quazi? Okay. You remember if you were seated  
12 next to, like, Maleek (ph.). Do you know Maleek Shaw?

13 A. Kind of. Is he really tall?

14 Q. I don't know. Or was it a -- were you next to a girl or,  
15 like, on either side of you was it a --

16 A. I was next to a girl.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. I was asleep like this.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Onto a girl. So she was sleep like this, and I was sleep  
21 kind of head on her butt.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. And then she was sleeping on somebody else.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Somebody else's --

1 Q. So you had girls on both sides of you?  
2 A. Um-hmm.  
3 Q. Okay.  
4 A. I was sleep --  
5 Q. So you were probably one of these two?  
6 A. Yeah. And then I know who is sitting here.  
7 Q. Was that --  
8 A. No. I was sitting here. She was sitting here.  
9 Q. Okay.  
10 A. She was sitting on one of those people's laps right here.  
11 Q. Okay. Okay. That's helpful. Thanks. So you were seated  
12 next -- so on your left was Tikara (ph.) Rogers, right? Do you  
13 know her?  
14 A. (No audible response.)  
15 Q. No? Okay.  
16 A. The girl next to me is [REDACTED] (ph.).  
17 Q. What's her name?  
18 A. Her name is [REDACTED].  
19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [REDACTED] was on the right side isn't  
20 that right?  
21 MS. PULLEY: Like sitting on the bus like this.  
22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But she was laying on [REDACTED] --  
23 (Crosstalk)  
24 MS. PULLEY: -- laying on [REDACTED].  
25 MR. BARTH: So [REDACTED] might have been --

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, she was the son of Quazi.

2 (Crosstalk)

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She was invited. She's only 16.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: B20 - Juv., number 19.

5 BY MR. BARTH:

6 Q. Oh, B20 - Juv., right?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. I think whoever moved, I don't remember is name, I think it  
10 was Tyree or something. I don't know if that's up there, but  
11 that's the boy that I know the girl I was (indiscernible) his name  
12 is Tyree. He's real tall.

13 Q. I'm not sure who that is. Oh, because we're missing a couple  
14 of people. So this -- his name was Tyree? Do we have a -- do you  
15 know -- you don't know his last name?

16 A. Huh-uh. I just (indiscernible) was calling him Tyree  
17 something. I just know that's the person that we rode with  
18 (indiscernible). It was -- we (indiscernible).

19 Q. Yeah.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do we have B14 - Juv (ph.)? I don't  
21 think we --

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No we don't, we don't.

23 MS. B12 Juv That's why I kept looking because he was sitting  
24 next to (indiscernible).

25 BY MR. BARTH:

1 Q. So B14 - Juv would have been towards the back of the bus from  
2 you or towards the front?

3 A. B14 - Juv. This (indiscernible).

4 Q. Oh, okay. Oh, maybe it's this -- yeah, because we were  
5 missing a --

6 A. Yeah. B14 - Juv was in the front.

7 Q. Oh, got you. Good. Okay.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, that was -- okay.

9 BY MR. BARTH:

10 Q. Well, good, that's helpful. Okay. Do you have any questions  
11 for us? No? All right. And so for your information what we do,  
12 our process is we will in the next couple of weeks we'll put out a  
13 little preliminary report which is really short. It will be  
14 posted on our website, and it will just kind of explain, like,  
15 just a couple paragraphs basically that we're, we're conducting an  
16 investigation. Really basic facts about what happened, like, you  
17 know, a semi-truck hit a, hit a bus, you know, that kind of thing.  
18 And then it will take us about a year to finish our final report.  
19 And when we release that final report it will be very detailed  
20 explaining all of our findings, you know, what we, what we  
21 determine, and any recommendations that we have to try to improve  
22 safety in the future.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Sounds good. Thank you.

24 MR. BARTH: All right. Thank you very much.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So if it's okay, I'd like to get some

1 information --

2 (Crosstalk)

3 (Whereupon, 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: FATAL TWO-VEHICLE CRASH IN YORK  
COUNTY NEAR NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA  
ON DECEMBER 16, 2022  
Interview of [REDACTED] B12 - Juv.

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY23MH004

PLACE: Newport News, Virginia

DATE: December 17, 2022

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.

[REDACTED]  
Katherine Motley  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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FATAL TWO-VEHICLE CRASH IN YORK  
COUNTY NEAR NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA  
ON DECEMBER 16, 2022

Accident No.: HWY23MH004

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: LADANNA COPELAND

Riverside Regional Medical Center  
Newport News, Virginia

Saturday,  
December 17, 2022



APPEARANCES:

TOM BARTH, Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

JASON ZEITLER, Engineer  
National Transportation Safety Board

JOHN HUMM  
National Transportation Safety Board

SARAH QUINN

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I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. ZEITLER: Is it okay if we record this just so we have  
3 accurate notes --

4 MS. COPELAND: That's fine.

5 MR. BARTH: During the investigation.

6 MR. ZEITLER: My name's Jason. I'm an engineer with the  
7 NTSB. That's my colleague John. Our job is to figure out what  
8 happened during this crash, and to make sure stuff like this never  
9 happens again. And I need your help in determining, you know, to  
10 help me figure out what happened.

11 MS. COPELAND: Okay.

12 MR. ZEITLER: Are you able to answer some pretty basic  
13 questions --

14 MS. COPELAND: Sure.

15 MR. ZEITLER: -- about what you remember about the crash?

INTERVIEW OF LADANNA COPELAND

17 BY MR. ZEITLER:

18 Q. So far we've been able to figure out where some of the people  
19 were seated, and some of your friends have said that you were all  
20 the way --

21 A. I was on the other side. I was on this side behind the  
22 driver.

23 Q. Oh, you were behind the driver?

24 A. Um-hmm, in the back.

25 Q. In the back.

- 1 A. Right. It was --
- 2 Q. Do you remember who --
- 3 A. -- the door was shut. So it was like a seat in the inside,  
4 and I was sitting there behind the driver.
- 5 Q. Okay. Do you remember who was sitting next to you by chance?
- 6 A. Kiera (ph.).
- 7 Q. Were you -- was there anyone to your left?
- 8 A. To my left?
- 9 Q. Um-hmm.
- 10 A. Yeah, that was Kiera.
- 11 Q. Kiera. And do you remember who was to your right?
- 12 A. Nobody. The door.
- 13 Q. The door. Okay. And you were directly behind the driver?
- 14 A. Like, it's like a wall behind the driver. So it was a seat  
15 there.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. It was not like I was touching his body or anything. It's  
18 like door, wall. You've got to open the door to go out.
- 19 BY MR. BARTH:
- 20 Q. So there wasn't a door leading outside the bus. It was like a  
21 door to the driver; is that correct? Is that what you're talking  
22 about when you say door?
- 23 A. Okay. It's like a wall --
- 24 Q. Yes.
- 25 A. -- and then it's a door. You open the door, and that's how

1 you go out, and you get off the bus.

2 BY MR. ZEITLER:

3 Q. Oh, okay.

4 A. So I was, I was, like, close by that and that wall, was by  
5 that wall.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. So it wasn't no window beside me at all.

8 Q. But there is -- so there is no one sitting to your right?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Okay, perfect. And then what was the person's name to your,  
11 to your left?

12 A. Kiera.

13 Q. Kiera.

14 A. Kiera.

15 Q. Were you, were you awake or were you asleep during --

16 A. I was asleep.

17 Q. You were sleeping. What do you remember? What was the first  
18 thing you remember when you woke up?

19 A. First thing I remember is I was face down in the ditch.

20 Q. Face down. Okay.

21 A. And I was -- I panicked. I was panicking.

22 Q. Okay. Do you remember anything from before the crash?

23 A. Before the crash when we was leaving Richmond?

24 Q. Um-hmm.

25 A. Well, before the crash I know we were driving, and the driver

1 had called Towanda (indiscernible). He was like the truck is like  
2 don't want to catch speed. So we stayed in that, that slow lane.  
3 Didn't get in no fast lane at all.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. So he was riding the slow lane all the way down. And I  
6 remember that because when her brother opened up the window where  
7 he was sitting at all you saw were the trees. So I know we was  
8 right there in the slow lane. I didn't feel him getting over, and  
9 that day we stayed in the slow lane.

10 Q. Okay. And then you fell asleep at some, some point?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. Now, when you woke up you said you were, you were in a  
13 ditch?

14 A. Yes, face down.

15 Q. Face down. Was anyone near you?

16 A. Towanda and the one that died, that passed away.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. He was like under the tractor trailer. All I saw was his  
19 body. I didn't see his head not unless his head was up under  
20 there. I just saw his body and his shirt.

21 Q. Okay. How did you -- do you remember getting help from the  
22 first responders?

23 A. My daughter was calling them over there to come help me and  
24 Tutu (ph.). Because me and Tutu, I call her Tutu, Towanda, me and  
25 her was bleeding really bad from my face and everything. So my

1 daughter start panicking. And that made me panic even more. Then  
2 that's when the, the paramedics, they didn't come there for us  
3 first. They went straight to the person that was -- the truck  
4 driver that hit us, and he was, he was (indiscernible) because  
5 that's when the guy that was, that was performing had on the white  
6 shirt he was sitting in back. As he was sitting there, and the  
7 truck driver that hit us, his truck was in the ditch.

8 Q. Okay. Did they put you on a stretcher?

9 A. They did.

10 Q. Okay. And were you in an ambulance or a bus or --

11 A. Ambulance.

12 Q. Ambulance. Was there anyone else in the ambulance with you  
13 when you were transported?

14 A. No, just me and the paramedics.

15 Q. Where did -- did they bring you here first?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. No other hospital first?

18 A. No other hospital.

19 Q. Okay. And what type of injuries do you have?

20 A. I have pins in my right hand by my wrist. I have a metal  
21 plate up in my shoulder blade. For a long time I couldn't move my  
22 legs and to (indiscernible) they were still in shock. And so they  
23 put the pressure cuffs on me because they didn't -- they said my  
24 whole body went through a lot of trauma. They didn't want me to  
25 get blood clots. I got a gash in my head, and my face is scraped

1 up. I got scrapes all on my back, and bruises on my back.

2 Q. Have you had any surgeries or anything --

3 A. Yes. I just had surgery this morning at seven o'clock.

4 Q. What did they operate on?

5 A. My hand, right here.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. They put rods in here.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. They put a plate here.

10 Q. Okay.

11 BY MR. BARTH:

12 Q. So you -- I know you said you were asleep, but you don't have  
13 any recollection of anything other than when you were down in the  
14 ditch, correct?

15 A. That's it.

16 Q. Okay, all right.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: May I come in?

18 BY MR. BARTH:

19 Q. And then do you remember any of the, any of the other people,  
20 you know, after you got up? Do you remember, like, for example,  
21 say you're in the ditch, where were you like relative to the  
22 vehicle or to the bus? I know it was in a couple parts but --

23 A. I don't know. I know I was way -- feel like I was thrown all  
24 the way to the back.

25 Q. Okay.



1 A. Because I was way down by the highway, and I mean I was right  
2 by the tractor trailer. Seemed like here's the ditch. The  
3 tractor trailer here, right? (Indiscernible) body is here. I'm  
4 right here (indiscernible) and Towanda is right here. So we was  
5 real close by the tractor trailer that hit us.

6 BY MR. ZEITLER:

7 Q. Okay. I'm just taking notes. I just want to make sure, I  
8 just want to make sure I get this down. Because this is good, you  
9 know. It's, obviously, it's confusing got people everywhere, and  
10 it's hard -- I know, I understand it's hard to remember.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So it's good to get kind of everybody's information so we can  
13 try and piece this together as best we can.

14 A. Because I mean, my, my daughter me set me up on her lap. I  
15 was looking around. All I saw was my daughter, Towanda's daughter  
16 because she was holding her mom too (indiscernible). I don't know  
17 his real name. But everybody else that was in the back I seen up  
18 towards the front. So I don't know how we got to the back, and  
19 they was in the front.

20 Q. Sure.

21 A. And I seen people just crying, walking, laying in the street.

22 Q. Okay.

23 BY MR. BARTH:

24 Q. Is there anything else that, you know, that stands out in  
25 your mind I guess from that, that night that --

1 A. Not really.

2 Q. Okay.

3 MR. ZEITLER: It's 1532 on 12/17/2022.

4 (Whereupon, at 3:32 p.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: FATAL TWO-VEHICLE CRASH IN YORK  
COUNTY NEAR NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA  
ON DECEMBER 16, 2022  
Interview of Ladanna Copeland

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY23MH004

PLACE: Newport News, Virginia

DATE: December 17, 2022

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.

  
Katherine Motley  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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FATAL TWO-VEHICLE CRASH IN YORK

COUNTY NEAR NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

ON DECEMBER 16, 2022

Accident No.: HWY23MH004

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: TY'EISHA ROGERS, Passenger

Williamsburg, Virginia

Saturday,  
December 17, 2022

APPEARANCES:

JOHN HUMM, Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

DANIEL MORGAN, Transportation Disaster Assistance  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Ty'eisha Rogers:

By Mr. Humm

4

I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. HUMM: Okay. I'm going to start the recording now. I'm  
3 with Ty'eisha and -- last name again?

4 MS. ROGERS: Rogers.

5 MR. HUMM: Rogers. Okay. Nice to meet you Ty'eisha.

6 MS. ROGERS: Nice to meet you as well.

INTERVIEW OF TY'EISHA ROGERS

7  
8 BY MR. HUMM:

9 Q. If you can, first of all, can you tell me where -- we kind of  
10 have a little diagram of where people were sitting. Or, we tried  
11 to figure out where people were sitting. And so --

12 A. Yeah. I was sitting right here.

13 Q. Okay. So you were right here.

14 A. You said this would be the driver?

15 Q. Yeah. So the driver's --

16 A. Okay. Yeah. You right.

17 Q. -- here's the stairs. Do you know at all the -- so there  
18 was, in the back of the bus, there was an X'zavier?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. And there was Simone (ph.) do you know at all the -- somebody  
21 told me that there was a --

22 A. His little brother, Jontae (ph.).

23 Q. Jonny?

24 A. Yeah. He was sitting beside him, Jontae.

25 Q. Okay. Do you know how to spell that?

1 A. I think it's J-O-N-T --

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did Jontae pass in the accident?

3 A. Yes. He passed away.

4 Q. And so then, there were two women, right -- so there's the  
5 driver, there was Ms. Spirell (ph.)--

6 A. My sister.

7 Q. Okay. And then there were two women here. Do you know at  
8 all, do you remember at all?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. I can remember two girls, but I don't know there name, I  
12 don't remember anything.

13 Q. Okay. All right. And then, right by the stairs there was  
14 Ladonte (ph.) Copeland, and then --

15 A. Edonte (ph.).

16 Q. Edonte.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Donald.

18 A. Oh.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's what she -- her real name was  
20 Donette (ph.) --

21 Q. And then, do you know who was --

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Germaine (ph.), that's my brother.

23 Q. Germaine? Okay. So, was there --

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There's another, but I don't know his  
25 name, but, beside him was Germaine.



- 1 Q. Right. Yes. Yeah. So, I have Germaine there --
- 2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. And Percy.
- 3 Q. Yeah. And then, Percy there.
- 4 A. I was beside Kwazi (ph.).
- 5 Q. Oh. Yeah. Right. So you were right here.
- 6 A. Yeah. Because she was laying on me then I was laying on her.
- 7 Q. Okay. Were you awake at the time, or were you asleep?
- 8 A. Yeah. I remember around like 1:30 something I looked at my
- 9 phone. So, majority of everybody was asleep. My little sister,
- 10 she was dozing in and out, but she had asked like, how much time
- 11 we got left? So, I looked at my phone just before it died, to see
- 12 how far we was from home, and it said we would get there at 2:04.
- 13 So I said that it's like 1:30 something.
- 14 Q. Okay.
- 15 A. Then my phone died.
- 16 Q. Oh. Okay.
- 17 A. So, I don't know if I dozed off in that time. After that all
- 18 I remember is the lights went out.
- 19 Q. So, what was the -- if you remember --
- 20 A. Like falling?
- 21 Q. Well, or, what's the first thing you remember? Like, oh man,
- 22 something's wrong.
- 23 A. I just remember going side to side.
- 24 Q. Okay. So you remember side to side.
- 25 A. Falling. Yeah.

1 Q. Do you remember anything else after you fell, you were going  
2 side to side and all?

3 A. Everything just went dark.

4 Q. Okay. And then, what happened next?

5 A. I sat there. Somebody helped me out.

6 Q. So, do you remember --

7 A. Somebody helped me up.

8 Q. Do you remember anything from when you were feeling side to  
9 side, it went dark, and then, --

10 A. No. That's all. It was dark when I was moving. I can  
11 remember my phone going dead.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. And then I remember falling. I think just falling. Just  
14 laid there. It felt like we were flipping or something.

15 Q. Okay. And then, what's the next thing you remember after  
16 that?

17 A. I was just lying there. And it was just dark. And then  
18 somebody helped me up. But, by then I was on the opposite side.  
19 Because there won't no other side.

20 Q. Okay. So you were still in the bus. So, you didn't  
21 get -- were still on the bus after you were in the accident? Or  
22 did you --

23 A. Yeah. But the bus was broke, so --

24 Q. Sure.

25 A. -- I was on part of the bus.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. But I was just lying there.

3 Q. But not like on the road.

4 A. It was on the road. The bus part was on the road.

5 Q. But, were you lying on the road?

6 A. Oh. No. No.

7 Q. Sorry, that's what I meant.

8 A. Oh, no.

9 Q. So you were lying inside the bus?

10 A. Yeah. On the part --

11 Q. What's left of it.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Okay.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There's a picture of it online, would  
15 that be helpful? To show where you were located? Or, to see --

16 A. Well, I was on the part that was in the street, so.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

18 A. That is not up there.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The expression on the bus is -- she  
20 laying on --

21 A. Yeah.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The bus parts.

23 A. Yeah. I didn't necessarily fly out. I was, like I said,  
24 moving, and then I was just there. Somebody helped me up. That's  
25 all I remember after that.

1 Q. Okay. So, then after somebody helped you up, do you remember  
2 anything about like, the emergency crew or the fire crew?

3 A. I remember the ambulance people. I remember telling people  
4 it's going to be okay. Like, it's going to be all right. I told  
5 somebody just calm down.

6 Q. Okay. So you were enough, awake enough to tell people --

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And then --

9 A. But then I remember sitting by the ditch, and I was just  
10 like, telling somebody, it's going to be okay, just calm down.

11 Q. And then, were you taken to --

12 A. To hospital?

13 Q. Yeah. Which hospital, do you know which hospital?

14 A. It was in Williamsburg.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. I think it was Santara in Williamsburg.

17 Q. And did you get sent with a bunch of other people? Like  
18 inside the ambulance?

19 A. We were on, it was two medical buses. People were split up.  
20 I was with my sister, my cousin.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you know about how many people were  
22 inside the bus with you?

23 A. That I was on?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

25 A. I know my sister was up there, my two sisters was up there.

1 I can remember my cousin Trey (ph.) being up there.

2 Who else was taken to the hospital? I think my cousin Malik  
3 (ph.) was up there as well. That' all I think -- Oh. And my  
4 uncle, Germaine he was up there.

5 Q. And do you know did the other bus --

6 A. I don't know about the other bus.

7 Q. But did you remember if it left before you? Or did you guys  
8 leave about the same time?

9 A. Yeah. I don't know. They was just on the bus. Getting our  
10 names and stuff.

11 Q. Okay. And then you were transported to --

12 A. There. And then we all just -- they just took us to separate  
13 rooms. So, I don't know what happened after that.

14 Q. How long were you in the hospital?

15 A. I left, I think, at like, 8 something, 9 something.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. I was in there from when we got there, so, I'm guessing. I  
18 remember at one point I asked them what time it was, they told me  
19 it was 4 something. I knew we got there before 4 something,  
20 but --

21 Q. Okay. And then, what kind of injuries?

22 A. I had a gash in my head. I have, I think 5 staples and some  
23 stitches inside my head. And I also have stitches behind my knee,  
24 and then bruises on my ankles and my legs and scratches on my lap.  
25 So, I'm okay. Thank God for that.

1 Q. Yes. And is there anything else about the -- anything about  
2 the fire response or the emergency crew response that stands out  
3 in your mind? Or anything, do you remember?

4 A. I think it was just a lot going on, so they was just trying  
5 to -- some people could've been nicer, but, I mean, you know,  
6 there was just a lot going on. Everybody's trying to do their job  
7 and everybody -- and then, it was traumatic for everybody. None  
8 of this ever happened before, so --

9 Q. Sure.

10 A. -- for everybody.

11 Q. Yeah.

12 A. Everybody was trying to do their job, so it was okay. The  
13 doctors was nice.

14 Q. The what?

15 A. The doctors. Everybody was nice. I just kept thinking of  
16 them because I really appreciated them helping us, especially with  
17 that being traumatic, never been through nothing like that before.  
18 But, God is good.

19 Q. Do you remember anything about after the accident? Do you  
20 remember like, how people were, you know, spread apart, or, do you  
21 remember, like, when you -- the first thing you remember after,  
22 you know, when you woke up, do remember, were the people still in  
23 the road? Were there people, like, do remember any of those  
24 details?

25 A. I remember standing by, in front of the fire truck, or what

1 was it, the ambulance? I was standing in front of some, the  
2 ambulance or by the -- I was besides something, but I don't  
3 remember. I think I asked for a cover.

4 Q. For a cover?

5 A. Yeah. It was real cold out there.

6 Q. Yeah. I bet.

7 A. We had to wait for the medical bus to come.

8 Q. That helps. Okay. Well, thank you.

9 A. You're welcome.

10 Q. Is there anything else you wanted to --

11 A. No. Anything else you want to know?

12 MR. HUMM: No. That helps us quite a bit as far as trying to  
13 figure out, trying to piece this together.

14 MS. ROGERS: Well that's good.

15 MR. HUMM: I appreciate it.

16 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)  
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Interview of Ty'eisha Rogers, Passenger

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY23MH004

PLACE: Williamsburg, Virginia

DATE: December 17, 2022

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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Your Name  
Transcriber