



HUMAN PERFORMANCE FACTORS ATTACHMENT

Witness Interview Transcript

Delray Beach, FL

HWY23MH006

(12 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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FATAL GRADE CROSSING COLLISION
IN DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA ON
FEBRUARY 8, 2023

Accident No.: HWY23MH006

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Interview of: LAURA AICOB, Witness

Delray Beach, Florida

APPEARANCES:

SHAWN CURRIE, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Laura Aicob:

By Mr. Currie

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I N T E R V I E W

(2:11 p.m.)

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3 MR. CURRIE: It is 2:11. It's 1 p.m. and we are at the
4 residence of Laura Aicob in [REDACTED] in Delray Beach, in
5 reference to case HWY23MH006.

6 My name is Shawn, S-h-a-w-n, Currie, C-u-r-r-i-e. I'm an
7 investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board, Office
8 of Highway Safety. And speaking to Laura.

INTERVIEW OF LAURA AICOB

BY MR. CURRIE:

10 Q. Laura, can you say and spell your name for me, please?

12 A. My name is Laura, L-a-u-r-a, and -- Laura Aicob. Aicob is A-
13 i-c-o-b.

14 Q. Okay. And you called the police and said you were a witness?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Can you tell me what you saw, please?

17 A. I was stopped in east Lindell Boulevard on the intersection
18 with Dixie Highway, waiting for a green light. And in that moment
19 from, not Dixie where already have green, one of the car --
20 normally two cars came, one behind the other one. Where first
21 car, when got in the intersection Lindell with Dixie, the car took
22 a right, which is Lindell Boulevard west. And right away when she
23 was -- I can say in a 90 degree with the Dixie Highway, start the
24 car. But before she got in Dixie Highway, the flashing lights
25 from the train was on and the barrier start to came down.

1 In the same time when the car took right on the -- on Lindell
2 Boulevard and then stopped. Stayed there until the first train
3 from south came north, and then somebody came out from the
4 passenger seat, was a lady. Came out from the car, very calm,
5 very -- didn't look like she's panicked or screaming or something
6 else, no. Looks like she was talking with the driver and then
7 went little bit to the car, speaking, I think, was -- looks like
8 was speaking with the driver, and then she changed her mind and
9 then got back in the car.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. And closed the door. And then few seconds later, the train
12 from north came and hit them. And when they hit them, the twirled
13 (ph.) them around. And first time turn in the circle and then
14 turned over and throw them on the -- between Dixie Highway and the
15 grass. The (indiscernible) grass there, it was -- more than that,
16 I was not there to see because I was shaking.

17 Q. Mm-hmm.

18 A. I couldn't.

19 Q. Okay. So you saw the car come -- the -- what color -- do you
20 know what color the car was?

21 A. I cannot say was white. I cannot say that was this green
22 that I have in the house. I cannot say that was yellow. But was
23 a very light color.

24 Q. Okay. And you saw it turn from Dixie onto --

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. -- Lindell?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Did it have its headlights on?
- 4 A. I don't know.
- 5 Q. Okay. But you saw it turn and stop?
- 6 A. Yes. She came -- was driving and then right away stopped
- 7 before -- before to pass the track line.
- 8 Q. Okay.
- 9 A. Yeah. She stopped there.
- 10 Q. And you were coming from Lindell and you were gonna take a
- 11 right?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. You were going to go straight?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Is that a way to come here back -- the back way?
- 16 A. Yes, yeah.
- 17 Q. Okay. And so this all was in front of you.
- 18 A. Exactly.
- 19 Q. So you didn't have to turn your head. You saw it all.
- 20 A. No, no, no. It was exactly in front of me. You know, how is
- 21 the intersection in a cross.
- 22 Q. Yes.
- 23 A. I was here in east Lindell Boulevard and they came from here
- 24 from north. North Dixie Highway.
- 25 Q. Okay. So they stopped, then the lights came on? Or the

1 lights were on when they --

2 A. The lights -- the flashing lights from the train was on. And
3 in the same time when they did right, the gate start to come out.
4 And I think they didn't see the gate. And then when they did --
5 when already turned in a 40 -- in a 90 degree, they saw the second
6 gate and they stopped there.

7 Q. Okay. And then when you were -- you could -- could you see
8 their brake lights, or any lights?

9 A. Yes, yeah. You can see -- because it was -- was dark. First
10 thing (ph.) was around 8:00. Was around 8:00, was dark.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. But could be confused because I had red.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. And I was waiting for green. And was my red from stop lights
15 and the same time came the red from the --

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. -- from the train.

18 Q. And you saw the lady get out of the car?

19 A. Yes, I saw.

20 Q. And what did she -- did she look around, or?

21 A. No, no. She came out from the car, opened the car, opened
22 the door, came out from the car, bend a little bit like, was she
23 talking with the driver, and then she came back.

24 Q. Huh.

25 A. No screaming, no show that she's scared, no show nothing.

1 Q. About how long do you think they were parked there?

2 A. Like, a few minutes. Two minutes.

3 Q. So --

4 A. Two minutes, three. Two minutes because it was very fast
5 between trains. The time where she could get out from the car was
6 before the train came. Even me, to be honest, I didn't expect to
7 be both trains.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. You know? But when she stopped there, she -- when the car
10 stopped there, they had time. They had time to get out from the
11 car because I remember the train from south, how you say,
12 (indiscernible) -- beep beep.

13 Q. Bells?

14 A. No, not the bells, no.

15 Q. Whistle?

16 A. Um, the ring. The ring.

17 Q. Oh, ring?

18 A. No, the noise. The noise where the train do.

19 Q. Oh, clang, clang, clang, clang, clang, clang?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Whistle?

22 A. It's okay.

23 (Laughter)

24 Q. You can say it in Romanian.

25 A. (Indiscernible). When the --

1 Q. Horn.

2 A. Horn.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. (Indiscernible) the horn, yes. When the train horn --
5 because the first thing came slowly, then the bright lights. And
6 the first train start to horn very far away, you know? And they
7 didn't get maybe -- I don't know. Didn't get out. And then few
8 seconds later, the bright lights came.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. And hit them.

11 Q. Now, did your vehicle get damaged at all?

12 A. No, no.

13 Q. Okay. And you left. You didn't stay, you left? You came
14 home?

15 A. I didn't left right away because I couldn't. I was in a
16 shock and my body was shaking and I was scared to drive. And I
17 pulled on the grass. I pulled the car on the grass and I stayed
18 there like, 10 minutes, 15 minutes. And I know the police was
19 there, a lot of police, and then they asked us to leave.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. From that area.

22 Q. Okay. Is there anything that I forgot to ask you? Anything
23 you can -- else you can remember, or is that pretty much it?

24 A. No. I think that is.

25 MR. CURRIE: Okay. Okay, well, thank you for your time, and

1 it's --

2 MS. AICOB: You're welcome.

3 MR. CURRIE: We'll stop at 1:10.

4 (Whereupon, at 1:10 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

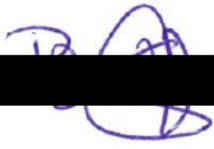
This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL GRADE CROSSING COLLISION
IN DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA
ON FEBRUARY 8, 2023
Interview of Laura Aicob

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY23MH006

PLACE: Delray Beach, Florida

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.



Brandy Wainright
Transcriber