

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

* * * * *

Investigation of:

*
*
*
*
*
*

FIRE ONBOARD *SPIRIT OF NORFOLK*
NEAR NORFOLK NAVAL STATION,
VIRGINIA ON JUNE 7, 2022

Accident No.: DCA22FM022

* * * * *

Interview of: GLORIA MARIE LABOY NUNEZ
Spirit of Norfolk

Norfolk, Virginia

Tuesday
August 9, 2022

APPEARANCES:

██████████ ██████████ Investigator
United States Coast Guard

LCDR ██████████ ██████████ Investigator
United States Coast Guard

ERIC DENLEY, Counsel,
Hornblower Group/City Cruises

DAVID FLAHERTY, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

MICHAEL KARR, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

CDR RANDY WADDINGTON, Investigator
United States Coast Guard

DANIEL T. STILLMAN, ESQ.
Willcox Savage

MAGDALINI GALITOU, ESQ.
Phelps Dunbar

ALAN WEIGEL, Counsel
Blank Rome

I N D E X

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Interview of Gloria Marie Laboy Nunez:	
By Lt. Commander [REDACTED]	7
By Mr. [REDACTED]	23
By Mr. Karr	34
By Mr. Denley	38
By Mr. [REDACTED]	41
By Mr. Denley	42
By Mr. Karr	43

I N T E R V I E W

(8:33 a.m.)

1 MR. [REDACTED] You just have to say yes.

2 MS. NUNEZ: Okay, yes.

3 MR. [REDACTED] Thank you. So, this is joint U.S. Coast Guard,
4 NTSB investigation. We are the lead agency for the investigation,
5 the Coast Guard, we're doing this under the regulations of the
6 United States Coast Guard.

7 So, today is August 9th, it is Tuesday. The time is 8:33
8 Eastern Time. We're doing an interview with Ms. Gloria Marie
9 Nunez and we're in the federal building located downtown in
10 Norfolk conducting this interview. And what we're going to do is
11 we're going to go around the room and we're going to have
12 everybody introduce themselves to you, and they're going to state
13 who they are and who they represent.

14 And we'll start with you. If you could say your name and
15 then spell your last name, please. We're all going to do the same
16 thing.

17 MS. NUNEZ: And spell my last name, okay.

18 MR. [REDACTED] Yes.

19 MS. NUNEZ: Hi, my name is Gloria Marie, L-a-b-o-y, N-u-n-e-
20 z.

21 MR. [REDACTED] Sorry, and you were one of the deckhands on the
22 *Spirit of Norfolk*?

23 MS. NUNEZ: Yes, correct.

1 MR. [REDACTED] My name is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I'm with the United
2 States Coast Guard D5 Investigation Team. My last name is spelled
3 [REDACTED].

4 LT. COMMANDER [REDACTED] Lt. Commander [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I'm with
5 the District 5 Formal Investigation Team. That's [REDACTED].

6 MR. DENLEY: I'm Eric Denley, D-e-n-l-e-y. I'm with City
7 Cruises, the *Spirit of Norfolk*.

8 MR. [REDACTED] And NTSB on the line, please.

9 MR. FLAHERTY: Hi, this is David Flaherty with the National
10 Transportation Safety Board. Last name's spelled F-l-a-h-e-r-t-y.

11 MR. KARR: And Michael Karr, K-a-r-r, with the NTSB.

12 MR. [REDACTED] Coast Guard?

13 COMMANDER WADDINGTON: Commander Randy Waddington.
14 Waddington's spelled W-a-d-d-i-n-g-t-o-n. I'm the District 5
15 Formal Investigation Team lead.

16 MR. [REDACTED] Counsel for Bay Diesel, please.

17 MR. STILLMAN: Good morning, Dan Stillman, S-t-i-l-l-m-a-n
18 with the law firm of Willcox & Savage here on behalf of Bay
19 Diesel.

20 MR. [REDACTED] And for Captain Nadeau?

21 MS. GALITOU: Magdalini Galitou with Phelps Dunbar for
22 Captain Nadeau.

23 MR. [REDACTED] All right.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think someone else.

25 MR. [REDACTED] Yes. So, who else is on for Hornblower,

1 please?

2 MR. WEIGEL: Yes, this is Alan Weigel from Blank Rome. It's
3 spelled W-e-i-g-e-l.

4 MR. [REDACTED] Okay, anyone else?

5 So, I want to explain to you that you may, you know, memory
6 is a perishable thing. So, if you think of things that we talk
7 about here today or in your previous interviews that you want to
8 change or modify or add to, if you can let Mr. Denley know and
9 he'll let us know. We are going to produce a transcript that he
10 will have access to of this, all the facts that you talked about,
11 so forth. So, you have an opportunity and Mr. Denley to look at
12 that and make modifications or changes.

13 We will produce a report of investigation and if you see it
14 and you look at it and say, wait, I have something to add or
15 change, new information that you need to have, once again you
16 could go to Mr. Denley or contact Lt. Commander [REDACTED] We would
17 still let Mr. Denley know. But you can appeal the results of this
18 investigation if you choose to.

19 And then there's a book about three inches thick, which is
20 what governs how we do business called the Marine Safety Manual.
21 And if you Google it, Coast Guard Marine Safety Manual, Volume 5,
22 it talks about why you're here and, you know, all those other
23 things, what we're trying to accomplish here today.

24 MS. NUNEZ: Okay.

25 MR. [REDACTED] So, without any further ado, Commander [REDACTED]

1 INTERVIEW OF GLORIA MARIE LABOY NUNEZ

2 BY LT. COMMANDER [REDACTED]

3 Q. Okay. First of all, thank you again for taking the time to
4 come down here and speak with us again. We really appreciate it.5 We'll just go first through -- can you kind of give us a
6 background in your maritime industry prior to your employment on
7 the *Spirit of Norfolk*, kind of give us your background.8 A. So, I was in the Navy. I was an engineer. I did that for
9 about two years; I just got out in March.10 Q. When were you hired to work aboard the *Spirit of Norfolk*?

11 A. April 12th of this year.

12 Q. Okay. And did you start working immediately on April 12th or
13 --14 A. No. So, I had an interview and I kind of got the job on the
15 same day. So, I had to do, like, the onboarding classes,
16 orientation and training and stuff like that before I was actually
17 on the ship. So, it was about maybe two weeks before I got on the
18 actual ship.19 Q. Okay. And can you kind of talk about that orientation. Like
20 what does that entail prior to you getting on board the ship?21 A. It was just, like, uniform, then safety measures like, you
22 know, like passenger safety, what to do and, like -- what's it
23 called -- like if someone gets like crazy or something like that.
24 Stuff like that. Yes, they did the sexual harassment. That's
25 what I could remember.

1 Q. Okay. And that was just for about two weeks?

2 A. No, so it was a day, but I didn't -- like between that time
3 and then going on the ship, it was about two weeks.

4 Q. And when was your first actual trip on board the vessel? Do
5 you remember?

6 A. Let's see. I had it -- we had a cruise, I think I had the
7 morning shift; I set up for the morning shift. So, they were
8 teaching me. I was with Jeremiah (ph.) and he was teaching me how
9 to do the job, such as like cleaning the heads, what they expect
10 me to do, and then basically I followed him throughout the whole
11 day since -- I think it's about -- yes -- three days that he would
12 train with somebody like constantly so that you can, you know, get
13 a hang of your own job on your own.

14 So, he just taught me what to do when passengers are
15 boarding, you know, like how to stand my watch or whatever, how
16 the rotations go, which is about every 30 minutes we switch decks,
17 depending on how many people are on board and how many decks we
18 have open. There's two decks that have tables and, you know, for
19 them -- for the guests to eat and stuff like that. So, he was
20 just showing me how to do all the things that day for three days.

21 Q. So, is it fair to say you had the indoc training and then you
22 had like three days of on the job training. And then what happens
23 after that?

24 A. After that -- so I kind of still wasn't sort of getting the
25 hang of things, so I kind of stayed -- so they had extra, I guess,

1 staff on board so I was always with somebody when, you know,
2 everything went down, the fire. I was always with somebody; I was
3 never by myself. So, yes, I was kind of in training for three
4 days but not really. It was kind of longer, because, you know, we
5 always had overstaff and usually I think it was two staff that are
6 on the boat with the captain from the (indiscernible) minus the
7 mate, so three. So, yes, so we had like four people on board so I
8 was always with somebody.

9 Q. Okay. So, they paired you with a chief mate? Is that how --

10 A. No, another deckhand, but they were, like, senior deckhands.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. Did you go through any firefighting training? Was
14 that part of your indoc training or the in-person on the job
15 training with Jeremiah?

16 A. Yes, in-person, on the job training. We had about maybe
17 three trainings for like fire, man overboard training, and stuff
18 like that. I remember there was about three of them.

19 Q. Okay. And can you kind of go through that and, like, what
20 they entailed and what that training looked like?

21 A. Yes, so we needed to know where all the fire stations were,
22 the extinguishers and the hoses. So, they sat us down in a room
23 and they kind of went through it. And while I was training I'm
24 supposed to learn where those spaces are in case anything happens.
25 I was there for so little that I really didn't get to know where

1 everything was. So, yes, they went over that and they told us
2 we're not firefighters -- obviously we're not -- but yes, they
3 told us basically how to manage any minor type of fires and stuff
4 like that. Anything for other than that, they told us we're not
5 firefighters, so we can't handle anything massive, I guess. But,
6 yes.

7 Q. And when they taught you how to handle minor fires, what was
8 that?

9 A. It was to find a fire extinguisher and, you know, like not to
10 be too close to it but not be too far away from it, and just like
11 extinguish it from like the top to the bottom.

12 Q. Was there any training to use hoses or fire pumps or anything
13 like that, or was it just through the fire extinguishers?

14 A. I don't recall any training on hoses and stuff. They
15 mentioned that, like, what to use and where it was, but I don't
16 remember them saying, like, how to use them, how to turn it on,
17 anything like that.

18 Q. We'll have probably follow-up questions after and I know you
19 recalled this in your previous interview but can you kind of go
20 through for us, for our district formal team, and just kind of
21 retell the whole day, the story again. Just try to be as detailed
22 as you can, what you smelled, what you saw, what you did, but also
23 what you heard as a witness. That's important, just your witness
24 account of the events that day. So, if you could just go through
25 for us and just kind of start from the time you showed up to work

1 and then just kind of go through your day until you were done with
2 the day on June 7th, please.

3 A. I'll try my best; it's kind of foggy. So, I came in to work.
4 I would come in like 20 minutes before work starts. We were
5 cleaning the heads, I was with my other co-worker. His name is
6 Brian (ph.). He was showing me how to clean the heads, because
7 there was like an extra step that I didn't know how to do. So, he
8 was showing me how to do that, and so I was partnered with him
9 throughout the whole entire day. There was also my other co-
10 workers, Jeremiah and George (ph.) were there, Bob (ph.) was
11 there, Captain Ryan was there, and (indiscernible). Okay.

12 So, we were just cleaning off, we cleaned the heads, then
13 vacuumed the carpet and swept whatever mess was there on the deck
14 and we swabbed the deck. After that, we kind of just hung out in
15 the pilot house and we changed because it was time for us to get
16 the gangway. We set up the gangway and the guests started showing
17 up probably like 30 minutes later. Yes, everyone comes on board
18 and Brian -- once it was time to pick up the gangway, me and Brian
19 went to pick up the lines from the stern and then there was
20 someone up front -- I don't remember.

21 So, once the lines were off, we went up to third deck to
22 stand watch. Our watches are typically 30 minutes, as I stated
23 before. So, we were just upper watching, making sure nothing
24 happens, someone goes overboard or anything like that. So, we
25 switch after 30 minutes. George and Jeremiah were taking our

1 spot. They had initially come up before me. We -- someone always
2 had to be on third deck to watch, to make sure nothing happened.
3 We go back to first deck. I think we were having -- we had kids
4 on board that day.

5 So, we were standing watch on first deck and it was about an
6 hour in at that point, and that's usually about the time when we
7 start turning back to go back to the pier. And we were going back
8 to switch to go back up to third deck, but they called for crew
9 lunch, so we go down to the galley. And as we're making our plate
10 to eat, the captain said something on the radio. I didn't hear
11 what he said, but Brian did.

12 So, he went immediately to the engine room and then he called
13 me over and I go, and he says there's smoke in there. And I was
14 like there's smoke in there? And he opened the door and there's
15 white smoke coming out. It was a lot, but you can see into the
16 engine room. And he closes the hatch, he tells me to grab the
17 fire extinguisher, I come back. By that time, Bob was downstairs
18 already and he said there's smoke in there. And then he said if
19 there's smoke -- and he opens the door again, just slightly edges,
20 a bunch of black smoke comes out at that point. It was burning
21 his eyes (indiscernible).

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm sorry, how many of you guys
23 (indiscernible) who is in the office, if we need to.

24 MR. [REDACTED] We'll probably not be done until about 9:30.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

1 MR. [REDACTED] At least.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thanks.

3 MR. [REDACTED] No problem.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

5 A. Okay, so, yes there was a bunch of, like, black smoke and it
6 was burning his eyes and he closed the door immediately. Brian
7 said there was a flame when Bob came down and asked if the --
8 there was a bunch of smoke and did he think there was a fire. He
9 goes, yes, there's a fire, I saw it. I think he opened the door a
10 third time to check. I'm not -- I can't really remember that
11 well.

12 So, after that we go upstairs to the first deck and we make
13 sure that all the passengers are up to third deck, because there
14 was smoke coming out and, you know, our priority was to get them
15 away from the smoke. By the time we went up, George had already
16 escorted them up to the third deck. So, after that, Jeremiah was
17 closing the fuel valve. He was closing them off because the
18 captain ordered him to close it. I heard it on the radio. He was
19 saying shut the fuel valve.

20 So, the smoke started coming out from -- I don't know if it
21 was a vent or something -- but it was getting really bad and it
22 was going up to the third deck. So, the captain decided to
23 evacuate the ship. And so they were all -- the passengers were
24 all lining up from third deck to second deck on the ladder wells.
25 It was very organized, I don't know. Nobody was panicking or

1 anything. There was a couple of kids that were crying and stuff,
2 but everyone's pretty organized. And while they were lined up,
3 they were passing the life jackets and I was making sure that
4 everybody had them strapped on properly and that the kids had the
5 right size, none of the kids wore the adult ones and that they
6 need to get the kid life jacket.

7 The Rover came by. She was like right on the edge of the
8 boat and they started transferring the passengers from our boat to
9 the Rover. And everyone got off pretty quickly, nobody was
10 struggling to get off. Thankfully, we didn't have anybody that
11 disabled on board too bad they couldn't get off or anything, but
12 everyone got off pretty quickly.

13 And after all the passengers got off, we were waiting for
14 captain's orders to see if we were going to evacuate the ship as
15 well, and he decided that we should evacuate. And so, I had my
16 stuff -- all of a sudden I decided to just run up there and get my
17 stuff with George. So, we went upstairs, got out stuff, came back
18 down and then we evacuated the ship.

19 Q. And then you evacuated onto the *Victory Rover*?

20 A. Yes, correct.

21 Q. And then kind of talk about your transit on the *Victory Rover*
22 to where you -- how did that go down, like, the transit and where
23 you got off?

24 A. I got off on the ship, which is -- we did the same thing the
25 passengers did. We just climbed over the railing and it was super

1 close, there was no gap in between. I mean, the seas were not
2 even rough either, so it was, like, perfect. Yes, we just climbed
3 over, we got everybody on. Captain Ryan and Captain CJ stayed to,
4 I guess, maneuver the ship as they needed it, and we just sailed
5 back to port. It was pretty, you know, it was another boat, so
6 it's -- yes.

7 Q. And so you went back to where you --

8 A. The *Victory Rover* went to back to where the *Spirit* came from,
9 though it wasn't exactly the same spot. It was on the pier, but
10 they have like a different spot, I guess. I don't know how to
11 call it, but, yes, we went where they usually leave port from.

12 Q. Yes. And what happened after that? Did you get off and then
13 did you --

14 A. So, we didn't get off immediately. The passengers on the
15 Rover that were there originally, they got off first. The
16 passengers from our ship, from the *Spirit of Norfolk*, stayed on a
17 little bit longer, probably about, like, five minutes before they
18 were allowed to leave. You guys were -- the Coast Guard was there
19 and handing out paperwork or something, and there was news
20 reporters there, and we had to stay in -- we stayed for, like,
21 about 15 minutes afterwards and then requested all the life
22 jackets from our boat. And we took them in something, like some
23 cart or something. Then we were told to come to the office and do
24 a drug test, so that's what they did.

25 Q. Okay. And then you left after the drug test?

1 A. Yes, correct.

2 Q. So, I'm just going to ask a few follow-up questions to what
3 you just said and thank you again for recounting that for us. And
4 then we'll go around the room and ask some follow-up questions.
5 But I know you talked about you were shadowing Brian that day or
6 working with him.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did you have any specific job, like assignments for that day
9 on board? Like, did you do anything other than just, like, go to
10 watch? Like, did you have any other assignments?

11 A. No, so pretty much when we -- so it depends when you come in.
12 It's nothing major. It's just, oh, who's going to do the heads
13 today or who's going to handle these lines or this line, you know.
14 Other than that, anything else is not my job. It's the mate's
15 job, so, yes.

16 Q. So, you weren't that (indiscernible) in the lines and the
17 watches?

18 A. Yes, correct.

19 Q. And when you stand watch -- I know you said you started up on
20 the pilot house, correct, or the third deck?

21 A. The third deck, yes.

22 Q. And then what time -- so was that when the ship left?

23 A. Yes. So, as it was pulling out, we were up there already and
24 we were there for 30 minutes before we switched and went to first
25 deck.

1 Q. And about what time did you switch and go to first deck?

2 A. I can't remember what time the cruise left day. I know we
3 pulled (indiscernible), I cannot remember the time.

4 Q. But they're all half an hour?

5 A. Yes, so a half an hour long, yes.

6 Q. And in your own watch, did you both have any instructions on
7 watch? Like, what do you -- can you kind of bring us through what
8 you do on watch or what you're supposed to be looking for on
9 watch?

10 A. Yes, so as we're pulling out, we're making sure that there's
11 no (indiscernible), you know, in front of the boat or anything,
12 because from where the captain is in the pilot house, he can't see
13 entirely along the back of the boat. So, we're on the radios --
14 well, so Brian was on the radio telling him, captain, there's a
15 small vessel coming, you know, inbound, whatever.

16 So, after leaving we were pulling out, and then as soon as
17 the captain is good to go and he's going forward, he says, you
18 know, stand watchers good to go and that's when we stop looking at
19 the back of the boat and we start looking like towards the shore
20 side of the boat and making sure that everything is in order,
21 nobody's running. There was a bunch of kids so want to make sure
22 they weren't running, making sure they weren't jumping or going on
23 tables or anything like that, possibly falling over and that's
24 what we did a couple of times that we were up there.

25 Q. And so the second watch when you went down to the first deck,

1 what were you -- what were your assignments on that watch? So,
2 what did you do on that watch?

3 A. So, since I'm looking up, I have to make sure that the female
4 head is good. So, we go down there and we check the heads real
5 quick and then we go back up, and then we just stand somewhere
6 where we have a clear view of the whole deck. And just make sure,
7 like I said, nobody's running, nobody's barefoot, nobody's
8 fighting and, you know, basically like hazards to people, like
9 trip hazards and stuff like that. Making sure everything is
10 clean, yes.

11 Q. So, does your watch ever entail going to or near the engine
12 room or just for passengers and for the waterway?

13 A. No, my job, specifically, is just to watch the passengers and
14 making sure that they're okay, yes.

15 Q. Does somebody else then have an engine room round watch or
16 something?

17 A. Yes, the mate.

18 Q. So, that was Brian?

19 A. No, so Brian was the deckhand, so he was with me. The mate
20 was George and he was shadowing Jeremiah.

21 Q. Okay, understood. Okay, we're going to talk about the events
22 that you witnessed and (indiscernible). Can you kind of bring us
23 through again the first opening. So how was that, again, relate
24 to you guys that there was smoke or did someone see it and radio
25 announce to you or did you -- your team witnessed that up front?

1 Like how did that -- can you kind of explain that first sign of
2 smoke again and, like, exactly what happened when you opened the
3 door?

4 A. Yes. So, like I said, I was making my plate and Brian was
5 the first one to go because like I said there something on the --
6 someone was saying something on the radio but I couldn't hear what
7 it was, but he did. And he said I'm already down here and he goes
8 straight to the engine room. He drops his plate, goes there. And
9 I'm not sure, but I'm guessing he opened the door, because he said
10 there's smoke in there. How do you know there's smoke in there if
11 you don't open the door? So, I'm like there's smoke in there, and
12 he tells me grab the fire extinguisher. I'm looking and he opens
13 it and there's literally like a -- it almost looked like fog, I
14 guess. I mean, it was just white. It was just coming up -- as
15 soon as you opened the door it just goes up, like, it goes on the
16 top of the ceiling or whatever overhead. And he closes it and he
17 tells me grab the fire extinguisher, so I go and I get it and I
18 come back. Bob is already there. I don't know where Bob came --
19 but he's there.

20 And so he says there's smoke in there and he's like are you
21 sure it's smoke. And he opens the door -- the hatch again and
22 then black -- it's just thick, black smoke and it smells like burn
23 -- burning, I guess, like something was burning. And he says we
24 can't go in there and he just closes it again. And then he says
25 there was a fire in there. I didn't see the fire myself. There

1 was something orange, I can't say if it was a fire or not. It
2 could have been, you know, some light coming up, an alarm or
3 something. But, yes, the smoke was just thick and it just smelt
4 like a barbeque, I guess like what you would smell like at a
5 barbeque, like burning smoke, dark smoke.

6 Q. How much time elapsed between that first opening and when Bob
7 opened it a second time?

8 A. It wasn't -- it was Brian that opened it.

9 Q. The second time, yes.

10 A. Bob was downstairs -- he was just standing there, so Brian
11 opened it to show, I guess, like the smoke. It was not even like
12 a minute. It was so fast. Like he closed it, opened it -- it
13 wasn't even like a minute, it was just like a couple of seconds
14 for like the smoke to completely change, yes.

15 Q. And when you went to get the fire extinguisher, were there
16 any other instructions given to you other than just go get the
17 fire extinguisher?

18 A. No, so he was there. He had a fire extinguisher on his side
19 so he was already there. And then when I went to get the fire
20 extinguisher, I was just standing there with it ready and he just
21 -- he couldn't go in there because at that point it was just too
22 much smoke.

23 Q. And then someone relayed back to let the captain know?

24 A. So, everybody had a radio. I'm not sure who exactly was the
25 one that told him. Yes, I'm not sure exactly who, like, someone

1 had told him.

2 Q. And then you said possibly it was opened a third time?

3 A. Maybe it was. I'm not too sure if it was opened a third
4 time. I can't really remember.

5 Q. Okay. But after that second time, everyone just had their
6 fire extinguisher and decided not to go in because of the smoke
7 and the fire. And then what happened immediately after that?

8 A. So it was Bob that told us to go make sure to go get the
9 guests to go to the third deck, because of the smoke.

10 Q. Okay. And can you clarify, too, what you had mentioned that
11 the passengers were kind of already lined up --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- and it was very -- it was organized. Do you know how that
14 came about? Was there an announcement, like, how -- can you kind
15 of bring us through how the passengers got lined up on the third
16 deck?

17 A. I'm not sure how, but I'm pretty -- there was kitchen staff
18 that were working and when we went up, they were already out. So,
19 I can't really say who had got them so organized, but my guess is
20 there was other staff on board as well that day. It wasn't just
21 us, because George was upstairs with the passengers on the third
22 deck. Me, Brian and Jeremiah were on first deck, trying to get
23 the life jackets out of the bins and pass them out to the
24 passengers and stuff. So, I'm not exactly sure who it was that
25 organized the passengers, but they were just already ready to go.

1 Q. And was there any instruction given to you and your team as
2 to what to do with the passengers?

3 A. Yes. So, Brian was telling me to keep them calm and make
4 sure that they had them on properly, because most of them were
5 just putting them on and they didn't put the little strap behind.
6 That was what I was told.

7 Q. So, you're actually assisting with putting the life jackets
8 on and --

9 A. So, I was handing them out and then I was explaining to them
10 if they didn't have them on right, you know, to put their strap on
11 in the back.

12 Q. And who -- how did you get the passengers from the third deck
13 to the deck that they boarded the *Victory Rover* on? Like how did
14 that go about? Were there instructions given for that?

15 A. Yes. So, I mean, like I said they were already lined up, so
16 we kind of just trickled them in. There was a staff from the
17 *Rover*, you know, going -- they would stand out to reach out for
18 the guests so they could climb over, because there was a railing
19 about 2 feet long or something, so those kids that, you know,
20 couldn't climb over it. So, the parents would pass them over to
21 them and then they would go from there. But it took -- kind of,
22 like, trickled along. It was very organized. I mean, it was very
23 good.

24 Q. Okay. Who were the crew members with you during the whole
25 evacuation part and the handing of the life jackets, and that like

1 who -- was it the same team you were with or --

2 A. Yes. So, I'm not sure who the kitchen staff were, because I
3 don't really know them like that. But there was a couple of them
4 there and then like I said it was Bob, Jeremiah, George, Captain
5 Ryan and me.

6 Q. And they were all staying with the passengers?

7 A. Yes. So, Captain Ryan was in the pilot house. I'm not sure
8 what was going on in there, but he was there. He did come down to
9 check on everything, to make sure that everything was okay at one
10 point. I don't really remember where he was, because I was just
11 too (indiscernible).

12 But Brian was next to me, Jeremiah was getting life jackets.
13 When we ran out of life jackets, (indiscernible) second deck to
14 get some more. But, yes, it was just us and them.

15 Q. I'm going to go back and ask you because there was an event
16 on board where there was a previous smoke on board the engine room
17 that happened around May 15th of this year. Were you part of the
18 crew on that day?

19 A. No, I was not.

20 Q. Okay.

21 LT. COMMANDER [REDACTED] Mr. [REDACTED]

22 MR. [REDACTED] Thank you.

23 BY MR. [REDACTED]

24 Q. So, I have some follow-ups. So, you talked a little bit more
25 about your Navy time. So were you a machinery technician?

1 A. Machinist mate.

2 Q. Machinist mate. So, what kind of training did the give you
3 for firefighting?

4 A. We had a lot. We have, like, different positions, like, we
5 had the fire team, we had the hose men, you know, people handle
6 the hoses, people put on the SPVAs and the breathing devices, and
7 there's other people that, you know, do the -- what do you call it
8 -- I can't remember (indiscernible) everything -- so the line
9 thingy -- I don't -- like a curtain, a small curtain.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Yes, they did a bunch of training all the time. But, yes,
12 there was a lot.

13 Q. By the way, this is Mr. [REDACTED] So, inside to, you know,
14 take a job to work for Hornblower and City Cruises, who did your
15 initial training? Like you walked into the office, you filled out
16 an application and then you had the orientation. So, who did
17 that?

18 A. It was Shirley (ph.).

19 Q. And that is who?

20 A. I'm not sure her position. She just was there -- I think she
21 was like the receptionist. She did the orientation there in the
22 office.

23 Q. Did they hand you, like, some books or booklets or any kind
24 of paperwork for you to read through? And if they did, could you
25 talk about it a little bit?

1 A. Yes, so they gave me a folder with, you know, like the pay
2 schedules, the -- like, how to log in and put your hours, and like
3 the events that they're having, stuff like that. That's what I
4 can remember. I have the folder at home. I can go back and look
5 at it.

6 Q. So, at any time -- so you started working and you were
7 working from April obviously until June and you're still working
8 now. But until the fire occurred, did they give you any kind of,
9 like, personal safety handbook? Did they give you like a basic
10 firefighting handbook or any kind of, like, documents to show how
11 to do not only your job but some of the safety jobs on board the
12 vessel?

13 A. No, they did not.

14 Q. Did they explain that, like, they were going to get you one?
15 Like we have this paperwork, but we don't have it available at the
16 moment, we're going to get it to you.

17 A. So, they do have like a kind of test paperwork that they
18 have, because my roommate also works for the boats, and she has
19 like a -- I don't know -- probably like a four-page booklet -- not
20 a booklet, but it was like a -- it was stapled. I'm not sure what
21 was on it, because I didn't look at it personally, but it's
22 supposed to go through -- so that way you know where the fire
23 hydrants are, the hoses and stuff like that. I'm not exactly sure
24 what was on it, because I just got to the boat and I wasn't -- I
25 don't know -- I wasn't looking for that, I guess. Like she was

1 kind of advanced and I just got there and I was just trying to
2 learn little by little what I had to do.

3 Q. So, when you got on the boat, did they, like, point out,
4 like, hey when you get a chance, there's a loose leaf binder there
5 that has some documents, you should read through those?

6 A. So, nobody told me about that. My roommate did, though. She
7 told me hey, if you want to advance, you should get the paperwork
8 and fill it out as you go, so that way you can advance, basically.

9 Q. So, when you worked, you mentioned when you were talking
10 about the drills that were carried about -- you know, carried out
11 on board the vessel, and you mentioned man overboard and fire
12 drills and stuff, explain it so I would understand what a typical
13 fire drill would be like that you experienced when you were
14 aboard, you know. Give me as much detail as you can.

15 A. About the training that they give?

16 Q. Well, about the drills themselves and the firefighting
17 training that they gave you aboard the vessel.

18 A. So, it was -- like I said, we were like up in the pilot house
19 and they kind of, you know, got us together like we are now, and
20 they kind of just went through, like, the drills, like, it wasn't
21 just firefighting training that we had. It was also other drills
22 like what to do if someone (indiscernible) or what to do if
23 someone falls overboard. So, it wasn't just strictly like a fire
24 drill. So, if you're asking me to explain exactly what they told
25 me during the training that they had, I can't really because I

1 can't really remember what it was.

2 But I know that they mentioned that it was important to know
3 where the hoses were, where the fire extinguishers were, how to
4 evacuate the passengers on board if we needed to and that's all I
5 can really remember.

6 Q. Did they ask you to sign a sheet, you know, to document the
7 training? Like sign and date, like your (indiscernible) go ahead
8 and sign and date this?

9 A. Not that I remember, no.

10 Q. Based on the training and the drills that you had, who did
11 you understand as part of the vessel's crew would have been the
12 person that would turn on the fire pumps?

13 A. I'm not sure.

14 Q. So, you mentioned that the people -- the service people, the
15 wait staff that take care of the passengers, you know, serving
16 drinks and beverages and stuff like that. So what was your
17 uniform that you wore?

18 A. It was a white undershirt with the dress shirt that they
19 provided me, and a black dress pant slacks and black non-slick
20 shoes.

21 Q. And I'm going through the order to (indiscernible), that's
22 why these questions jump around a little bit. So, when you talk
23 about the crew position, you have two people, George and Jeremiah,
24 that were stationed at the beginning of the cruise on the third
25 deck. At any time, did they tell you that they saw smoke or fire

1 when they were on the third deck?

2 A. So, we -- me and Brian started on the third deck; they were
3 on first deck. When they -- when we -- when the whole fire smoke
4 thing happened and what not, they mentioned that they saw smoke
5 coming from, I guess, one of the vents and that's all I remember
6 is that they were saying we saw smoke coming out in, like, the
7 back of the ship from the side. And that's all I remember them
8 saying.

9 Q. But it was after the fire was going, right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. They didn't tell you, like, as you swapped positions that we
12 saw smoke up --

13 A. Oh, no, it was after then.

14 Q. So, one of the things that's required on the vessel would be
15 a safety briefing for the passengers.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you talk about how on that day you remember the safety
18 briefing?

19 A. Yes. So, they have -- they do basically a safety briefing.
20 It's like an automatic message, I guess. They, I guess, press a
21 button or something and it plays it. The DJ that day was telling
22 the passengers -- because there were a bunch of kids -- the kids
23 don't want to listen to that stuff; they just want to hear music.
24 So, he said hey, guys, I know you're having fun but I have a very
25 important message to tell you. And then the safety briefing came

1 on and I don't remember exactly what the briefing said, but, you
2 know, it tells you what to do in case of emergencies and stuff
3 like that.

4 Q. So, that would be a pre-recorded message?

5 A. Yes, correct.

6 Q. And then did somebody stand up there, like on an airplane,
7 and they go, you know, they hold -- does anybody hold up a life
8 jacket or show how to put it on?

9 A. No.

10 Q. No. And how about, does anybody put their hands up and point
11 to exits, you know, like on an airplane they do the same thing,
12 they point to the airplane exits?

13 A. I'm not sure about that.

14 Q. There is some -- you said everybody has radios. Are those
15 like the ones you buy -- the small ones like you buy at Walmart
16 for, like, intercom or are they like a marine radio?

17 A. I'm not sure between them. All I know is it's a little cheap
18 radio, yes.

19 Q. It's just for you all to talk to each other?

20 A. Yes, correct.

21 Q. And do any of you wear headsets?

22 A. So, there -- they -- it depends. Some of them have connected
23 to, like, an earpiece and then some of them have, like, you know,
24 the black swirly things and you can just kind of put it on your
25 chest and listen to it that way.

1 Q. And in some of the information that we've had and we've been
2 able to process, and that's why you're here to ask questions, but
3 there was talk about a smoke alarm.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What is that?

6 A. The smoke alarm?

7 Q. No, I mean, in terms of the *Spirit of Norfolk*. Were you
8 aware of there being a smoke alarm, some kind of, you know, thing
9 in the ceiling or some kind of electronic device that would be
10 able to tell you that you had a smoke threat?

11 A. So, I'm not sure if we could be -- any -- I was not paying --
12 I didn't know anything was going on. But I'm not really sure if
13 there's, like, you know, like the (indiscernible) like that on
14 board that will go off and everyone could see. But I know that
15 the captain got an alarm up in the pilot house, because he was the
16 one that -- when Brian said there's smoke alarms going off, can
17 someone check, you know. I guess inside the engine room there was
18 like a sensor and he was able to see the alarm from the pilot
19 house.

20 Q. But it could be something else, some other type of alarm,
21 right?

22 A. Yes, it could be.

23 Q. But it's like when they familiarized you with the vessel when
24 you did your orientation, you know, you started shadowing people,
25 did they walk around and point to all of the safety features?

1 Like, did they give you a tour of the wheelhouse?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did they show you anything like a fire alarm panel or smoke
4 alarm panel (indiscernible)?

5 A. So, they were showing me, but I was there for so little that
6 I didn't -- I couldn't remember everything yet. But, yes, they
7 were telling me, one thing, where everything was; another thing
8 hey, you got to remember this and stuff like that. So, I was
9 there for so little, I couldn't remember it.

10 Q. How about the engine room? Did they walk you through it?

11 A. So, I didn't really get to look at the engine room, but when
12 I got on the sort of the first time on my first cruise, I just
13 kind of -- like this and just came back out. It's not my job to
14 go in the engine room, so I didn't have to go in there, but I just
15 looked at it, like, real quick.

16 Q. So, you talked about, like, the period of time you were on
17 the vessel. So, how many trips do you think you made? Just
18 approximate's good.

19 A. Maybe like five or six, yes.

20 Q. Did anybody -- do you remember anybody showing you on the
21 main deck in the after part of the cabin where the -- I believe
22 you can see an escape hatch was for the engine room? It would be
23 in the deck -- it would be on your deck scuttle?

24 A. I think I saw it myself when I was walking around, because
25 there was, like, carpet and then there's like a lining, like, you

1 know, like of the scuttle. I'm pretty sure I saw it myself, but I
2 don't recall anybody saying hey, this is, you know, emergency exit
3 for the engine room or something like that.

4 Q. Did you work for any other captains other than Captain Nadeau
5 when you were on board?

6 A. Yes, I worked with Captain Jimmy (ph.) a couple of times, and
7 I can't remember who else it was, but there was one other captain
8 that I worked with.

9 Q. So, did they operate the vessel in a similar fashion or would
10 I notice something different if one captain was on versus, say,
11 Captain Nadeau?

12 A. No, it was exactly the same. Every captain has the same
13 expectation.

14 Q. So, the -- when you mentioned George and Jeremiah and you
15 mentioned that George had been shadowing Jeremiah and the vessel
16 carried extra crew?

17 A. Yes, correct.

18 Q. So, how many new people breaking in, so to speak, would have
19 been aboard the vessel in the marine department?

20 A. Just me and George.

21 Q. And how long had George been on?

22 A. I can't say, I don't know.

23 Q. Longer than you?

24 A. No, less time than me, yes.

25 Q. So, if you'll just take a minute and think about this, do you

1 remember if when the engine room watertight door was opened the
2 second time or the third time, you know, -- the door? You know,
3 what we learned in the service that, you know, in the Coast Guard
4 and the Navy is, you know, you see if a door is hot before you
5 open it. Did they do anything like that or did they just pull the
6 door open?

7 A. So, the first time that he opened it, he just opened it,
8 because it was just white smoke. So, he just kind of opened it
9 like that. I don't remember if he did the whole, you know, like
10 backhand to check if the door was hot or anything. He just -- I
11 think he just opened the door again, yes.

12 Q. So, for the transcription is she's simulating the back of her
13 hand, touching a door to see if it was hot, and she -- you learned
14 in the Navy, is that correct?

15 A. Yes, correct.

16 Q. So, where'd you get your fire extinguisher from? I know that
17 Mr. Brasie (ph.) -- Brian -- had one.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Do you know where he got it from?

20 A. It was right -- it was to the left of the engine room door.
21 It was like on the -- what is it called, a pillar? It was right
22 there, like right by the entrance of it. Mine was a little bit
23 further back. It was by the staircase that goes down into the
24 galley.

25 Q. And they -- were they about the same size, do you recall?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And neither of them were discharged?

3 A. No.

4 Q. My final question before we shift over, is there was a new
5 captain, a break-in captain, Captain Brown (ph.) aboard. I think
6 his name was Brown.

7 A. Um-hum, yes.

8 Q. Yes. So, what was his function that day? Could you -- did
9 you get introduced to him and then he's saying who he was and what
10 he was going to do?

11 A. Yes. So, I didn't know who he was when he -- he just kind of
12 came in randomly and asking for Captain Ryan. And he introduced
13 himself, hi I'm CJ, I'm a new captain. I didn't know if he was
14 the captain of the *Avel* (ph.) or the *Freedom Elite*. So, I just
15 went oh, hi, I'm Gloria Marie and nice to meet you and that's it.
16 I didn't see him anymore after that. He was with Captain Ryan the
17 whole time.

18 Q. Okay. He stayed aboard the vessel when you all got off?

19 A. Yes, correct.

20 Q. Thanks. That's all I have, thank you.

21 A. Welcome.

22 MR. [REDACTED] NTSB?

23 MR. KARR: Yes, this is Michael Karr with the NTSB.

24 BY MR. KARR:

25 Q. I have a few follow-up questions for you.

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. When you were on the *Victory Rover*, did you play any role,
3 did you help account for passengers? Can you describe what you
4 did when you were on the *Victory Rover*?

5 A. So, I just kind of came in and I stayed towards the forward
6 end of the ship. All the passengers were sitting down between the
7 two decks that they had. I didn't account for anybody because I
8 believe that was Bob that went, and the (indiscernible) was on and
9 make sure that everyone was off. Yes, but I just stayed towards
10 the front end of the ship. Since I was kind of newer, they kind
11 of did everything else.

12 Q. All right. Were you with any other crew members from the
13 *Spirit of Norfolk* when you were on the *Victory Rover*?

14 A. Yes, so I was with George, Jeremiah, Brian and Bob was there
15 as well.

16 Q. When you were on board the *Victory Rover*, did you talk about
17 what you had observed? Can you remember anything that you or
18 anyone else mentioned about the fire or anything?

19 A. No, so we just kind of chilled there. We were kind of coming
20 down from the adrenaline, I guess, so we were all kind of, like,
21 in shock about the events. So, we just kind of stood there and
22 just chilled out, I guess.

23 Q. All right. When you were on board and people were lining up
24 -- well, you know, when you were on board after the fire and the
25 people on the third deck and then they made their way down, did

1 passengers ask you questions?

2 A. No. So, nobody really asked anything. They were kind of
3 just trying to get off. Yes, that's pretty much it.

4 Q. Did anyone ask you what was going on?

5 A. There was a couple of kids, I guess, that they were kind of
6 freaking out and they were, like, what's going on, like, what's
7 happening, I'm never going to go on a boat again. And -- but
8 nobody was really asking what was happening. They kind of
9 figured, oh there's a fire, something like that, because nobody
10 was asking any questions. They were just trying to get off of the
11 boat.

12 Q. When you were going to have your meal, was the plan for you
13 to eat your meal in the galley below deck?

14 A. So, we can eat our meal in the galley or we can go up to the
15 MOB, the man overboard room, and eat it there or we can choose to
16 just save it for later and eat it after the cruise.

17 Q. To help me get an idea of how much time -- to help me get an
18 idea of time, tell me what you did from when you walked below to
19 enter the galley and to where you started to prepare your plate,
20 and then you heard that there was a fire?

21 A. It was probably not even five minutes. We literally went
22 down there. There was a line to get food, because the kitchen
23 staff was down there and they got their food first. But by the
24 time I was -- it was probably like three people in front of me.
25 They got -- made their plate really quickly, I would say not even

1 five minutes and Brian was already running towards the engine
2 room.

3 Q. So, to summarize, you walked down into the galley, you got in
4 line and you were waiting for your food when you saw Brian come
5 down into the galley space?

6 A. So, Brian was with me in the galley. We were both fixing up
7 our food. Because the way the galley's set up, it's like a stand
8 or something where the food is and he was on the other side. So,
9 he was fixing his plate and I was on the other side fixing my
10 plate, and it was probably not even five minutes that we were down
11 there when he started heading towards back.

12 Q. All right. And when you were in the galley, did you hear
13 anything unusual from the engine room?

14 A. I heard nothing, absolutely nothing.

15 Q. Could you hear the engines running when you were in the
16 galley?

17 A. No.

18 Q. You talked about firefighting drills. Was there any -- was
19 there ever any time when you were on the *Spirit of Norfolk* that
20 there was actually a practice, you know, where they simulated a
21 fire somewhere and you participated?

22 A. Not when I was on board, no.

23 Q. And if -- and please tell me if you can recall, describe how
24 wide the engine room door was opened the first time and then how
25 wide it was opened the second time.

1 A. So, the first time it was probably open halfway, and then the
2 second time was a little bit less than that, just because when he
3 opened it the smoke just instantly started coming out, and he just
4 closed it almost immediately after he opened it.

5 Q. All right, thank you. I have no more questions.

6 A. No problem.

7 MR. [REDACTED] Mr. Flaherty.

8 MR. FLAHERTY: I have no additional questions.

9 MR. [REDACTED] Counsel for Bay Diesel?

10 MR. STILLMAN: No questions. Thank you very much for your
11 time.

12 MR. [REDACTED] Counsel for Captain Nadeau?

13 MS. GALITOU: No questions here either. Thank you, ma'am.

14 MR. [REDACTED] Mr. Denley.

15 BY MR. DENLEY:

16 Q. Yes, I do. I just have a couple of follow-up questions.
17 Just to be clear that at the time on June the 7th when the fire
18 happened, you would consider yourself to be a trainee on board?

19 A. Yes, correct.

20 Q. So, you were not qualified?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Okay. And you've obviously still in the company then. So,
23 the process to qualify, can you maybe describe the process that
24 you go through to continue sort of on the qualification process to
25 where you can stand the watch by yourself?

1 A. I mean, it was just familiarizing myself with, like, the
2 different -- because there's like different points -- I don't know
3 how to really explain it. But when you're, like, standing the
4 watch, there's different points where you have to look out. You
5 have to know the names of each point and you have to know if the
6 ship is -- or the vessel is going inward and -- whatever --
7 outboard. Yes, so that's why I wasn't really, like, by myself.

8 Q. You would have gained experience line handling?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You would have gained experience as a lookout?

11 A. Yes, correct.

12 Q. You would have gained experience knowing where different
13 safety systems were on board for the vessel?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You would gain experience knowing where different fire
16 extinguishers were throughout the vessel?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You would conduct additional training?

19 A. What do you mean by that?

20 Q. Training.

21 A. Like with the captain?

22 Q. I don't know, I'm asking you.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Thank you. So, when you were involved in the evacuation of
25 the guests, I mean, passing out life jackets, can you talk about

1 -- was there anybody -- did you guys discuss making sure that all
2 the guests and all the crew were off the vessel? Were you
3 involved in that at all?

4 A. I mean, I didn't discuss anything. I was just kind of told,
5 like, hey stand here, make sure everyone has a life jacket, make
6 sure they get off and make sure that they got off first. There
7 was a bunch of kids. We had to make sure they got off before
8 anything. So, yes, that's basically it. We just knew it was our
9 priority to get all the guests off.

10 Q. And where were you standing when the guests were going from
11 the *Spirit of Norfolk* over to the *Victory Rover*?

12 A. I was right by the -- I guess where the passengers entered
13 from or enter from. I was right in front of the ladder well. So,
14 there's a, like, a little room type thing and there's a door to
15 enter the first deck to, you know, sit down and go when I
16 (indiscernible) that main door where all the passengers come in,
17 from where we attach the gangway and then there's a ladder well to
18 go up to second and third and the pilot house. So, I was right in
19 front of the ladder well.

20 Q. So, you got to see the guests kind of stepping off the --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- *Spirit* onto the *Victory Rover*?

23 A. Yes, correct.

24 Q. And were there any crew members from the *Spirit* assisting?

25 A. Yes, so the -- like I said, the -- I was the only one

1 standing, like, right there, making sure that they have their life
2 jackets on. But Jeremiah, George, Brian were -- I don't know
3 where George was. I think he was up on third deck, because that's
4 where he was last. But Jeremiah and Brian were wanting to get
5 life jackets so that I can pass it to the passengers.

6 Q. And did you see anybody get hurt when they went from the
7 *Spirit of Norfolk* over to the *Victory Rover*?

8 A. No, everyone got off (indiscernible).

9 Q. And you saw pretty much everybody get off?

10 A. Yes, I saw everybody get off.

11 Q. All the guests?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And then the crew? The crew got off?

14 A. Yes, correct.

15 Q. I don't have any other questions, thanks.

16 MR. [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

17 BY MR. [REDACTED]

18 Q. Just a couple of follow-ups. So, when the door -- the
19 watertight door was opened the second time and smoke billowed out,
20 were there kitchen staff, people down in the kitchen area?

21 A. Yes, there were, so they immediately left and we were, like,
22 oh no and they just got out.

23 Q. Okay. So, they just went out the stairwell?

24 A. Yes. I'm not sure where they went, but they left.

25 Q. And then you had been asked by Mr. Denley about your break-in

1 status. You mentioned your friends taking a test.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Was that part of the training that would be required of you?

4 In other words, after this at some point you were going to stop
5 shadowing people --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- and stop breaking in. Were you told that you had to be
8 part of a training plan and you were going to have to take a test?

9 A. No. So, the test is more for advancement, so I guess it
10 depends on whether you still want to advance to the next rank,
11 whatever they have. She wanted to do it quick, so she really got
12 involved and she was like how to I rank up? And she -- and they,
13 you know, gave her the packet. She didn't finish it, because
14 she's about to leave anyway, but, yes, I guess it depends on you
15 how fast you want to rank up and what not.

16 I'm not -- like I said, I'm not sure exactly what is on the
17 test, but I know that she was telling me, hey, familiarize
18 yourself with the boat because that way you can let me know and
19 then we can both take the test and advance.

20 Q. So, you might have said this and I just want to make sure I
21 get this right. So, when you start to board the vessel on the
22 morning of June 7th, you know, arrived early to work and ready to
23 go, how close did you feel to being truly qualified to do your job
24 as a deckhand?

25 A. Not close enough, honestly.

1 Q. So, that's all the questions I have.

2 BY MR. DENLEY:

3 Q. Yes, so just a quick follow-up. So, again, kind of going
4 back to when you were helping the guests with life jackets and
5 making sure that they were fit properly. So, inside you were down
6 on the first deck. Correct?

7 A. Yes, correct.

8 Q. So, at that point in time inside the vessel, was there a lot
9 of smoke?

10 A. Yes, so at that point, the first deck was almost -- I
11 wouldn't say full of smoke, but there was a lot that if you, like,
12 walked through there, it would kind of like burned your eyes. But
13 the ladder wells as well had some smoke in it, too, because there
14 were guests coughing and covering their mouths and stuff.

15 Q. And did you at any time see any fire up on the first deck?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did you feel any heat from the fire on the first deck?

18 A. No.

19 Q. I don't have any further questions. Thank you.

20 MR. [REDACTED] Just as a follow-up, anybody on the line have a
21 follow-up questions. This is [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

22 MR. KARR: Yes, this is Mike Karr. I have a follow-up
23 question.

24 BY MR. KARR:

25 Q. Can you recall how the smoke entered the first deck that you

1 just described?

2 A. I'm not too sure how it entered the first deck. I'm not
3 sure.

4 Q. Second question for you. Is -- can you recall or did you
5 participate or can you remember if anyone swept the vessel looking
6 for passengers to make sure everyone was lined up and that you did
7 not have any stragglers?

8 A. Yes. So, I personally went down into the heads and made sure
9 that there was nobody in there. And I know that the other staff
10 as well was doing the same thing with the other decks.

11 Q. And do you remember when that was done?

12 A. It was right after the final guest got off and transferred
13 over into the *Victory Rover*. We just went and made sure that
14 there was nobody else on board.

15 Q. All right, thank you.

16 A. No problem.

17 MR. [REDACTED] This is Mr. [REDACTED] Anybody else? Okay.
18 Just a little bit of housekeeping. You had mentioned the copy of
19 a prerecorded safety briefing announcement and, Mr. Denley, if a
20 copy of that exists or one that is closely similar to the *Spirit*
21 *of Norfolk*, we'd like to get a copy of that.

22 MR. DENLEY: Sure.

23 MR. [REDACTED] Anybody else? Ms. [REDACTED]

24 LT. COMMANDER [REDACTED] No.

25 MR. [REDACTED] So, the time is 9:36 Eastern standard time.

1 And we thank you very much and this concludes the interview.

2 We're turning off the recorders.

3 (Whereupon, at 9:36 a.m., the interview was concluded.)

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

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


IN THE MATTER OF: FIRE ONBOARD *SPIRIT OF NORFOLK*
NEAR NORFOLK NAVAL STATION, VIRGINIA
ON JUNE 7, 2022
Interview of Gloria Marie Laboy Nunez

ACCIDENT NO.: DCA22FM022

PLACE: Norfolk, Virginia

DATE: August 9, 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.


Maria Socorro R. Abellar
Transcriber