

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of: \*

FIRE ABOARD THE *SPIRIT OF BOSTON* \*

NEAR THE BOSTON SPORTS DISTRICT \* Accident No.: DCA23FM022

IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, \*

ON MARCH 24, 2023 \*

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: SHARON HENRY-BELL, Server Assistant  
*Spirit of Boston*

Boston, Massachusetts

Tuesday,  
April 4, 2023

## APPEARANCES:

██████████ ██████████ Lieutenant Commander  
First District Formal Investigation Team  
United States Coast Guard

BRIAN YOUNG, Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

KEITH FAWCETT, Marine Accident Investigator  
First District Formal Investigation Team  
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First District Formal Investigation Team  
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ERIC DENLEY, Counsel  
City Cruises

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I N T E R V I E W

(10:37 a.m.)

1  
2  
3 LCDR [REDACTED] -- record this. Can you just acknowledge that  
4 the tape recorder's on?

5 MS. BELL: I know there's tape record on.

6 LCDR [REDACTED] Okay. Thank you. This is a joint U.S. Coast  
7 Guard/NTSB investigation. And the Coast Guard is the lead agency,  
8 and we are conducting this interview under applicable Coast Guard  
9 regulations.

10 The date today is date is April 4th, 2023. The time is  
11 10:37. We're conducting an interview with Ms. Sharon Henry Bell,  
12 and the location is the District 1 Coast Guard Conference Room.

13 So again, we are conducting an interview to examine the  
14 events surrounding the fire aboard the excursion vessel, *Spirit of*  
15 *Boston*, which occurred March 24th, 2023, in the Boston Harbor.

16 What I'm going to do now is I'm going to kind of go around  
17 the room for you and introduce everybody and the one person we  
18 have on line, and then I'll give you a chance to introduce  
19 yourself. So we're going to go around the room, starting with  
20 myself and counsel as well. So we'll go ahead and just go around,  
21 start with Lieutenant [REDACTED]

22 LT [REDACTED] I'm Lieutenant [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] -  
23 [REDACTED]. And I'm an investigator in the *Spirit of Boston* investigation.

24 LCDR [REDACTED] I'm Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED] [REDACTED] My  
25 last name is spelled [REDACTED]. And I am with the District 1

1 Formal Investigation team as well.

2 MR. YOUNG: Good morning. My name is Brian Young. I'm with  
3 the National Transportation Safety Board, and we're doing a joint  
4 investigation with the Coast Guard to try to figure out what  
5 happened and how we can prevent this from happening again. And  
6 the spelling of my last name is Y-o-u-n-g.

7 MR. FAWCETT: Good morning. My name is Keith Fawcett. I'm a  
8 civilian with the Coast Guard. I'm an interviewer with this  
9 District formal investigation. You spell my last name F-a-w-c-e-  
10 t-t. My first name is Keith. Thanks.

11 LCDR [REDACTED] Good morning. I'm Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED] It's [REDACTED], and I'm the legal advisor the  
13 investigation. Nice to meet you.

14 LCDR [REDACTED] We have one on line. Commander, can you go  
15 ahead and introduce yourself and spell your last name?

16 CMDR [REDACTED] Sure. Good morning. My name is Commander  
17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I am the lead investigating officer  
18 for this investigation. Good morning and welcome.

19 MS. BELL: Good morning.

20 LCDR [REDACTED] And Ms. Henry Bell, if you could go ahead and  
21 introduce yourself and spell your last name please.

22 MS. BELL: My name is Sharon Bell. B-e-l-l is the spelling  
23 of my last. I work for City Experiences.

24 LCDR [REDACTED] And you prefer to go by Ms. Bell?

25 MS. BELL: That's fine, yeah.

1 LCDR [REDACTED] And can you please introduce counsel in the  
2 room for me?

3 MR. DENLEY: I'm Eric Denley, D-e-n-l-e-y, counsel for City  
4 Cruises.

5 LCDR [REDACTED] Thank you, sir. Just to let you know as well,  
6 that if you need to change or modify or you think of something  
7 later, please just go through Mr. Denley and we can have the  
8 record shown of your changes. You may also appeal the results of  
9 any report of investigation that will be presented at the  
10 conclusion of this investigation. And, if you need any background  
11 information about the process and what we're doing, you can  
12 consult the Coast Guard Marine Casualty Investigation, and the  
13 Marine Safety Manual, you can just Google that, Volume V, and  
14 it'll kind of bring you through the interview process as well.

15 Do you have any questions before we begin?

16 MS. BELL: No.

17 LCDR [REDACTED] I'll turn it over to Mr. Fawcett.

18 INTERVIEW OF SHARON HENRY-BELL

19 BY MR. FAWCETT:

20 Q. So good morning. Thank you again for being here. If you  
21 need a break, let us know. So I think the first question I'd like  
22 to ask you is in your residence where you live, within that  
23 residence, do you have a fire extinguisher?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Have you ever looked at the label of a fire extinguisher to

1 see how to use one?

2 A. I have, but not recently. I have read one though.

3 Q. So have you ever seen any -- outside of like work, have you  
4 ever seen any demonstrations of how a fire extinguisher is used  
5 like pull a pin, squeeze a handle, anything like that?

6 A. Yeah, I have. I believe like on TV or something. I haven't,  
7 not right in front of me.

8 Q. Okay. So a little bit about your background. So how have  
9 you worked for -- how many years with City Cruises just because  
10 there's so many different name? So how long have you worked for  
11 City Cruises?

12 A. It'll be a year in May.

13 Q. And have you worked on other vessels within Boston other than  
14 the Spirit of Boston?

15 A. I have.

16 Q. And what were those vessels?

17 A. The *Sea Boy Lee* (ph.) and I've also worked on the *Boston Lee*.

18 Q. And then what is your job title?

19 A. I'm a server assistant.

20 Q. So would you talk about what you do in your job in just very  
21 general terms?

22 A. Maybe I bus tables and I pick up glasses, plates, assistant  
23 people if they'd like coffee, tea or something like that, whenever  
24 they need something, I'm right there, just to help out, help set  
25 tables and that sort of thing.

1 Q. And then just so I understand the structure, who do you work  
2 for? Who's your supervisor?

3 A. Cassandra Griffin.

4 Q. And that would be the restaurant manager?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So I want you to sit there quietly for a minute and think  
7 back to the evening of March 24th. Take your time. I know this  
8 was an unusual night, and we're trying to understand everything  
9 that you experienced from the time the passengers got off the  
10 vessel and then you started to work until the time you left the  
11 vessel. And I may ask you about what you did after you got off  
12 the vessel, but kind of just sit there quietly for a minute  
13 because the more detail the give, the less questions we have to  
14 ask. So sit there quietly, and when you're ready, just tell us --  
15 imagine the passengers have departed the vessel, and then you  
16 being your story.

17 A. So we had about close to 400 people that night. They got off  
18 the way they always do. Somebody did the bye-bye line with the  
19 cookies and what have you. And we went right to work with  
20 removing salt, pepper, votives off the table and taking off the  
21 linen. The linen just gets tossed onto the dance floor until we  
22 bag it and take it out. Yeah. So we actually started putting the  
23 linen into the linen bags. I remember trying to stuff as much in  
24 there as we could.

25 My phone was in the wait station. It was just there. It



1 wasn't charging or anything because I don't even bring a charger  
2 to work. I just have to check it periodically. I have an 18-  
3 year-old son. I went over to -- and I mean there were a few other  
4 people on that deck with me. We pulled the votives, the candles  
5 to take upstairs for the next setup for the next day. They were  
6 going to be used on the second deck. I recall doing that.

7 I came back down. I'm going to check my phone to see if I  
8 got a call. I look up around the light, and I can see smoke. I  
9 can hear something down below. I look around and I see a spark.  
10 It's coming from underneath where we house the glasses which is in  
11 a plastic glass bin where they all have their own individual  
12 little slots or what have you. I call for my manager, let her  
13 know that something's burning. She came right over, and Jeremy  
14 came behind her, and pretty much let's get off this boat.

15 The sparks was just moving underneath there, underneath where  
16 those bins were. I totally forgot about my phone. I actually  
17 grabbed one of the linens that was still loose and just wrapped it  
18 around me and ran out the door.

19 They went ahead to let -- because we also had people on the  
20 second deck. They went and alerted them that we needed to get off  
21 this boat. We proceeded to exit.

22 Q. That was very helpful. So I'm going to ask you to like show  
23 me because I want to see heights. We drew a diagram of the floor.  
24 It doesn't really -- it's not as helpful. If you'll just stand up  
25 for a minute. So I want you to imagine this is where the front of

1 the vessel is and this is where the back of the vessel is. The  
2 galley's back here. There's a food prep area, cold prep, and then  
3 there's the wait station, right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So the first thing I'd like you to do is like where were you  
6 when --

7 A. Like into the (indiscernible).

8 Q. So this is, this is the front wall, right, and the window's  
9 here, okay. You just have to imagine that.

10 A. This is the front of the boat.

11 Q. That's the front of the boat.

12 A. The window's here.

13 Q. So you're looking into the wait station. So if you'll stand  
14 here, where were you?

15 A. I have to come into the wait station. The wait station goes  
16 both this way and that way.

17 Q. Right.

18 A. I went over to this side -- well, I was going over to this  
19 side. Where I came in, right where I came in, there's a light  
20 here. I can see the smoke right there. The glasses are all piled  
21 up in the plastic. There's smoke coming here. I step back, and I  
22 can see the spark underneath where the glasses are housed.

23 Q. Okay. So this is where the wall of the wait station starts,  
24 and then it runs over towards the outboard side of the vessel and  
25 there's a window over there.

1 A. Right.

2 Q. Where along the wall did you see the sparks?

3 A. So the glasses are here.

4 Q. Right.

5 A. It's underneath that. They're on a roll -- they're on a  
6 wooden, just like a wooden plank with wheels.

7 Q. Um-hum.

8 A. There's about five or six plastic bins with glasses piled, I  
9 mean stacked. I saw the spark underneath that. So, they're  
10 against -- it's against the wall and I can see the sparks from  
11 underneath those.

12 Q. So let's talk about the smoke. The smoke, how deep was it?  
13 If that was the ceiling of the boat, how far did it come down?

14 A. It came down around here. Because the light was shining and  
15 I could see it clearly right there.

16 Q. What color?

17 A. It's like grayish, grayish.

18 Q. Did it change color?

19 A. I don't recall.

20 Q. All right. So you see a spark. Could you try to fill in?  
21 Let's say I'm making a movie and I want recreate it. Like how  
22 would you describe as best you can the spark?

23 A. Just kind of a spark moving around. Like it's -- it seemed  
24 like it could have been connected something, but it's not staying  
25 still. It's moving around underneath.

1 Q. Is it a fire or is it sparks?

2 A. I saw sparks.

3 Q. Okay. You saw a spark.

4 A. Right.

5 Q. Would they be like a fireplace where you have sparks coming  
6 off the wood or would it be like electric spark? You know what I  
7 mean? Have you ever bought a 4th of July sparkler and held that  
8 up?

9 A. Like that.

10 Q. So it was like spitting?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. I don't want to put words in your mouth.

13 A. Right -- no. More like an electric spark, not like what you  
14 said earlier. The spark was kind of jumping around under there.

15 Q. So how far did you -- like if this was the window and you're  
16 looking out the window, how far did you come into this area?

17 A. I was right there. The glasses are almost -- if this is the  
18 wall, I walked through the door to the galley, and I came right in  
19 here, and went to go to the right because my phone was on a shelf  
20 over there. I went to go to the right and I didn't even get in  
21 because that was right there.

22 Q. So you looked down here, in the area you described.

23 A. Yeah, I saw the smoke first though.

24 Q. Okay. And you see the sparks. Did you see actual fire?

25 A. Not then. I saw the sparks, and I called my manager because

1 something was clearly burning.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. There's also smoke. I called for them to say something was  
4 burning.

5 Q. And then what happened with relation to the sparks? What  
6 happened next?

7 A. We got off of the boat.

8 Q. Did you ever see fire?

9 A. As soon as we got off it started turning to a flame. When we  
10 looked in --

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. -- we could see it turned into a flame.

13 Q. So along this wall, if you'll stand a little to side here,  
14 because Mr. Young over there I think is making a little diagram.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Tell me what you saw along this wall when you were there that  
17 night. In other words, we know you talked about the glass rack.  
18 What else was there?

19 A. Just the trash can.

20 Q. That's -- let's pretend. This is a poor substitute because I  
21 know that's a big trash can, right?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Would you put that trash can where it was?

24 A. It was over here.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. And the linen bin next to it.

2 Q. The linen bin would be here?

3 A. Yeah, I'm not sure which side but, you know, right next to  
4 it.

5 Q. And then over there would be --

6 A. Right here would be the glasses, right next to it.

7 Q. Have you ever been back here? What's in here in this area?

8 A. I believe where they do -- I have. I have been back there.  
9 It's part of the galley.

10 Q. Yeah. And what I'm -- do you know what would sit in this  
11 area if I -- if you walked in that night, do you know what sits  
12 here?

13 A. I can't recall --

14 Q. What was next to the sparks?

15 A. -- that night. I do know what they usually have on that  
16 wall. I can't -- I mean usually the bread and that sort of thing.  
17 Tin -- I mean tin shelving where they keep like I said bread and a  
18 lot (indiscernible).

19 Q. Do you remember anything electrical in this -- like from here  
20 down to the wall of the vessel?

21 A. No, I'm not that familiar with it.

22 Q. So, if you just turn around so where we can see you. So do  
23 you know if you were standing right here and you saw the sparks,  
24 and you saw the smoke, do you know where the fire extinguisher  
25 would be, the closest one?

1 A. No, I don't.

2 Q. Do you know if anywhere near you there's a thing called a  
3 fire blanket which we saw on the deck? It's a red bag that says  
4 fire blanket. Do you know where that would be?

5 A. I can't recall. I know I've seen one, but I cannot recall  
6 where I seen it.

7 Q. So you get up and you leave the vessel with everybody else?

8 A. Right.

9 Q. Thanks. So, Mr. Griffin was with you and once you saw the  
10 fire and with her, did she direct you all to go up to the second  
11 deck and eventually evacuate the vessel?

12 A. No, we, we exited there. We exited right there on that deck.  
13 They were going to get the -- tell the other folks on the second  
14 deck.

15 Q. So in cleaning up the vessel after, do you participate in  
16 that? So the passengers are leaving and then the clean up begins.

17 A. Right.

18 Q. The little, the little clear glass candles that go into those  
19 glass globes --

20 A. Um-hum.

21 Q. -- what are you supposed to do with those?

22 A. Well, that night I collected them and took them up to the  
23 second deck because they were going to be used the next day. So  
24 all we do at the end of the night is collect them (indiscernible).  
25 They are not checked until the next day when someone's going to

1 use them. We don't throw them out if they're empty or anything  
2 until the next time they're being used. So they're never thrown  
3 out.

4 Q. So in the year that you've been aboard the vessel, have there  
5 been any guests that have celebrated a special event such as a  
6 birthday or an anniversary or something like that where they might  
7 have like birthday candles or anything like that on a cake, for  
8 example?

9 A. Sure, anniversaries, birthdays.

10 Q. And they might have real candles on a cake?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. And that night, do you recall anywhere that you were moving  
13 about, any kind of celebration like that that might have had a  
14 cake and candles?

15 A. I do recall a slice cake.

16 Q. With a candle on it?

17 A. They were looking for a candle. The person asked me where  
18 the candles were. I didn't know where they were.

19 Q. And you recall -- so you didn't know where the candles were,  
20 but do you have any knowledge of whether or not they had actually  
21 found a candle and put a candle on a cake?

22 A. I assumed they did.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. I didn't see it, but I know that they were looking for one.

25 Q. And who was looking?



1 A. I don't know. It was a person named Mark that works with us.

2 Q. And then the food is warmed as we understand it with a Sterno  
3 can.

4 A. Um-hum.

5 Q. Do you have any experience that night like involving you and  
6 a Sterno can? Like did you touch one, throw one out, light one?

7 A. I lit one for the coffee I believe. I lit one for the  
8 coffee. It stayed right in the back. And put it out. We shut  
9 down the -- I believe I put it out. I believe I put it out, but  
10 it gets -- it was, you know, the can -- the fire was put out as  
11 soon as we shut down the bar and all that.

12 Q. So when you say in the back, do you mean --

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you just say when that was? So  
14 you said you lit the Sterno can and you put it out. Do you know  
15 about what time like? How far before the cruise ended or can you  
16 give us an idea?

17 MS. BELL: At least 15 to 20 minutes before the cruise ended  
18 it's put out.

19 BY MR. FAWCETT:

20 Q. And when you say the back, you mean the back of the dining  
21 room towards the back of the vessel?

22 A. In the area where the wait station is. That's where we kept  
23 the coffee that night. I believe that's where we kept the coffee  
24 that night. We would let people ask for it, and we brought it to  
25 them individually.

1 Q. This is for me. So if this was -- if you could just turn  
2 around. You don't have to stand up, but this is the front wall of  
3 the dining room, right? And this is the wait station. Where  
4 would the coffee pot be?

5 A. Across from where the glasses are housed, we have a coffee  
6 maker.

7 Q. So it's over there.

8 A. Right.

9 Q. And so there's a coffee maker, and then there's a warmer that  
10 uses Sterno?

11 Q. It's part of -- it's all part of the coffee maker.

12 Q. And then how do you light that Sterno?

13 A. We have a long handled lighter.

14 Q. It's like a Bic, you know, typically you have to pull the  
15 safety thing.

16 A. It's long. Yeah.

17 Q. In the beginning, I talked a little bit about fire  
18 extinguishers, and so when you -- if you would tell me, did you go  
19 through a new hire orientation? In other words, you interviewed  
20 with the company. They said you're hired. Now, you're going to  
21 sit down and watch something like a training program or something.  
22 Do you recall doing something like that?

23 A. Yes. Right, a year ago.

24 Q. So somewhere in there they talk about how to use -- what to  
25 do in case of a fire. And if you could just sit very quietly for

1 a minute, and try to recall what the company expected you to do in  
2 case of a fire.

3 A. I can't remember that.

4 Q. So now, we shift to your assigned to a vessel for your first  
5 job or your fourth job or whatever job. In your experience, did  
6 the marine crew train you about the specific vessel, you know,  
7 this isn't the new hire. This is now you're assigned to a vessel.  
8 Did the marine crew say, okay, that was that. Now, we're going to  
9 show you on board like what you're supposed to do on board?

10 A. What do you mean what you're supposed to do?

11 Q. Well, in other words, did they, did they -- all right. I'll  
12 go through a few things. Did you participate in any fire drills  
13 or safety drills on board the vessel?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Did some -- on board the vessel, did the marine crew say, and  
16 I don't want to paraphrase, but did they say today we're going to  
17 get the crew together and we're going to talk about CPR or what  
18 happens if someone has a medical emergency, for example?

19 A. No. When something's wrong, we go to -- we get the crew.

20 Q. Who did you understand on the accident night, there's no  
21 marine crew. So who is overall responsible from the company from  
22 the way you understand it for the vessel at night?

23 A. The only ones left is managers. So.

24 Q. I just want to be clear. So in your experience, the marine  
25 crew at any point, did they -- of any of the vessels, did they

1 incorporate you with like safety demonstrations?

2 A. No, I don't recall safety demonstrations. I mean they've  
3 always been there to take care of whatever was going on.

4 Q. And as a crew person on the *Spirit of Norfolk* [sic] that  
5 night, what did you understand you were supposed to do if you saw  
6 a fire?

7 A. Nothing. Get out of there. I don't mean it that way. Just  
8 like I'm not a firefighter.

9 Q. And do you know -- we talked about the fire blanket. Have  
10 you ever worked in the food service industry like in a restaurant  
11 or anything like that?

12 A. No, this is first job.

13 Q. Do you know what a fire blanket does?

14 A. I assume it puts the fire out.

15 Q. I want to shift a little bit to if the -- if any of the crew  
16 smoked, where would they go to smoke?

17 A. We have to be outside for anybody to smoke.

18 Q. So speaking to the crew, is there a designated smoking area  
19 for crew persons?

20 A. No, not that I know of. I don't smoke.

21 Q. How about passengers? Do they smoke?

22 A. If they do, it's only outside. I know they've asked if they  
23 could smoke, and we tell them they have to be outside.

24 Q. Have you seen in your experience a passenger smoke outside?

25 A. I haven't. I know that I've told them, but I've never seen

1 them.

2 Q. Now, I said smoke. That includes like vaping? Have you ever  
3 seen passengers -- let's stick to the accident night. Did you see  
4 anybody that was vaping or using electronic cigarettes?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Do you know if any of the crew, have they ever mentioned  
7 about using vaping, electronic cigarettes or vaping?

8 A. No.

9 Q. So have you -- has anyone in the company talked to you about  
10 fire prevention or safety? There was a fire aboard a vessel last  
11 summer, and after that fire, has the company come to you or your  
12 crew mates and said anything about fire safety, fire prevention,  
13 or anything like that?

14 A. Not that I recall.

15 Q. Do you get any emails from the company like -- are you on a  
16 -- as a crew person, does the company communicate with you by  
17 sending you emails?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And do you recall if they sent you an email about a fire on a  
20 vessel in June of last year?

21 A. I don't recall.

22 Q. That's all the questions I have for now. Thank you very  
23 much. I may have questions later, but thank you.

24 MR. FAWCETT: Mr. Whelan.

25 Thank you, Keith.

1 BY LT [REDACTED]

2 Q. So with regard to the night of the 24th, the marine crew had  
3 already departed the vessel I believe. It was approximately 16 of  
4 the restaurant still on board.

5 A. Um-hum.

6 Q. Does this happen often?

7 A. I really can't speak to it because I'm working. So I don't  
8 know when they leave. We get the okay when it's okay for us to  
9 leave. So I don't know what they do.

10 Q. In your history with the company for the year, has there ever  
11 been an emergency situation of incident that was after hours that  
12 would require the marine crew?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Can you describe to me the coffee setup on the night of the  
15 24th in that pantry area where you had stated that there was a --  
16 you had a coffee maker and then a warmer -- a coffee warmer  
17 basically?

18 A. Just a Sterno underneath it.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Normally we set the coffee outside. We had a lot of people  
21 that night and I think there was some young ones, some young kids.  
22 It was a prom, and we normally -- so we kept the coffee back there  
23 and said we will wait until people request it. So it's just a  
24 coffee -- so it's a two-sided coffee maker. We brewed the coffee  
25 on the right side. It has like a metal stand where it has as

1 place for a Sterno in the middle. So it was set up like that. If  
2 someone came back to me and said the ice cold. There was no  
3 Sterno underneath it. So we got a Sterno.

4 Q. Okay. Is this a normal setup? Have you ever done this  
5 before?

6 A. Yeah, we do -- we put a Sterno beneath all the time. Just  
7 sometimes it's out there for them to self-serve. Tonight, we did  
8 it as they asked.

9 Q. And who normally disposes -- lights and disposes and provides  
10 the Sterno?

11 A. The Sterno is somewhere in the wait station or somewhere  
12 around. If there's none there, it's in the galley. So they're in  
13 -- it's around when we need it. So whoever is going to do the  
14 coffee set up, does that as well.

15 Q. Okay. And then I believe you had stated that you had  
16 extinguished or put the Sterno out or believed you had put the  
17 Sterno out. How do you put the Sterno out? What did you do it?

18 A. Blow it and take the top, the top of the Sterno that's still  
19 handing around. We just screw it down so that the fire goes out.

20 Q. Okay. So you blow it out first, and then you put the top on?

21 A. Either way. I'm saying -- I can't -- that's just me. If I  
22 can't find the top, I blow it out.

23 Q. And then once it's extinguished or believed -- once it's  
24 extinguished, what do you do with it at that point?

25 A. I leave it there for a while. We don't do anything -- I

1 leave it. Like I said, we do that at least 15, 20 minutes. When  
2 they're shutting down the bar, we shut down everything else  
3 because there's not else available. There's no more coffee, no  
4 more anything because we're at the end of the cruise.

5 Q. And then when you were to dispose of it, where would you  
6 throw it?

7 A. It would go in the trash after it cools off.

8 Q. In -- like behind you. So if you're facing forward and you  
9 take the Sterno and you capped it and you go and do your work, you  
10 stay and you come back 15 minutes later, you take it and you throw  
11 it in the trash can.

12 A. Um-hum.

13 Q. Okay. How many people are doing the same job that you're  
14 doing?

15 A. That night I know of at least two of us. There are servers  
16 and server assistants. The servers also helped out when we need  
17 help. I know there were two server assistants and then at least  
18 two servers on our deck.

19 Q. Who's responsible or who's job description, within their  
20 responsibilities, is it to handle the Sternos underneath the food  
21 out on the buffet tables?

22 A. That is the staff -- the galley staff. So cooks and the ones  
23 that serve the food or bring the food out.

24 Q. And have you ever witnessed them dispose of the Sterno or  
25 distinguish the Sterno?



1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And do they utilize the same technique that you do?

3 A. Yes, except for theirs -- I mean the food is shut down a lot  
4 earlier. Theirs stay out there on the table extinguished even  
5 after they take the food away.

6 Q. And is there -- is this a, you know, the policy or procedure  
7 or is it part of a training on how to dispose of or who's  
8 responsible for providing the guidance to you when you  
9 (indiscernible) there.

10 A. I don't recall, but I would assume the manager. I'm not  
11 sure.

12 Q. Word of mouth.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Here's what we do?

15 A. Yeah, when you train.

16 Q. Now, you had mentioned that you had taken -- I forget the  
17 term that everyone keeps using for these little globes.

18 A. Votives.

19 Q. Votives. Okay.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. So now --

22 A. The votive is the glass part.

23 Q. Understood. Understood. So you have the votive, and in the  
24 votive is what we called a candle possibly. It's an --

25 A. Oil.

1 Q. -- oil candle. So you had stated that you brought all of the  
2 votives from the first -- the main deck up to the second deck  
3 because you were going to use them up there tomorrow, for the  
4 25th.

5 A. Right.

6 Q. If during the course of the evening on the 24th, if that  
7 candle were to have extinguished, would, in somebody's position,  
8 would they see it extinguished and possibly light it. It doesn't  
9 light, and they put a new one in there to light it or --

10 A. No, we usually when the -- when it stops, it goes out. It's  
11 out.

12 Q. It's out.

13 A. Right.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. We don't.

16 Q. Are they ever thrown away in the trash prior to their -- you  
17 know, I know you had stated that we don't -- and I'm paraphrasing.  
18 So you had stated that those don't get chucked until the next day  
19 on the prep, correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. So on the prep, what is happening with those extinguished  
22 candles? Are those being thrown away at that point?

23 A. Right.

24 Q. Into a regular trash can?

25 A. Um-hum.

1 Q. Okay. And then where do you -- if you're going to replace  
2 the one, where do you go to get that and who gets those?

3 A. They're in wait stations. They're in usually a plastic bin  
4 or if it's a new set, it's in a -- they're always in a plastic  
5 bin. Servers and server assistants get them and put them in.

6 Q. So on the main deck, where were those stored? So on the  
7 24th, when you came in to do your prep, was there any candles that  
8 you had to change out?

9 A. I did not.

10 Q. You did not. So I'm saying hypothetically, but if you were  
11 on any other previous cruise, where did you get those from?

12 A. On the other side of wait station. So I said the  
13 (indiscernible) was over here.

14 Q. Um-hum.

15 A. There's a door, and there's still some area over here in the  
16 wait station.

17 Q. Yeah.

18 A. Underneath there. Salt and pepper is on one side. They're  
19 in like a plastic bin on the other side, down on --

20 Q. And that's -- I'm trying, I'm trying to picture that. So  
21 that's just -- if I'm facing that, my back would be the cold prep  
22 and galley, correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And then the wait station that we're speaking of would be to  
25 my left side.

1 A. Um-hum.

2 Q. Okay. What was your -- so we've talked a lot about marine  
3 crew and with regards to like them being -- understanding the  
4 policies and procedures for emergencies. Is there a marine crew  
5 member on your deck, on the main deck or the deck that you're  
6 working? How does it -- how do they separate that throughout the  
7 vessel?

8 A. They float. They're everywhere.

9 Q. They float.

10 A. Yeah, if you're looking for one, you can usually find one on  
11 the deck. They float around.

12 Q. And what's -- and do you know what their responsibilities  
13 are?

14 A. Everything else. I feel like I mean I've seen them when we  
15 have issues with the bathroom, when it floods, you know, anything  
16 that's beyond us. They do everything else. They take over the  
17 boat.

18 Q. And just to -- I know we've really been harping on the pantry  
19 area and what's in there and the location.

20 MR. DENLEY: Just to be clear, are you referring to the  
21 pantry or are you referring to the wait station?

22 LT [REDACTED] My apologies. The wait station.

23 BY LT [REDACTED]

24 Q. So in that wait station, that -- who takes out the trash.

25 A. The crew.

1 Q. The crew does. And how often do they take it out?

2 A. When it gets filled.

3 Q. When it's filled. And then in the morning, is it, is it  
4 disposed of daily?

5 A. It's disposed of at night when they get off, we take the  
6 trash cans out.

7 Q. Okay. And what type of things are thrown into that trash  
8 can? I know it varies, and there's a kind of -- but like --

9 A. Like everything but linen I would say.

10 Q. Okay. Is there ever a case in which there is silverware that  
11 accidentally falls in there?

12 A. No, we don't, we don't throw away silverware, not on purpose  
13 anyway.

14 Q. Okay. Is there ever -- does that, does that wait station  
15 have -- do passengers have access to that wait station?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Have you ever seen a passenger in that area?

18 A. They try to come but we stop them at the door.

19 Q. You stop them. Okay. When you -- so you mentioned the cargo  
20 door. Or you didn't mention the cargo door. From a previous --  
21 that's where I'm going with the cargo door. Is that the door or  
22 -- where did you exit the vessel?

23 A. I don't know exactly what you mean by cargo door. But there  
24 are -- we exited from the first deck right out and -- it's a  
25 silver piece that, you know --

1 (Crosstalk)

2 A. -- I exited right out the first deck which is right past that  
3 wait station and to the right.

4 Q. Is that a -- do you normally exit that way?

5 A. Yeah, now we are since it's -- the boat moved to the opposite  
6 side. That's the way I exit, yes. That's the way we leave.

7 Q. Okay. And then when you exited, where did you go from there?

8 A. We went right out to the dock. We actually -- I was looking  
9 into the window just to see what was going on still, and that's  
10 when we kind of saw the spark turning into flame. I mean the  
11 firefighters and everything, you know, had been called and the  
12 captain had been called.

13 Q. How soon after you guys departed do you believe approximately  
14 the firefighters arrived?

15 A. Longer than I thought. I don't know. Maybe 10, 15 minutes  
16 -- 10, 15 minutes. I could hear the sirens. It just took a  
17 little longer to get down there.

18 Q. And did they talk to you or ask you any questions?

19 A. Oh, yeah, they asked -- right away, you know, they just kind  
20 of told us to get out of the way. As they started fighting the  
21 fire, the questions came.

22 Q. Were they -- can you please -- do you remember any of the  
23 questions that they asked you?

24 A. I had at least three or four. I don't know if was an  
25 investigator chief, this and that. What did you see? That's all

1 they asked me. What did you see? Because I was the first one to  
2 see it. So I got asked that question three or four times, and  
3 then just kind of what was stored there, that's -- pretty much  
4 that was all.

5 Q. Was he wearing a white coat do you know?

6 A. I don't remember any white coats.

7 Q. Okay. Did you have any discussions with the crew after you  
8 had disembarked regarding the fire and, you know, possible --

9 A. Yeah, the captain I believe came and asked what happened.  
10 That's what he said, because he -- I believe he got there probably  
11 maybe before the firefighters or along with them, but yeah, he  
12 asked what happened.

13 Q. And did you contact the contact to come back?

14 A. I did not. The managers contacted the firefighters, the crew  
15 members, everybody.

16 LT [REDACTED] That's all.

17 LCDR [REDACTED] Mr. Young, NTSB.

18 BY MR. YOUNG:

19 Q. Do you need a break?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Are you sure?

22 A. Yeah, no. I'm just looking. I have a 12 o'clock  
23 appointment.

24 Q. This is Brian Young for the record with the NTSB.

25 A. Um-hum.

1 Q. You said that passengers tried to get into the wait station.  
2 Is there a door or a curtain there or anything?

3 A. It's an open walkway with a sign that says nobody permitted  
4 beyond this point.

5 Q. Okay. We've been back to the vessel after the fire, and  
6 we're trying to kind of recreate where everything was sitting.

7 A. Um-hum.

8 Q. And you did a great job helping us build that puzzle back  
9 together if you will. One thing we did notice, if you were  
10 standing there in the passenger compartment looking aft towards  
11 that wall, the first thing that we saw when we got there was a  
12 black two level cart that had a handle on it and wheels.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. And we spoke with the restaurant manager before, and she said  
15 they used that to I guess help clear tables. Do you remember that  
16 being anywhere in that area?

17 A. I do but I don't remember it being right there. It was  
18 probably on the wall that's right around the side heading into the  
19 galley.

20 Q. Okay. What's typically upon that cart?

21 A. That we were detailing the plates. We had so many people and  
22 no space, and it was so many of us, that as we detailed the  
23 plates, they brought those plates from the galley on that cart,  
24 and from there, we dried them.

25 Q. That's detailing, right?



1 A. Dried them.

2 Q. One step above coming out of the dishwasher. They're hand  
3 dried?

4 A. Right.

5 Q. And then are they glass plates?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. And was there anything else stored on that cart other  
8 than detailed plates? Maybe forks and knives and --

9 A. Forks and knives were down at the bottom and then smaller  
10 plates were also brought on that same thing for desserts.

11 Q. Okay. And that's like a two level push cart. It's  
12 probably --

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. -- waist high and moves around on four wheels.

15 A. Um-hum.

16 Q. Okay. And then if that was maybe outboard of the wait  
17 station, then you have the garbage pail right on the corner.

18 A. Um-hum.

19 Q. And then as you work your way towards the window, we call it  
20 outboard. We've seen around the bar areas that there's like a tan  
21 colored wheelie that they stack the glasses in, right? Like in  
22 blue and tan color.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And then you put all the glasses in upside down, and there's  
25 25 of them.

1 A. Um-hum.

2 Q. Do you remember how many of those little wheelie carts with  
3 the cases of glasses might have been next to each other in the  
4 wait?

5 A. One wheelie will hold about five or six stacked high.

6 Q. All right. And do you remember if they were in, you know,  
7 the tan, the red one, the blue one, because they're all different  
8 colors?

9 A. I don't remember the colors. I do remember tan and blue, but  
10 I don't know if there was any red or that.

11 Q. Typically is it just glasses that are stored in there?

12 A. Yes, different kinds, but yes.

13 Q. And some of those cases are different heights, too. Like  
14 wine glasses might go in a taller one.

15 A. Wine glasses, water glasses and coffee cups.

16 Q. And if they're stored in the wait station, does that mean  
17 they've already been cleaned or they need to be cleaned?

18 A. No, they've been cleaned.

19 Q. Okay. So they if we continue to work outboard towards the  
20 window after the single rack of glasses, it looked like there  
21 might have been like a wire rack or shelving unit.

22 A. Yeah, wire, tin, metal.

23 Q. Um-hum.

24 A. Which has pitchers, little things for cream, sugar, all the  
25 little coffee things, maybe some spoons.

1 Q. Okay. Can you recall if there were like any electrical  
2 appliances stored on that rack or that metal?

3 A. No electrical appliances was on that.

4 Q. But the litter silver pitchers that they put cream in, right,  
5 for the coffee, that was on there?

6 A. That was there.

7 Q. Okay. And do you know how high that rack was? Was it as  
8 high as say the glasses in the racks?

9 A. Yeah, it's -- yeah, it goes up pretty high because -- yeah, I  
10 -- yeah, it goes up at least I would say the same -- be the same  
11 height as where the glasses were stacked.

12 Q. Okay. And then as we get right down up against the window,  
13 there's a little sill, window sill.

14 A. Right.

15 Q. Just -- do you know if anything was stored there typically?

16 A. We're told not to store anything there.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. So, no, I don't believe so.

19 Q. Okay. And then as we come around this way, in that corner,  
20 there was a sink?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Just a regular sink, and then there's a bit of a shelf, and  
23 then we work our way to the coffee machine. What was -- what  
24 happens on that shelf? What's stored there? What do you do?

25 A. You have the sink, and we have like it's a little drawer. It

1 has some dry material, maybe a linen bag, maybe a -- maybe a linen  
2 or two in there, but it's all, you know, it's all closed up.

3 That's where we keep the dry -- like I said the dry glasses and  
4 that. And then we have in front of us like a couple of shelves.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. Salt and pepper, Sterno, sugar, tea, all the things that are  
7 for setup for the coffee/tea station right in front of you. Then  
8 you have another -- over here you might have a few pitchers and  
9 maybe a faucet, you know.

10 Q. A little spout --

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. -- and some handles there for probably adding water, right?

13 A. Um-hum.

14 Q. So then if you continue to work your way inward towards the  
15 center of the vessel, that's where the coffee machine --

16 A. Yeah, the coffee then is right next to that little spout.

17 Q. Um-hum.

18 A. The coffee station over -- coffee brewer and then that's the  
19 end of it.

20 Q. Okay. Okay. And the night of the fire, after the Sterno was  
21 capped up -- or blown out, was it capped? Do you remember capping  
22 it?

23 A. I don't remember. It was out.

24 Q. It was out.

25 A. Um-hum.

1 Q. And do you remember just keeping it there under the warmer or  
2 did you put it somewhere else?

3 A. No, it's just -- it stays there until you come back to pour  
4 the coffee out, at a time when we're cleaning.

5 Q. Okay. And in order to light it, you said there's like a long  
6 Bic lighter or something like that. Where do they keep that?

7 A. You really have to find them because I know there's one in  
8 the galley. We used to have them in the wait stations. They're  
9 not around any more. They're hard to find. So I got one from the  
10 galley.

11 Q. Okay. And do you remember where it might have gone after you  
12 used it? Do you return it to the galley?

13 A. Back to the galley.

14 Q. Really, you put it back.

15 A. Yes. They're hard to come by. I use them and put them back.

16 Q. Yeah, yeah. Okay. Great. You talked a little bit about  
17 passengers smoking and crew smoking.

18 A. Um-hum.

19 Q. If anybody in the crew wanted to smoke, where could they go?

20 A. I'd say out back. Outside. I would assume out back. I  
21 don't know that.

22 Q. Okay. That night, do you recall if any of the passengers  
23 caused any problems or incidents with rowdy passengers or anyone  
24 that tried to break into the wait station or --

25 A. No.

1 Q. No.

2 A. No, I don't. I don't recall any of that.

3 Q. Okay. And how about the other members of your team? Were  
4 there any problems disciplinary-wise where someone got in trouble  
5 or fired or --

6 A. Not that night.

7 Q. Okay. And how does it determine when you're done for the  
8 night? Who says, okay, let's go? And do you all leave at the  
9 same time?

10 A. Yeah, the manager will determine. They will walk through  
11 making sure that, you know, the linens out, the trash is taken out  
12 by the crew, just making sure everything is set up the way it's  
13 supposed to set up.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And then they say it's okay to leave.

16 Q. And you say the trash is taken out by the crew. What crew  
17 are you talking about? The galley crew or --

18 A. No, captain and the crew members. So the captain and his  
19 team.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The marine crew.

21 MS. BELL: The marine crew, sorry. They take out the trash.

22 BY MR. YOUNG:

23 Q. That night, was there anybody from the crew still aboard to  
24 take the trash out or had they already left?

25 A. They had taken the trash out, and then they put a new trash

1 bag in there which is empty.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. They replace the trash bag.

4 Q. Okay. And do you think or do you recall that anything else  
5 got thrown into the trash?

6 A. A few things. I do recall napkins, maybe plastic cups,  
7 nothing major at all.

8 Q. Okay. And where would that stuff come from? Is it just from  
9 general cleaning?

10 A. Clean up, things that might have not gotten into the trash  
11 before they took it out.

12 Q. Okay. Do you remember anything weird getting thrown in  
13 there?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Anything out of the ordinary.

16 A. Nothing's out of the ordinary, no. I mean like, no. No, I  
17 don't recall anything out of the ordinary.

18 Q. Okay. When a ship is at -- or a vessel is at sea, they're on  
19 their own power. They have generators and they have engines and  
20 that's what's rumbling in that engine room below you. And once  
21 they come in and they tie up, and they're done for the night, they  
22 typically shut the engines down and they connect to a shore power  
23 connection. So they're actually plugged into foster power. Does  
24 any of that mean anything to you or --

25 A. No.

1 Q. Okay. Do you remember if there was power on the boat when  
2 the fire happened? Were the lights on? They must have been.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. Do you remember if there was any sort of ventilation,  
5 like blowing air out? Could you feel heat or air conditioning?

6 A. No, I couldn't feel it. It was there, but I couldn't -- I  
7 don't -- I know the lights were on. We had power.

8 Q. Okay. Because there's a -- just above the window is a box --

9 A. Right.

10 Q. -- and it has like slots in it, and typically air will fall  
11 out to keep you cool or -- in the summer. Do you remember if that  
12 might have been on or off?

13 A. I don't remember it being on or off. No, I do know during it  
14 there was heat. It was a cold night. It wasn't a real warm  
15 night. So.

16 Q. Because of the outside temperature, right?

17 A. Yeah, it was a little chilly but I don't remember after,  
18 after the crew left it being on or not.

19 Q. I know you had talked about looking into the wait station and  
20 seeing sparks, and then when you left the vessel, you said you  
21 looked down and looked into the window.

22 A. From the pier.

23 Q. From the pier, right?

24 A. Um-hum.

25 Q. Was the window still in place? It hadn't blown out.



1 A. It was still in place.

2 Q. It was still in place. What did you see when you were  
3 looking down into the window? What could you see?

4 A. You could see now a bit of a flame now coming from underneath  
5 the glasses.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. And just thinking in my head, I just thought if the firemen  
8 would get there in time, and it wouldn't amount to -- I didn't  
9 think this would happen.

10 Q. Right. And it looked more like a flame instead of sparks?

11 A. It was definitely a flame at this point.

12 Q. So it had gotten worse in the time you came around?

13 A. Right.

14 Q. Could you see anything else through the window that -- other  
15 than the flame? Did you see anything else that you can remember?

16 A. I just -- I'm realizing now it was probably the floor. I  
17 thought it was maybe oil or something running down, but the floor  
18 was burning.

19 Q. Um-hum.

20 A. And then I realized it was the actual floor burning. So.

21 Q. Right. And then if you're looking into the window -- so  
22 you're standing here looking in the window, the back bulkhead is  
23 to your right. Which way is the floor burning? Is it like --

24 A. To the back. So the galley is --

25 Q. So let's just say that TV is the window. You're looking into

1 that.

2 LT [REDACTED] Can we use the same --

3 MR. YOUNG: Sure. Okay.

4 LT [REDACTED] Can we use the same wait station.

5 BY MR. YOUNG:

6 Q. So now you're looking -- you're out here looking in the  
7 window.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. I'm outside the boat --

10 A. Right.

11 Q. -- looking into the deck. So the fire's going to be -- so  
12 you stand here. You're in the space now.

13 A. I'm sorry.

14 Q. That's okay.

15 A. Yeah, I'm now looking in.

16 Q. Right.

17 A. The fire's coming out this way, toward the deck.

18 Q. From underneath.

19 A. From underneath --

20 Q. Where the glasses are?

21 A. Right.

22 Q. And you say the deck looks like it's burning. Is it eating  
23 away the deck and --

24 A. It's eating away the floor. Like I said before, it kind of  
25 looked like something was pouring out, but I realize that was the

1 floor.

2 Q. And from where you were standing, was there any smoking  
3 coming out the window?

4 A. Not yet.

5 Q. Did you hear it break?

6 A. I think they broke it. I think the firefighters broke the  
7 windows.

8 Q. Did you ever hear the smoke alarm go off in your house?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Beep, beep. Did you hear anything like that that day?

11 A. I blocked -- I kind of just blocked everything out at that  
12 point. We had to move away. The smells got to you. We had move  
13 away. That was the last I saw it, the smoke.

14 Q. I've been in too many fires, and there's a very distinct  
15 smell when electrical is burning.

16 A. Right.

17 Q. And then there's a particular smell when plastic is burning.  
18 Have you ever experienced any smells like that?

19 A. This was a strong smell. This was not -- I mean I was in --  
20 the house next door to mine had burned. It was a different smell.  
21 I wasn't your normal like fire. It was --

22 Q. A fire is a fire, right.

23 A. Right. It was a stronger smell.

24 Q. Thank you. Every person we talk to helps us under more and  
25 more how the space was set up, you know. If there's anything you

1 thought of where things might have been that would really help us  
2 and maybe even what was behind it, like when Mr. Fawcett went back  
3 in behind, just anything that might have come through to start  
4 sparking, if you can remember anything that could have been back  
5 there?

6 A. I'm not back there that much. I go back for an occasional  
7 roller or something. I'm not back there. I know that's the area,  
8 but I'm not back there.

9 Q. They're not cooking back there, are they?

10 A. No, they don't. That's more the desserts, salad, you know,  
11 the refrigerators are on this side. I know there's a wall, but  
12 the actual galley is behind that.

13 Q. Further aft?

14 A. Um-hum.

15 Q. Okay. We've heard that room being the wait station called a  
16 cold prep room.

17 A. Okay. That's what it is, yeah.

18 Q. So that's called that. Thank you so much. I really  
19 appreciate --

20 A. Um-hum.

21 Q. -- you helping us out today.

22 A. Sure.

23 LCDR ██████████ Mr. Denley.

24 MR. DENLEY: Yeah, I just have a couple of questions.

25 BY MR. DENLEY:

1 Q. So, you talked about the Sterno with the coffee.

2 A. Um-hum.

3 Q. And I believe you said that you -- I'll use the word, blew it  
4 out or secured it 15 to 20 minutes before the cruise ended?

5 A. Um-hum.

6 Q. Is that true?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And you don't remember how you extinguished it, do you?

9 A. I don't remember if I capped it or if I blew it out.

10 Q. Can you blow out a Sterno typically?

11 A. It's hard.

12 Q. Yeah.

13 A. It's hard to do, but you can.

14 Q. Yeah. But you don't remember how you --

15 A. I don't.

16 Q. Okay. But you remember the flame going out?

17 A. Oh, it's absolutely out.

18 Q. And then it sat there until the cruise ended.

19 A. Um-hum.

20 Q. And then what happened to it?

21 A. I poured out the coffee and we get rid of it after -- again,  
22 after it's not hot. After it's cooled down or even gone because  
23 sometimes they burn out, but after everything is done, and it's  
24 cooled off, pour out the coffee, throw out the Sterno.

25 Q. So that night, do you remember pouring out the coffee and

1 throwing out the Sterno?

2 A. Yeah, I believe I poured out the coffee that night.

3 Q. Okay. And do you remember picking up the Sterno, like that  
4 Sterno can that was underneath the coffee?

5 A. I assume I did. I mean I have to get rid of it. So, you  
6 know, you have to take it out and put it aside while you pour out  
7 the coffee.

8 Q. Do you remember what you did with it?

9 A. I threw it in the trash.

10 Q. So it went the trash that we talked about --

11 A. Um-hum.

12 Q. So that night, do you remember throwing it into that trash  
13 can?

14 A. Yeah, that's the closest trash can.

15 Q. And then -- so how many -- just estimate how long from when  
16 you blew it out to when you threw it away in that trash can?

17 A. At least 20 minutes. At least 20 minutes to a half hour  
18 because like I said, we shut it down, when the bar shuts down,  
19 letting people you can't have anything else.

20 Q. Do you remember seeing anybody take out that particular trash  
21 bag --

22 A. No.

23 Q. -- or do you just know that it happens? Did you actually see  
24 somebody take that trash out?

25 A. That's one of the main trashes. The crew comes through, they

1 get that, they get the trash from galley which is usually two, and  
2 they take that out.

3 Q. So you remember, you remember a member of the marine crew  
4 taking that trash bag out of this. So the trash bag that you  
5 threw the Sterno into --

6 A. Um-hum.

7 Q. -- you also remember seeing a crew member take out?

8 A. Yes, because when I threw something else in there -- the  
9 trash gets full. When I went back there, the trash had a new  
10 trash bag in it.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. So it had been taken out.

13 Q. Okay. So when you went back and you saw the fire, there was  
14 a new trash bag in there?

15 A. Um-hum.

16 Q. You talked about the sparks. Did you -- when you saw the  
17 sparks, did you see anything on the floor? Did you see anything  
18 -- did you see any kind of change in color on the floor at all?

19 A. No, not when I saw the sparks, no. I just seen the sparks.

20 Q. Okay. So you also commented that you -- did you throw any of  
21 the oil wicks away --

22 A. No.

23 Q. -- that night?

24 A. No. They got collected and brought up to the second deck.

25 Q. All the oil wicks.

1 A. All the -- because we needed all the votives. We didn't even  
2 have enough for the next set up for the next day.

3 Q. So even if there was an oil wick, it would not have been  
4 thrown away?

5 A. No. They get checked when you're going to use them again,  
6 when you're going to light them the next time you use them.

7 Q. And then is it safe to say that, you know, in terms of your  
8 general responsibilities, when the vessel's underway with guests  
9 on board, if there's any kind of a safety issue, you're trained to  
10 notify the marine crew?

11 A. Absolutely.

12 Q. And is it safe to say that if there's no marine crew on  
13 board, like there was in this case, that you're trained to call  
14 911 and get off the boat?

15 A. Yeah, and I let my manager know.

16 Q. Okay. So on this particular night, you called your manager?

17 A. Um-hum.

18 Q. Thank you.

19 LCDR ██████████ Mr. Fawcett, anything --

20 MR. DENLEY: Just to remind the team, what time do you need  
21 to go?

22 MS. BELL: I have a 12 o'clock appointment.

23 MR. DENLEY: What time do you need to leave for that?

24 MS. BELL: In the next 15 minutes.

25 MR. FAWCETT: Thank you. I just have a few brief questions.



1 BY MR. FAWCETT:

2 Q. So do you remember if on this voyage, there were any new  
3 hires in the hospitality staff that you were aware of that this  
4 might have been their first job on board or they recently been  
5 hired?

6 A. I'm not sure. I was going to say, there may have been a  
7 bartender, but nobody's first time.

8 Q. So you mentioned your cell phone.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. When you were in either the cold prep area or the wait  
11 station, did you see anyone's cell phone there being charged?

12 A. No. Mine was not being charged. It was just sitting there.

13 Q. All right. But anybody else's?

14 A. I didn't, no. I didn't see any other phones there.

15 Q. And is there a policy about charging cell phones or --

16 A. Not that I know of.

17 Q. Is there -- like anywhere near the wait station, is there a  
18 microwave oven for like warming food?

19 A. On the other side of the wait station. So not by the window,  
20 but over on the other side, there is a microwave.

21 Q. So you're talking about the central -- there's a little  
22 passageway.

23 A. Right.

24 Q. You're talking about that side?

25 A. Right.

1 Q. And that's all the questions I have. Thank you.

2 MR. DENLEY: I have one more question if that's okay. Oh,  
3 I'm sorry. Did you have more questions?

4 LCDR [REDACTED] Lieutenant [REDACTED]

5 LT [REDACTED] Oh, yeah. Go ahead.

6 MR. DENLEY: [REDACTED] I just have one.

7 BY MR. DENLEY:

8 Q. So do you recall looking through the window? You stated you  
9 recall looking through the window from the outside and seeing the  
10 fire.

11 A. Um-hum.

12 Q. Do you recall anything else in your field of view? Do you  
13 recall the trash can? Do you recall the linen bin? Do you recall  
14 anything else in that area? And just tell me about what you saw.

15 A. It was solely -- this flame was solely coming from underneath  
16 the glass, the glass -- the trays of glasses where I saw the  
17 spark. It was coming straight from beneath that, and the flame  
18 was starting to come out. The trash cans and everything were out  
19 of the way. There was nothing else in its, you know, right next  
20 to it or any of that.

21 Q. And was -- and you said that the flame as it was coming out,  
22 you said it was rolling along. It was like rolling on the floor.

23 A. Right.

24 Q. Taking over the floor.

25 A. Um-hum.

1 Q. As if it were to be liked some type of liquid over the floor  
2 but you said it was floor.

3 A. Yeah, it was the floor, right.

4 Q. Okay. That's all I have. Thank you.

5 BY LT [REDACTED]

6 Q. Just one more. So when you say you saw the sparks --

7 A. Um-hum.

8 Q. -- it was in the vicinity of the glasses?

9 A. Underneath where the glassed are.

10 Q. Underneath of the glasses.

11 A. Um-hum.

12 Q. And was the -- were the sparks kind of shining on the  
13 glasses?

14 A. No, because the glasses are sitting on that wooden piece  
15 that's on wheels.

16 Q. It's a solid wooden piece?

17 A. Right. Solid wooden piece.

18 Q. Understood. Thanks.

19 A. Um-hum.

20 LCDR [REDACTED] Mr. Young.

21 MR. YOUNG: This is Brian Young with the NTSB.

22 BY MR. YOUNG:

23 Q. You may not know the answer to this, but where does the crew  
24 take the garbage after they empty it out?

25 A. I don't know. They go outside. I'm not sure where it goes.

1 Q. Okay.

2 BY MR. FAWCETT:

3 Q. Just really quick, one more thing. So do you recall what  
4 time approximately they would have taken that trash out?

5 Normally, is it before --

6 A. We docked at 10. The trash would have had to have gone out I  
7 would say between 10 and 10:20. They come right around. They do  
8 it after we dock. And after everyone's off, they do their checks  
9 and whatever. So definitely at least by 10:30.

10 Q. And have you seen any videos from any of your coworkers that  
11 was taken from outside the boat?

12 A. I did not.

13 LCDR ██████████ Does anybody else have any questions for Ms.  
14 Bell?

15 (No response.)

16 LCDR ██████████ Well, we'll conclude this interview.

17 (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: FIRE ABOARD THE *SPIRIT OF BOSTON*  
NEAR THE BOSTON SPORTS DISTRICT  
IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
ON MARCH 24, 2023  
Interview of Sharon Henry-Bell

ACCIDENT NO.: DCA23FM022

PLACE: Boston, Massachusetts

DATE: April 4, 2023

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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathryn A. Mirfin  
Transcriber