# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Investigation of:

FIRE ABOARD THE SPIRIT OF BOSTON NEAR \*

BOSTON THE SPORTS DISTRICT IN BOSTON, \* Accident No.: DCA23FM022 MASSACHUSETTS ON MARCH 24, 2023

Interview of: OSCAR NUNEZ, Disc Jockey Big O Entertainment

Boston, Massachusetts

Friday, April 7, 2023

# APPEARANCES:

CDR Lead Investigator United States Coast Guard

KEITH FAWCETT, Civilian Marine Accident Investigator United States Coast Guard

LT Investigator United States Coast Guard

LCDR Legal Advisor United States Coast Guard

BRIAN YOUNG, Investigator National Transportation Safety Board

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(On behalf of City Cruises)

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## INTERVIEW

2.0

(9:09 a.m.)

IT This is a joint U.S. Coast Guard/NTSB investigation, and the Coast Guard is the lead agency and we are conducting this interview under applicable Coast Guard regulations. The date is April 7th, 2023, the time is 09:09, and we are in the First Coast District building, eighth deck legal conference room, and this is the interview with Mr. Oscar Nunez. We are conducting an interview to examine the events surrounding the fire aboard the excursion vessel Spirit of Boston, which occurred on March 24th, 2023 in Boston Harbor.

First, we're going to go around the room and introduce ourselves and we ask that, after you introduce yourself, you spell your last name. I am Lieutenant that the First Coast Guard District investigations team.

MR. FAWCETT: Good morning, my name is Keith Fawcett. I'm a civilian investigator for marine accidents for the United States Coast Guard and I'm part of this Coast Guard formal investigation team. Spelling of my last name: F-a-w-c-e-t-t.

CDR Good morning, I'm Commander I'm the lead investigator for this investigation. Last name is

LT And then for the parties-in-interest.

MR. DENLEY: Yeah, I'm Eric Denley. My last name is D-e-n-l-e-y, and I'm counsel for City Cruises. We're a party-in-

interest to the investigation. Really nice to meet you. 2 MR. NUNEZ: Thank you. Thank you, sir. 3 CDR And then, sir, if you can go ahead and introduce 4 yourself. 5 I am Oscar Nunez, DJ on the Spirit of Boston. MR. NUNEZ: 6 Last name: N-u-n-e-z. 7 And are you represented by counsel today? CDR 8 MR. NUNEZ: No. 9 Just to make notification, you may change or CDR 10 modify anything you say in this interview. If something comes up 11 at a later date, just make notification to myself or Mr. Fawcett 12 and we can get them on the record. 13 Thank you. MR. NUNEZ: 14 You may also appeal the final results of the 15 report of investigation that may result from this interview. information about the Coast Guard marine casualty investigations, 16 17 you can look up Marine Safety Manual, Volume V, for the United 18 States Coast Guard investigation. 19 At this time, we're going to go ahead and begin the 2.0 interview. Mr. Fawcett. 21 MR. FAWCETT: Thank you. So the Coast Guard conducts 22 accident investigations following a commercial vessel accident. 23 We're trying to understand the preconditions, you know, the setup, 24 for example, that led to the fire. We're also trying to look at

any, what we call latent unsafe conditions --

1 CDR Also, there's two people --2 (Crosstalk) 3 Oh, yeah, good call. Sorry about that. LT4 CDR Sorry. 5 My fault. LT6 CDR Sorry. 7 Before we move on, we have two people on the LT8 If you can go ahead and introduce yourself, Lieutenant 9 Commander 10 Yeah, good morning, Mr. Nunez, this is LCDR 11 Lieutenant Commander last name is spelled 12 , and I'm the legal advisor to the investigation. 13 MR. NUNEZ: Good morning. 14 And good morning, Mr. Nunez, this is Brian Young. MR. YOUNG: 15 I'm an investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board. 16 The spelling of my name is Y-o-u-n-q. Thank you very much for 17 coming in, I appreciate it. 18 Good morning, good morning. MR. NUNEZ: 19 LT Thank you. Apologies for that. 20 That's all right. CDR 21 INTERVIEW OF OSCAR NUNEZ 22 BY MR. FAWCETT: 23 So we're also trying to understand the fire event and you 24 were on board the vessel up until you actually got off the vessel, 25 finally, and went home, so that's -- we're trying to understand

- 1 | two things, what occurred based on your experiences on the
- 2 | accident date of March 24th, 2023, and then I have some questions
- 3 | about what the disc jockey does. Some of them, when you talk
- 4 | about the day, I'll ask you, but -- so are you an employee of City
- 5 | Cruises?
- 6 A. Like payroll-wise?
- 7 | Q. Yes.
- 8 A. I don't think technically, no, because I'm a subcontractor.
- 9 Q. Okay. And I'm going to use the term City Cruises as a
- 10 generic description of the operation in Boston and if I'm wrong,
- 11 | just correct me. I know that City Experiences is used and so
- 12 | forth, but for the purpose of this investigation. So how long
- 13 | have you worked on vessels for City Cruises as a subcontractor in
- 14 | the Boston Harbor area?
- 15  $\|$  A. Does City Cruises include when it was just *Spirit of Boston*
- 16 or before that?
- 17 Q. Yeah. At any time.
- 18 A. It's 9 years, about.
- 19 Q. And then have you ever worked as a payroll employee of City
- 20 | Cruises or any other name of a vessel in Boston Harbor?
- 21 A. No, it's only been as a subcontractor.
- 22  $\parallel$  Q. And then have you worked on the four -- there's -- the dining
- 23 | fleet has four vessels. Have you worked on all four vessels?
- 24 | A. Yes.
- 25 | Q. And then have you worked as a disc jockey on other vessels in

- Boston Harbor that City Cruises operates? I know they have ferryboats and excursion boats, any of those?
- A. I mean, I've done the *Queen Mary*. Is it called the *Queen Mary*? One of the big boats with a fastened wheel on it.
- 5 | Q. Oh, paddlewheel?
- A. Yeah, I don't think that was -- I've been on that, I've been on a few others than the four, but I don't know if they're all owned -- not owned by them, anyway, because I do some private events, Children's Hospital, you know, the hospital down here in
- 11 Q. That's all right.

that right.

Boston (indiscernible).

on, would that be a correct --

- 12 A. I mean, the answer is I've been on other boats, I don't know 13 if they all are owned, operated, if that was -- if I'm answering
- Q. Yeah, you are. I'm not telling you you were answering it right, but I'm just saying, you know, I'm talking specifically City Cruises and there are other boats that you may have worked
- 19 | A. Yes.

10

14

18

Q. So I want you to just quietly sit there for a minute and think about March 24th and I want you to tell me, in as much detail as possible, your story, what you saw, what happened. I want you to start from the moment that you stepped on the gangway that goes on board the vessel, before the cruise, and just walk me through your day until you looked over your shoulder, I guess, and

left the pier at the end of the day, late at night, so just as much as detail.

2.0

A. I arrive there usually an hour before we board, we board at 6:00, usually about 5:00 or 5:15 or so. A beautiful day out, sunny, beautiful day. We usually set up about 40 minutes to an hour before the clients board, we do a sound check. It seemed like a pretty normal day. Clients boarded in, we had a great, fun cruise. They got off. I mean, I'm not fast-forwarding, but that's pretty much -- I was upstairs with the school event. They got off.

Me and the other DJ, Mike, were eating dinner upstairs in that second deck. The captain came up and we were just kind of talking about food, the cruise, whatever, he was like man, you guys really worked it right today, because sometimes it gets kind of difficult with so many people on the ship, different ages, but it was like yeah, man, we actually were able to sync the dancing and everybody had a good time.

And then it just seemed like Jeremy came up the stairs. If this is the ship, the stairs over here were on this other side of the ship, by the exit. Jeremy comes running up, he said got to get off the ship and it was just kind of like, "What?" "Off the ship," like his -- it was like whatever he saw, it was we're off and we got off and we're out just looking at the ship, like what's going on. But there was a fire and everybody's getting on their phones. Like okay, like, well, what do you mean? This is home.

Like, instinct was like let's do something about it, what do you mean, you know, that disbelief because we didn't like -- is there a fire or something? It was just so quick, they came up, "we got to go, we got to go." Okay, whatever (indiscernible). When I'm out there, you could see into the ship and I can see almost \$10,000 in two DJ bags sitting there and I got an event, I got a weekend full of events, I don't see fire and I see my belongings, I got to get my stuff.

2.0

So I went back in. The minute I'm -- maybe I stepped back in and it was like okay, now I can smell something, I shouldn't be here, but I still -- it was just kind of like it's just right there where that chair is, I can get it. I rushed there, I grabbed it and I'm thinking well, the other DJ's stuff is down, right -- right down the stairs and I can see it. I'm like, you know what, I got this, I got this, I went down to grab it, I put my hands on his laptops and when I looked to the right, it was just oh, now I shouldn't be here, I really shouldn't be.

I looked to my right and I saw the fire like on the end of the wall, coming out and I'm like I am out of here. Ran up the stairs, went out the back and I got out and I was like whoa, whoa, whoa, I just saw what you saw, like this is crazy. By this time they're all on the phone and the fire department is already like -- you could hear sirens coming, like, and then we just kind of sat back and -- it's tough, it's tough to question, because there was so many of us, so many of us. All I can think is about 12 DJs

that work for me, me calling them up and telling them that the season's over. These guys are all full-time DJs. I think that's the painful part. Last time we had to do that was COVID and it broke my heart to call individual DJs and tell them that they don't have a job. For whatever reason, sitting there and feeling so hopeless, like what if I did something, you know, like this thing is way over my head.

2.0

And then watching him and the other wait staff that was there, it was just -- this is like -- it felt like the season opener, it was like all right, the calendar is getting busy and the captain -- it's just a real tight family and to see that, it was just -- so it was bad. Thank you. Then it really hit because, you know, they kept telling us to step back because it's like (indiscernible). Seen fire coming out of the bottom and the firemen with their hoses and coming out, everything's going on, we're sitting in the back, yeah, step back, step back.

I don't know how long it took them, for them to actually put it all out and they allowed us to go back in and grab the rest of the stuff that was there, peoples' cards, keys, and phone and everything else. Stepping back in there, it seemed like is this really happening? It was unreal, this is not right, we were just here. What went wrong? We gave our information to -- there was a lot of officers asking for IDs and phone numbers and I think it was probably 10 different people took information down, telling us you're going to end up in an interview of some sort, you know.

- 1 Yeah, I know, anything I can do to help, so things like that don't
- 2 | happen, but you never know. Like, I don't know. Like the next
- 3 day, I DJ'ed in a smaller ship that they have right next to it and
- 4 | we needed some equipment, DJ boards that were there, and going
- 5 | there the next day, during the day, was also -- like wow, this has
- 6 been home for the last 9 years, what's going to be -- what's going
- 7 | to happen, and it's just -- it hurt. But, you know, they've been
- 8 | really nice in being able to help us move some of the events to
- 9 the other ships and so where they have -- and still give some work
- 10 | to these guys, which is my main -- I got to keep these guys --
- 11 | just want to be paid.
- 12 | Q. So my son's a DJ, he's never had an experience like yours, so
- 13 I understand the value of your equipment. When you mentioned the
- 14 quys, do they work for you?
- 15 | A. Yeah.
- 16  $\parallel$  Q. And so you have a company and they all are employed by you or
- 17 | they're independent --
- 18 A. Independent.
- 19 | Q. So we'll talk about that aspect of the -- in the general sort
- 20 of section. So you come aboard, you set up for the day.
- 21 | A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Passengers begin to board.
- 23 | A. Yes.
- 24 | Q. At some point someone plays a recorded safety announcement.
- 25 | A. Yes.

- $\mathbb{Q}$ . Talk about that.
- 2  $\blacksquare$  A. It's like a minute 25 that we play as soon as the ship starts
- 3 | to leave so we know everyone is on board. As soon as you see and
- 4 | if there's a small movement, like okay, now we're moving, we know
- 5 the gate's closed, everyone's on the ship, let's play this
- 6 announcement.
- 7 | Q. Is there a different announcement -- I have experience with
- 8 some aspect of City Cruises. Is there a daytime announcement and
- 9 | a different announcement for nighttime?
- 10 | A. No.
- 11 | Q. And then could you hand me the announcement, like, on
- 12 | recorded media? Is there a zip drive or where is --
- 13 | A. It's on the laptop.
- 14 | Q. Okay, so it's on your laptop. And so you hit the play
- 15 | button --
- 16 | A. Um-hum.
- 17  $\parallel$  Q. -- and the recording is played through the DJ PA system or
- 18 | the ship's PA?
- 19 | A. The ship, the ship.
- 20  $\parallel$  Q. Okay, so it goes out and do you see any crew -- and by crew,
- 21 | I mean any employee of the vessel demonstrate like, you know, have
- 22 | you been on an airplane, the stewardess says, you know, exits are
- 23 | here. Does someone say lifejackets are here, anything like that?
- 24 Do they physically go out there and show the position?
- 25 A. No.

- Q. Does anyone like pull up a lifejacket and say this is how you put it on?
- 3 (No audible response.)
- 4 BY MR. FAWCETT:
- 5  $\parallel$  Q. In the last year -- now take a minute to think about this --
- 6 has the company said we have a different announcement we'd like
- 7 | you to play for all the cruises or has it been the same?
- 8 A. No, it's changed throughout the years.
- 9 Q. No, but in the last year has it changed?
- 10 A. I'd have to look at the last one that they sent me on the
- 11 | laptop.
- 12  $\parallel$  Q. Okay. If you could do that and let us the know the date
- 13 | of --
- 14 A. Yeah, I'll have to look at that and see.
- 15  $\|Q$ . Is there any procedure, that you're aware of, where you're
- 16 | instructed to notify anyone to make sure the announcement has been
- 17 | played? In other words, the vessel gets ready to go, for example,
- 18 | when the vessel gets ready before they go, they test the engines
- 19 to make sure they operate properly. Is there like a formal step
- 20 where you notify somebody that we played the announcement?
- 21 | A. No.
- 22 ||Q|. Because we had two captains that said that they did not hear
- 23 | the announcement and they don't know if it's made, so --
- 24 A. On that day?
- 25 | Q. Yeah, on that day. I'm not disputing that it was made.

- 1 No, I got proof that I did.
- 2 Q. No, I'm sure you do, but --
- 3 The date's with the computers. Α.
- 4 Right.
- 5 I got proof that I did.
- 6 Right, but the two captains did not hear it and we do also 7 know that they have a PA system on the bridge. So if you can just 8 provide that, that's not in dispute that it was played, it's just 9 we're trying to determine sort of the formal policy to play, if 10 there's a procedure, because the captains might've been busy and 11 they hear it every day, so you know how it is, you filter stuff 12
- 13 the announcement and the time it was played. So you were on the

out. So that would be great. So the announcement, the date of

- 14 second deck --
- 15 Correct.
- 16 -- and that was -- would I be correct if I characterized it
- 17 as a big high school function?
- Yes, (indiscernible). 18
- 19 Then the second deck -- did you go down to the first deck?
- 2.0 Α. Yes.
- 21 Not when the fire started, but did you go down there and walk
- 22 around?
- 23 Yeah. Α.
- 24 Did you see any -- let me precede that with do you get on the
- 25 DJ system and announce hey, happy birthday, we got a wedding

couple over here or anything like that?

A. We get on the microphone to let the clients know everyone is on the ship, what the -- the events that are going to happen.

Welcome everybody, my name is Oscar Nunez. This evening, they're going to be opening soon, but in the meantime, make yourself comfortable on the ship. Please watch your step because it's kind

of slippery. If you're outside, feel free to take pictures. If you're on social media, feel free to use (indiscernible) so we can all see the experience you will have tonight.

Shortly after your dinner and have some dessert, we're going to open up the dance floor and I'm going to play a little bit of everything, some blues, Motown, something for everyone. We do have some celebrations. We can't say an individual happy birthday because it's not their private deck.

Q. Okay.

2.0

- A. We do have some celebrations here this evening, we'd like to welcome everyone in on behalf of the whole staff and restaurant manager. My name is Oscar, welcome to the Spirit of Boston.
- Q. On that accident day, March 24th, did you physically see any birthday parties going on or celebrations where they had like -- specifically like birthday candles or sparklers or anything like that?
- 23 (No audible response.)
- 24 BY MR. FAWCETT:
- ||Q. So all of the tables on the first deck, not the second deck,

1 | not the third deck, we know that there were no white sconces on

2 | the tables that had actual open flame candles in them. Did you

- 3 | walk through the first deck and see any of those candles?
- 4 A. I mean, I went down there a couple times to talk to Mike with
- 5 | the music and stuff like that and I didn't really look at their
- 6 | exact setting, what was set up. When they do (indiscernible),
- 7 | that I do remember because we look for that a lot because of the
- 8 music, we have to adjust --
- 9  $\mid$  0. Um-hum.
- 10 | A. -- and play -- have a couple slow sets throughout the evening
- 11 | so the people that are celebrating anniversaries feel welcome.
- 12 | Sometimes it can get a little bit too party mode and the people
- 13 | that are there celebrating anniversaries -- hey, what about us,
- 14 | we're celebrating anniversaries, so we look for those anniversary
- 15 | flowers or setting, per se, red flowers on the table. There's
- 16 | five anniversaries here tonight. Checkpoint. At some point we're
- 17 | going to have to slow this music down with everybody celebrating
- 18 | anniversaries (indiscernible) here with us tonight.
- 19 (Indiscernible) down to them.
- 20  $\parallel$  Q. And then as we get to the end of the cruise, at some point
- 21 you sit down with your colleague and you have a meal?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23  $\parallel$  Q. And then what -- do you remember like, out of your awareness,
- 24 | what the hospitality staff was doing while you were eating, that
- 25 | night, in particular?

- 1 A. Probably just like grabbing, you know, the menus from the tables, just picking up, setting up for the next day.
- Q. Do you recall if they were bringing the votives, I'll call them the sconces, and the glass candles up to the deck where you were eating? Did you see people coming up the stairs with that
- 6 kind of stuff?
- 7 (No audible response.)
- 8 BY MR. FAWCETT:
- 9 Q. Do you announce, as part of your job, anything about guests 10 smoking?
- 11 | A. It's on the announcement.
- 12 | Q. It's on the canned announcement, the recorded announcement.
- 13 Has that changed, do you recall, like at one point the vessel was
- 14 guests could smoke more liberally and --
- 15 A. Not since I started, it's no smoking inside. It's no
- 16 smoking, period.
- Q. And then were they permitted to smoke on the sky deck, the top deck?
- 19 A. The sky deck.
- 20 | Q. And then how about -- do you smoke?
- 21 | A. No.
- 22 | Q. Have you seen crew members -- on the non-passenger spaces,
- 23 there's an area on the back deck, first deck, have you seen people
- 24 | out there smoking?
- 25  $\blacksquare$  A. Like downstairs in the back?

- $1 \mid Q$ . Yes.
- 2  $\blacksquare$  A. I've seen on the top.
- 3  $\|$ Q. So you've seen employees on the top deck --
- 4 A. Oh, employees, no, (indiscernible) anybody smoking.
- 5 (Indiscernible).
- 6 | Q. I want to focus back on the time period, you're having your
- 7 | meal, and Jeremy -- Jeremy who?
- 8 A. The manager.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. He's the manager. I don't know his last name.
- 11 | Q. So is that one of the restaurant managers?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Kinney? Because he's been there a short period of time.
- 14 A. Yeah.
- 15 0. Kind of red hair and a beard.
- 16 A. No, no, Jeremy, Jeremy. No, he's real clean cut.
- 17  $\parallel$  Q. So when he came through and he said we got to get off the
- 18 | boat, before that did you smell any smoke?
- 19 **|** A. No.
- 20  $\parallel$  Q. And then when he said we got to get off, did he announce why?
- 21 A. No. He didn't, Cee-Cee did, she said there's a fire, which
- 22 | is -- they're both managers. She said there's a fire, because we
- 23 | were like why, there's a fire, she was like right behind him,
- 24 | there's a fire, and we got off.
- 25  $\parallel$  Q. And did you hear any audible alarms that were around that

- 1 | time, either like a buzzer, a siren, an alarm?
- $2 \parallel A$ . No. Outside, we did. When we got outside it seemed like
- 3 there was, yeah.
- 4 | Q. So now you -- you and your colleague run down the gangway and
- 5 | what was happening with the -- I'll call them hospitality crew, I
- 6 know it's front of the house, back of the house, who would you say
- 7 | -- what was everybody doing?
- 8 | A. Where's the fire?
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. What did you see, where's the fire? Cee-Cee said it's
- 11 | downstairs by the wait station, it's downstairs.
- 12 | Q. And by the time you got out there, did you see any of the
- 13 | hospitality crew like counting heads to make sure everybody was --
- 14 A. Yeah.
- 15 | O. And who did that?
- 16  $\mid A$ . I think, by that point, it was the (indiscernible) that was
- 17 | there. He wasn't on the cruise, but he was not (indiscernible)
- 18 | going on and when he came on, he was just like -- you know, is
- 19 everybody off, is everybody off. It was like they counted us, I
- 20 | don't know, 10 times, maybe.
- 21  $\parallel$ Q. So you run down the gangway into the cold Boston night, it's
- 22 | cold, everybody's out there. How long did it take, based on what
- 23 | you experienced, to see somebody count heads and make sure
- 24 | everybody was accounted for?
- 25 A. Oh, what she was doing was she was on the phone, because when

- 1 I grabbed my stuff and I came back out, she was just like looking
- 2  $\parallel$  like on the phone, they both were on the phone just looking out
- 3 | over us and like okay, Mike is here, everybody's like here because
- 4 we were all like who -- is anybody inside. Okay, but we are all
- 5 | here while they were calling, they were calling -- I don't know
- 6 | who. Obviously, they're calling them on one and the managers,
- 7 | because everybody in there was showing up, but I don't know who
- 8 | exactly, I just know that we were all just okay, is everybody
- 9 here, as a pre-count.
- 10 | Q. So you run down the gangway, you make a decision to go back
- 11 aboard to get the gear.
- 12 | A. We didn't go all the way back to the street.
- 13 | Q. No, no.
- 14 | A. We got off from where --
- 15  $\|Q$ . No, what I'm talking --
- 16 A. The ship was here, like what happened?
- 17 | Q. Right.
- 18 | A. We were trying to figure it out, we're all here, that's why I
- 19 | could still see my bag right there.
- 20  $\parallel$  Q. Right. So what I'm talking about is you come down the
- 21 | aluminum gangway and you step onto the pier.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23  $\parallel$  Q. And you made a decision to go back aboard and get your stuff.
- 24 | A. Yes.
- 25  $\|Q$ . And then about how long did that -- like how long did it take

- 1 | you to go "I'm going back"?
- 2 A. Maybe 2 minutes, 3 minutes, it was pretty quick.
- 3  $\|Q$ . So you stood there for 2 or 3 minutes.
- 4 A. Yeah.
- 5 | Q. And then when you went back, have you ever boarded the
- 6 | vessel, any time, without any person from the company aboard?
- 7 A. Like, by myself?
- 8 Q. Yeah, in other words, there's no hospitality crew, there's no
- 9 marine crew, it's an un-personed vessel, have you ever gone aboard
- 10 | in that manner?
- 11 | A. No, that's the first time.
- 12 | Q. So when you went aboard, and I know this is an emergency,
- 13 | right, did an employee of City Cruises try to stop you?
- 14 A. Yeah.
- 15 0. Who was that?
- 16 A. Cee-Cee.
- 17 | Q. Okay. And then you said I'm going to go get my gear and you
- 18 | went aboard?
- 19 (No audible response.)
- 20 BY MR. FAWCETT:
- 21  $\parallel$  Q. And when she -- when you came back out, did she say okay,
- 22 | I've got you, you're safe?
- 23 | A. Yeah.
- 24 | Q. Did she realize you were safe?
- 25 A. Yeah.

- $\mathbb{Q}$ . Did you report to her?
- 2 A. Yeah, I did and I freaked out because at this point I know I
- 3 saw what you saw, I understood it's like nobody could go in there,
- 4 | like this is serious. It went from disbelief to like it's
- 5 | burning, man, this is dangerous, you guys were down there, you
- 6 | could've been upstairs and just not knowing anything, you know.
- 7 | Q. So now you enter the second deck and you're going to get your
- 8 | gear back aft where the DJ station is. Can you give me an
- 9 | estimation of where the smoke was?
- 10 A. It got thicker as I walked, because the DJ booth is closer to
- 11 | that stairs that lead down --
- 12 | Q. Um-hum.
- 13 A. -- and so unless you go down, you'll see the second DJ booth
- 14 downstairs, like just standing there and see it. So when I
- 15 | grabbed my bag, it was like Mike's stuff is there, too, and I
- 16 | could see both laptops on top of the DJ console.
- 17 | Q. So I've been aboard the vessel, so I --
- 18 A. Okay, okay. Sorry.
- 19 Q. No, that's okay, I appreciate that. That's very helpful to
- 20 | put it all together, but -- so you're back there by the second
- 21 deck DJ station.
- 22 | A. Um-hum.
- 23 | Q. Would you give me an idea, just -- you arrived there, we need
- 24 | to know like how thick the smoke was, did it have a smell, did it
- 25 | have a color?

- 1 A. I'd say I went through the first door, I could smell a little
- 2 | bit, it got thicker, but not to the point like -- I didn't feel
- 3 | like, okay, alarmed, but when I looked down and smelled like,
- 4 | okay, now, that looks serious down there.
- 5  $\parallel$  Q. So the second deck, do you have any idea what the smoke
- 6 smelled like?
- 7  $\blacksquare$  A. No. Sorry.
- 8 Q. And if you were standing in the DJ and you were just looking
- 9 horizontally from the second deck, could you see -- like how far
- 10 | could you see?
- 11 | A. Oh, I could see.
- 12 | Q. Okay, so it didn't obstruct your vision, right?
- 13 A. No, no, not upstairs.
- 14  $\parallel$  Q. And now you look down the stairs and you decide to go down
- 15 | and get --
- 16 A. Yeah.
- 17  $\|Q$ . -- the other bags and gear. So as you descended the stairs,
- 18 | if that's what you did --
- 19 | A. Yes.
- 20 Q. -- the smoke was much thicker?
- 21 | A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Talk about the smoke.
- 23 A. The smoke was definitely thicker. I can hear like cracking,
- 24 | so my concern was like I'm going down and grabbing his two laptops
- 25 | that are right on the top. As soon as I grabbed it and I looked

- $oxed{1}$  to the right where I could hear cracking and I looked to the right
- 2  $\parallel$  and I was like okay, I got to get out of here. All I could see is
- 3 | flames and just smoke. That was like I'm in the middle of a fire
- 4 here, I got to get out of here.
- $5 \parallel Q$ . So smoke-wise, like when you got to the bottom of the stairs,
- 6 | if you had to estimate how far you could see horizontally in feet,
- 7 | just could you give me an estimate? Could you see me if I was
- 8 | standing there?
- 9 A. Yeah.
- 10 | Q. Could you see me if I was standing say 3 feet away from you?
- 11 | A. Yeah. It was a good, like, you know, half this room,
- 12 probably, that it was like more, there was a lot of smoke and fire
- 13 | there. I could smell and see it here, but it was like it got
- 14 | thicker that way.
- 15  $\|Q\|$ . And the smoke was rising up the stairwell?
- 16 | A. Yes.
- 17  $\parallel$  Q. And then, as accurately as you can describe, are you familiar
- 18 | with the wait station where you can get a cup of coffee, they have
- 19 | a burner there --
- 20 A. Yeah, yeah.
- 21  $\parallel$ Q. -- for a cup of coffee? If you get to the bottom of the
- 22 | stairs and you look over there, that wait station has a front
- 23 | wall.
- 24 | A. Yes.
- $25 \parallel Q$ . And the dining room's over here.

- A. Yeah.
- $2 \parallel Q$ . And then it has an after wall, which is racks of glasses,
- 3 | trash cans --
- 4 A. Yeah.
- $5 \parallel Q$ . -- and things like that. Looking at the -- into that place,
- 6 there's a window and people look through that window to see the
- 7 | fire and then eventually, perhaps, saw the window break or --
- 8 A. Yeah.
- 9  $\|Q$ . -- get broken.
- 10 | A. Yeah.
- 11  $\parallel$  Q. When you looked into there, as accurately as possible,
- 12 describe what you saw fire-wise.
- 13 MR. DENLEY: Objection, I guess I don't understand the
- 14 | question, when are you asking him to describe when he looked in
- 15 | there? Did he look in there?
- 16 BY MR. FAWCETT:
- 17 | Q. Yeah, you said you saw the flames.
- 18 A. I went downstairs and it was like, when I went downstairs I
- 19 | saw it over the wall.
- 20 MR. DENLEY: Did you look into the wait station?
- 21 MR. NUNEZ: No, I'm not going over there.
- 22 BY MR. FAWCETT:
- 23 | Q. No, no, I didn't say go into the wait station. In other
- 24 words, the DJ booth is here, you look over this way, did you see
- 25 the fire in the wait station area?

- 1  $\blacksquare$  A. I saw it on the wall.
- 2  $\|Q$ . Okay. So that would be the after wall to the dining room?
- 3 A. Correct.
- $4 \parallel Q$ . And did you see it through the wall?
- 5  $\blacksquare$  A. No, the wall was still standing.
- 6 Q. Okay, the wall was standing there. Was any fire on the --
- 7 | through the wall and around the wall?
- 8 A. Through like the top, yeah.
- 9  $\mathbb{Q}$ . So it was coming around the top?
- 10  $\blacksquare$  A. Over the top.
- 11 ||Q|. And was it a very intense fire?
- 12 | A. Yeah.
- 13 | Q. And then you came up the stairs and you exited the vessel?
- 14 A. Yes. Ran up the stairs.
- 15  $\parallel$ Q. Understand. So now I want to shift to -- I want to shift to
- 16 | more generalized questions based on your experience. So you have
- 17 | a company that has contractors or employees or independent people
- 18 | that work for you. Did City Cruises ever give you any kind of
- 19 | safety orientation as a condition of work? In other words, they
- 20 | brought you in and they sat you down and they talked to you about
- 21 | safety. Ashore.
- 22 A. We have DJ trainings, if that falls into that category.
- 23 | Q. Is that provided by City Cruises?
- 24 A. It was at a point when I started, yes.
- 25  $\mathbb{Q}$ . And what was that like?

- 1 A. It was a training that we had, we brought in all the DJs and
- 2  $\parallel$  that's when they gave us some of the first safety announcements,
- 3 | it was like hey, this is what you have to do, you have to play
- 4 | this, this time, every cruise, lunch, dinner, or night. It
- 5 doesn't matter if it's private, it doesn't matter if it's
- 6 (indiscernible), this is what you have to play and this is what
- 7 you have to do, and this is your job description.
- 8 Q. So 9 years ago was --
- 9 A. Roughly.
- 10 | Q. Roughly. Did that DJ training include anything related to
- 11 | what to do in case of a fire, in other words, report it to the
- 12 | marine crew, try to extinguish it, here's you use a fire
- 13 extinguisher, anything like that?
- 14 A. Like OSHA training, are you asking?
- 15  $\parallel$ Q. Well, what City --
- 16 A. That job is separate.
- 17 | Q. Okay.
- 18 | A. I mean, I'm OSHA trained personally because I worked with
- 19 (indiscernible) for 23 years and I'm the OSHA coordinator for that
- 20 | building.
- 21  $\parallel$ Q. Right. So did City Cruises give you any fire safety training
- 22 | as a third-party contractor?
- 23 (No audible response.)
- 24 BY MR. FAWCETT:
- 25 | Q. Moving on to a vessel, you got a brand-new DJ, does -- have

- 1 | you or a new DJ -- does the vessel crew give you a safety
- 2  $\parallel$  orientation specific to the vessel? Do they walk you through and
- 3 show you the fire extinguishers, the lifejacket lockers, anything
- 4 | like that?
- 5 | A. No.
- 6 Q. At the present time, does City Cruises give you a
- 7 | presentation or training about how you're expected to interact
- 8 | with the guests on board their vessels?
- 9 A. Talk to them?
- 10 | Q. City Cruises employees, as I understand it, they get this
- 11 | training program about how they greet guests, interact with
- 12 guests, attend to the guests' needs. I may be wrong here and
- 13 Mr. Denley will certainly correct me, but there is some, you know,
- 14 policies that might be related to the safety in that training.
- 15  $\parallel$  There are other trainings they get. Do they give you any
- 16 orientation whatsoever in a similar program?
- 17 | A. I have been to those, I have been to a fair amount of those,
- 18 yeah.
- 19 0. And what are those like?
- 20 | A. They're staff trainings.
- 21 0. Talk about what that --
- 22 | A. It's like you mentioned, like clients, you know, meeting the
- 23 | clients' expectations.
- 24 | Q. Do those meetings ever have any content about -- I'll just
- 25 | call it fire safety and by that, I mean fire prevention, what to

- 1 do for somebody if there's -- if a passenger slips, if a passenger
- 2 | trips, if there's a fire on board, like here's a fire
- 3 | extinguisher, this is what it looks like and this is how you use
- 4 | it, do you recall anything like that?
- 5 | A. The captain has had safety -- not -- I mean, he's not a
- 6 training personnel, a training firefighter, but we definitely --
- 7 | we know who to notify in the case of an emergency.
- 8 Q. And when was the last time a captain, in the four dining
- 9 boats, if you, you know, remember those boats, gave you any type
- 10 of safety training?
- 11 A. It's when I went to the meeting with them, with the whole
- 12 | staff. It's not a personal one-on-one.
- 13  $\mathbb{Q}$ . But how about --
- 14 A. You said he gave me.
- 15 Q. Yeah, correct.
- 16 A. Not me, personally, I went to one of the meetings that they
- 17 | had with the staff and we had -- from a manager's standpoint, they
- 18 | talk about we're going to, you know, respect customers in this
- 19 manner, this is the captain and then he comes up and they talk
- 20 | about, okay, safety and whatever and who to notify if something
- 21 | was wrong, as a unit, not as a personal training.
- 22  $\parallel$  Q. And when was the last time you had something like that? Just
- 23 | approximate is fine, a year, half, 6 months.
- 24 A. I'd say right after COVID, probably.
- 25  $\mathbb{Q}$ . So as you came out of the COVID --

- A. Yeah.
- 2  $\mathbb{Q}$ . -- pandemic. And then, just to be clear, specifically, a
- 3 | vessel person, when was the last time a vessel person gave you
- 4 some kind of safety orientation for one of those four vessels?
- 5 MR. DENLEY: Objection, I believe he stated that the captain
- 6 provided training.
- 7 BY MR. FAWCETT:
- 8 | Q. Well, you were talking about a managers' meeting, right, is
- 9 | that ashore?
- 10 | A. The captain -- no, on the ship.
- 11 | Q. Oh, okay.
- 12 A. The captain's there. It's a meeting on the ship.
- 13 | Q. Oh, okay, I understand now. Thank you. I thought it was
- 14 like in some building.
- 15 | A. Oh, no, no, no. Sorry.
- 16 | Q. That's all right. Because, you know, they could bring a
- 17  $\parallel$  captain in, so -- on the accident day, it may seem like a silly
- 18 | question but, you know, the marine crew wears one uniform,
- 19 | hospitality wears another uniform, I'm guessing the back of the
- 20 | house, working in the kitchen, they wear another uniform and just
- 21 so I know what you're wearing, what do you wear?
- 22 A. Usually this.
- 23 Q. So black pants, black shirt.
- 24 A. Black.
- 25 | Q. So I just have one more question and then I'll turn it over

- 1 | to my colleague. You mentioned you worked on other boats outside
- 2 of the Hornblower fleet, City Cruises' fleet, you mentioned the
- 3 | Queen Mary, other vessels. When you go to work on those, do they
- 4 | give you a safety briefing? And first of all, like, you know,
- 5 | hey, you're going to come work on the Queen Mary, here's -- here's
- 6 | a -- you've got to attend this little training thing? And I
- 7 | mean --
- 8 A. Not to be -- not to go into a different route, but me coming
- 9 | into this building, you didn't give me a safety meeting about
- 10 where the fire stuff is here. I'm in your building.
- 11 | Q. Yeah, I understand. I understand. But I'm still asking you
- 12 | the question, it's not about this building, so when you went to
- 13 the other vessels, like the Queen Mary or something, did they say
- 14 | you're going to be a contractor on the vessel or you're going to
- 15 | be an at-will, independent guy?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17  $\parallel$  Q. Not an employee, but hey, we want you to look at this safety
- 18 | presentation, even like a building or an office. I'm not talking
- 19 about on the vessel.
- 20 | A. I don't think that has anything to do with the fire on the
- 21 | 24th.
- 22  $\|Q$ . That's fine, but I'm asking the question, if --
- 23 | A. I mean, like, I get hired to so many events throughout the
- 24 | year, I would have to ask for -- what are you calling it, a safety
- 25 | training at a venue like we work, walking into Children's

- 1 Hospital, hey, I'm not a DJ in here if you don't give me a safety
- 2 | training in this building.
- $3 \parallel Q$ . Right.
- 4 A. You walk in and you do your job.
- 5 | Q. Well, I understand your personal -- but I'm asking if they
- 6 gave you a safety briefing before you went to work on --
- 7  $\mid A$ . What does an event a year ago on the *Queen Mary* has to do
- 8 | with the Spirit of Boston in March?
- 9  $\|Q$ . Okay, from the investigative standpoint --
- 10 A. I hate to go that route, but --
- 11 Q. That's fine.
- 12 | A. -- I think the focus is what happened that night.
- 13 Q. That's good.
- 14 A. Not what I was doing a year ago.
- 15  $\|Q$ . That's good. There is, in our line of work, you compare what
- 16 | happens on other vessels to what happened on this vessel to
- 17 | determine whether there are things we can change to -- we're going
- 18 | to write a report. At the end of it, we're going to make numbers
- 19 of recommendations to improve the safety. You, as a single person
- 20 | aboard the vessel, could've fallen on the stairs, there would've
- 21 | been no marine crew present to save your life and you would've had
- 22 | to wait for firefighters. So what I'm asking, for the purpose of
- 23 | this investigation, is whether you had a safety briefing on
- 24 | another vessel that wasn't a City Cruises vessel.
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. When you went aboard another vessel that wasn't a City
- 2 | Cruises, did any marine person or hospitality person representing
- 3 | those companies walk you around and explain to you the safety --
- 4 | I'll call it a safety orientation, like here's the lifejackets,
- 5 here's the fire extinguishers, here's the smoking policy, and so
- 6 | forth.
- 7  $\Pi$ A. Yeah.
- 8 ||Q. And have you ever -- and this is my final question. And
- 9 thank you for bearing with me.
- 10 A. No, thank you, thank you.
- 11 | Q. We kind of have a passion for what we do. So did anyone
- 12 | speak to you, from City Cruises, regarding like you've got a DJ
- 13 | booth, you've got -- what I've seen is a million wires going into
- 14 | systems and --
- 15 A. Yeah.
- 16  $\|Q$ . -- you know, cables and stuff. Has anybody ever spoken to
- 17 | you about electrical safety?
- 18 | A. Yes.
- 19  $\parallel$ 0. And who was that?
- 20 | A. Thatcher.
- 21 | Q. And Thatcher would be -- if I characterize him as the
- 22 | director of food and beverage?
- 23 A. I'd say he's --
- 24 | Q. Oh, wait a minute, let me --
- 25 A. He's the king.

- 1 Q. Okay, but he's not a marine guy, he's a hospitality side guy,
- 2 | would that be correct?
- 3  $\|A$ . I don't know exactly his position.
- 4 | Q. Okay.
- 5 A. I just know he --
- 6 Q. Because there's a Thatcher and a Thayer.
- 7 A. I just know he's one of the managers and he helps me a lot.
- 8 | Q. Okay.
- 9 A. Everyone.
- 10 | Q. All right. And then he -- when did he tell you about
- 11 | electrical safety?
- 12 A. He's always after me, he's always like hey, make sure these
- 13 DJs don't start unplugging things and moving things around, just
- 14 keep these things neat.
- 15 MR. FAWCETT: Thank you very much. That's all the questions.
- 16 LT Mr.
- 17 CDR Thank you.
- 18 BY CDR
- 19  $\|Q$ . I'm going to kind of continue. In the aftermath of the fire,
- 20 | obviously there was a lot of missing ceiling tiles from the fire
- 21 | department. I noticed large amounts of audio cables, microphone,
- 22 | speaker wires. Do you know who did all those installations?
- 23 | A. No.
- 24 | Q. Have you done any work on the boat yourself regarding your
- 25 equipment, besides bringing your mixer and plugging it in once in

- $1 \mid a \text{ while}?$
- 2 A. No.
- 3 | Q. No. So what equipment do you normally bring when you --
- 4 A. Laptop.
- 5 | Q. Just your laptop?
- 6 | A. Yeah.
- 7  $\|Q$ . And you plug in an audio connection?
- 8 A. And the console is already set up.
- 9 Q. Who owns the console and that equipment?
- 10 | A. They do.
- 11 CDR City, okay.
- 12 BY LT
- 13  $\parallel$  Q. Thank you again for being with us. I have just a few
- 14 | questions. So when you -- when you were out on the pier
- 15  $\parallel$  discussing with the other employees who had evacuated with you,
- 16 | was there any -- did anybody say to you or you hear "let's go, we
- 17 | should go back on and fight the fire"?
- 18 | A. No.
- 19 Q. Did anybody discuss or say to you, specifically, or did you
- 20 | overhear anybody, "I should've grabbed the fire extinguisher or I
- 21 | could've grabbed the fire extinguisher"?
- 22 A. No. Like managers on their phone calling.
- 23 | Q. Okay.
- 24 A. I thought about it, but I didn't know exactly where was what,
- 25 | I mean, it wasn't like hey, let's have a sit-down, can you explain

to me where it was, it was just okay, like where we were just more worried about everybody's out, everybody's out, whatever they saw, you got us out. That's one of the parts that was really painful sitting out there, like it's on fire, like I could've done something, you know, because -- you know, not like for the OSHA safety training with fires that I had, it was kind of like this guy worked with this, but I don't know where the fire is, in grease, in the kitchen, I don't know.

It's just like I don't know where it's coming from, so I didn't -- didn't -- my soul wanted to, but as I'm seeing it grow, I was like this above me. I know where the extinguishers are, I just don't know what I'm going to run into.

- So you said you've received OSHA, was it firefighting training or fire extinguisher training, any type of fire training?
- 15 Yeah.

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- 16 And what did they -- briefly, what did that entail?
- It's like an 8-hour class that's done mainly for shops, fire containing; containing fires; getting everybody away, containing 19 it and calling 911; a headcount, everybody's here; containing, containing, containing; everybody's off, is like, you know, the main --
- 22 Is there any demonstrations with that, of how to use --
- 23 Yeah, yeah. Α.
- 24 Videos? Do you ever, yourself, utilize a fire extinguisher 25

- 1  $\mid A$ . In the shop, yeah. In the shop.
- 2  $\mathbb{Q}$ . The shop, can you explain to me the shop?
- 3  $\|$ A. Like working on a car, welding --
- 4 | Q. Okay.
- 5 A. -- welding and, you know, if something just happens to catch,
- 6 you have it right by you and you just put it out, but not like a
- 7 | full engulfing flame.
- 8 Q. Yeah. When you were on the dock, did you see the fire
- 9 | through the window?
- 10 | A. Yes.
- 11 | Q. How close were you to it?
- 12 A. I mean, if the ship is that wall, we were on the dock, just
- 13 | -- just looking down like into -- you see it through the windows,
- 14 like.
- 15  $\parallel$ Q. Could you explain it to me, like what you saw and then like
- 16 | -- I don't know, it was basically, you saw the fire and then if
- 17 | you saw anything else around the fire. Could you see what was on
- 18 | fire?
- 19 A. No, the window was just -- the windows are smoked black and
- 20 you just see fire.
- 21  $\parallel$  Q. And how long after you had disembarked the vessel was that?
- 22 | A. Oh, that was instant. You couldn't know, like "What do you
- 23 | mean there's a fire? There's a fire?" It's right there inside.
- 24 "Oh, whoa, there's a fire."
- 25 | Q. And then after you -- so that's instant, you come off and now

- 1 you're standing and you see it and then said approximately 2 to 3
- 2 | minutes later, you then went back on the vessel.
- 3 | A. Yes.
- 4  $\parallel$  Q. And then at that point, once you went on the vessel, that's
- 5 when you saw the whole -- that station just covered in flames.
- 6 A. Yeah.
- 7  $\mathbb{Q}$ . And it's going to be hard to justify, but did you -- was
- 8 | there a noticeable heat in that area or any smell when you got in
- 9 | there, it was smoky, but any non-smoky smell like a --
- 10 | A. No.
- 11 | Q. I'm going to use the term, like a -- like plastic or other
- 12 | things like that? No. Did you get checked out by any
- 13 | firefighters or any EMT when you departed?
- 14 A. When they got on, they were asking if everybody's okay,
- 15 | everybody's all right, everybody's all right, and I mean, that's
- 16 | not like in an ambulance, but as they got there, is everybody off,
- 17 | is everybody off, is everybody okay. Yes.
- 18  $\parallel$ Q. Have you felt, yourself, any effects from smoke inhalation
- 19 or --
- 20 | A. No.
- 21 | Q. Did you take any pictures or videos of the fire?
- 22 A. Just from outside when the firemen were there.
- 23  $\|Q$ . Any of those that would be useful to us in our investigation?
- 24 | A. Okay.
- 25  $\|Q$ . If we can get those, that would be great.

- A. Okay.
- 2 LT That's all I have. Mr. Young, do you have any
- 3 | questions?
- 4 MR. YOUNG: Yes, I do.
- 5 BY MR. YOUNG:
- 6 Q. Mr. Nunez, can you hear me okay?
- $7 \mid A$ . Yes.
- 8 | Q. Okay, I'm Brian Young, an investigator with the National
- 9 Transportation Safety Board. Thank you again for helping us out
- 10 | today.
- 11 | A. Thank you, thank you.
- 12 | Q. I have some questions. When you play the recorded
- 13 | announcement, is it the same announcement on your laptop for all
- 14 of the dinner vessels or are there individual ones for each
- 15 | vessel?
- 16 A. They're different, they're different from that ship over to
- 17 | the Odyssey, yes.
- 18  $\parallel$  Q. And do you know what the difference is in the recording?
- 19 A. I think it's the built year and how many people it holds,
- 20 | just basic -- basic stuff.
- 21  $\parallel$  Q. Okay. And do you know what's on the Spirit of Boston
- 22 | recording, does it mention anything about smoking --
- 23 | A. Yes.
- 24 | Q. -- policy for the passengers?
- 25 | A. Yes.

- 1  $\|Q$ . Do you know what it says for the *Spirit of Boston*?
- 2  $\blacksquare$  A. No smoking allowed.
- 3  $\|Q$ . Okay, throughout the entire vessel?
- 4 A. Correct.
- $5 \parallel Q$ . And it sounds like you have been working as a DJ for a while.
- 6 I know DJ equipment is pretty -- it takes a lot of electronic
- 7 | components. Have you ever had an electronic component overheat
- 8 | and you recognized the smell of burning electrical --
- 9 | A. No.
- 10 | Q. No. Have you ever smelled anything plastic burning in your
- 11 | life, if you will, and recognize the smell of burning plastic?
- 12 | A. Yeah.
- 13 Q. Could you recognize an item on fire, odor of burning plastic
- 14 | when you went back aboard the vessel?
- 15  $\|A$ . No, not that I can recall, it was just smoke.
- 16 | Q. Okay. After you (indiscernible) the first time before you
- 17 | decided to go back, did you report to anybody that you were going
- 18 | aboard the vessel, did you tell anyone hey, I'm going back?
- 19 A. I did, I told one of the managers and she said you can't, and
- 20 | I'm saying but my stuff is right there and I don't see a fire up
- 21 | here. You can't, you can't. Just give me 2 minutes, please, it's
- 22 || my -- like, it's a lot of stuff there and I just ran.
- 23  $\parallel$  Q. So somebody did say that's not -- that you shouldn't do it --
- 24 | A. Yeah.
- 25  $\mathbb{Q}$ . -- and that was a manager?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2  $\mathbb{Q}$ . And when you went back aboard the vessel, did you have any
- 3 masks or safety equipment before you went back aboard the vessel,
- 4 | like a self-contained breathing apparatus or some sort of
- 5 respirator or did you just go in?
- 6 A. No, no, I just went in. I just went in.
- 7  $\mathbb{Q}$ . When you went in, did you stand upright in the smoke or did
- 8 you crouch down like to try to breathe a little fresher air at the
- 9 | bottom?
- 10 | A. No, I --
- 11 | Q. Went in and went out like standing up?
- 12 | A. I was standing up.
- 13 | Q. Okay. And did you notice the color of the smoke on the lower
- 14 | level in the area where the fire was when you were aboard?
- 15 A. Dark. Dark.
- 16  $\parallel$  Q. And were the lights still on in the overhead or the ceiling,
- 17 | that you perceived that were on in that lower deck? Do you
- 18 | remember?
- 19 A. I want to say -- I want to say it was -- I don't know, I
- 20 | don't remember.
- 21 Q. Okay. I think it was Mr. Lieutenant might've
- 22 asked what you heard and you said you heard some crackling. Was
- 23 | that consistent with the crackling, like if you were at a
- 24 campfire, like with the flames crackling or was this something
- 25 more significant than that?

- A. No, it -- yeah, just campfire-like cracking.
- 2  $\parallel$  Q. Did you hear any other sounds, some sort of -- as if some
- 3 pressurized gases were released? Like --
- 4 | A. No.
- 5  $\mathbb{Q}$ . -- when you go to the gas station and you pump up your tire,
- 6 sometimes you get pressurized air leave the tire, did you hear any
- 7 | noises like that, that you can recall?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. And one last question. While you were aboard the vessel
- 10 | collecting your items to try to get them off the vessel, if you
- 11 | would have fallen, who would you have called for help?
- 12 MR. DENLEY: Objection, calls for speculation.
- 14 MR. YOUNG: I'm sorry?
- 15 | LT There was an objection, it called for
- 16 | speculation.
- 17 MR. YOUNG: Okay.
- 18 BY MR. YOUNG:
- 19 | Q. And the last question. At any time did you get out from your
- 20 DJ booth into the wait station where the fire occurred to get any
- 21 | food or coffee or anything?
- 22 | A. No.
- 23 MR. YOUNG: Thank you very much for your help, we appreciate
- 24 | you coming in and answering all our questions and giving us
- 25 | insight into what you saw.

- 1 MR. NUNEZ: Thank you.
- 2 Thank you, Mr. Young.
- 3 Mr. Denley?
- 4 MR. DENLEY: Yes, I just have a couple questions.
- 5 MR. NUNEZ: Absolutely.
- 6 MR. DENLEY: Yeah, it's nice to meet you.
- 7 MR. NUNEZ: Thank you.
- 8 BY MR. DENLEY:
- 9 Q. Yeah. I appreciate to hear kind of what happened that night.
- 10 | I'm certainly sorry that that happened, you know. Could you
- 11 | estimate, from the time you -- how long were you on board when you
- 12 | got off the vessel and then you made the decision to go back on?
- 13 And I understand time can be a little bit difficult, but like that
- 14 whole evolution of kind of running on board and getting off,
- 15 | what's your estimate of how --
- 16 A. Many.
- 17 | Q. Okay. And then just were you hurt at all?
- 18 | A. No.
- 19 Q. Did you go to the hospital to get checked out?
- 20 (No audible response.)
- 21 BY MR. DENLEY:
- 22 ||Q|. You were on the pier that night, were you aware of anybody,
- 23 | any of the crew members being injured?
- 24 | A. No.
- 25  $\mathbb{I}$  Q. What about the other DJ that was on board, are you aware of

- l | him sustaining any injuries?
- 2  $\parallel$  A. No. He was -- we were eating together and we both got off at
- 3 | the same time, and the rest of the crew came off all as a team and
- 4 | as we were walking off, it was like "Whoa, what's going on?"
- 5 Everybody's off. Okay, well, everybody's okay. Everybody's okay.
- 6 MR. DENLEY: That's all I have, thank you.
  - LT Mr. Fawcett?
  - MR. FAWCETT: Yeah, I just have a final question and then I'm going to give you my card so you can send that information and if it's too big to send, you can just contact Mr.
- 11 MR. NUNEZ: Okay.

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- 14 MR. NUNEZ: Okay.
- 15 BY MR. FAWCETT:
- 16  $\|Q$ . So who did you -- when you were on the vessel, who, in your
- 17 | mind, was responsible for your safety while you were aboard the
- 18 | Spirit of Boston when the marine crew was aboard?
- 19 A. When the marine crew --
- 20  $\|Q$ . Yeah, in other words, at some point they walked off.
- 21 | A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Their night was over, right? Before they walked off, who was
- 23 | responsible for your safety?
- 24 A. The manager.
- 25 | Q. Meaning restaurant manager?

1		
1	Α.	Um-hum.
2	Q.	And then after the crew walked off, was the restaurant
3	mana	ger still the person you thought was responsible for your
4	safe	ty?
5	Α.	Yeah, she's there.
6		MR. FAWCETT: Thank you very much.
7	Mr.	
8		LT That's it?
9		MR. FAWCETT: Yeah.
10		LT Mr. Nunez, thank you very much. That concludes
11	our :	interview.
12		(Whereupon, at 10:04 a.m., the interview 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 Oscar Nunez

ACCIDENT NO.: DCA23FM022

PLACE: Boston, Massachusetts

DATE: April 7, 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.



David A. Martini Transcriber