



HUMAN PERFORMANCE FACTORS ATTACHMENT

Motorcoach Passenger Witness Interview Transcript

HWY20MH002

(11 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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HIGHWAY CRASH MOUNT PLEASANT *

TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA * Accident No.: HWY20MH002

JANUARY 5, 2020 *

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Interview of: QUWANJAY ELLIS

Bus passenger

Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire
Department
100 South Church Street
Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania

Wednesday,
January 8, 2020

APPEARANCES:

KENNETH BRAGG, Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

AUDREY SWEENEY
Aunt of Mr. Ellis

I N D E XITEMPAGE

Interview of Quwanjay Ellis:

By Mr. Bragg

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I N T E R V I E W

(10:29 a.m.)

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3 MR. BRAGG: Today is Wednesday, January 8, 2020. My name is
4 Kenneth Bragg. I'm an investigator with the National
5 Transportation Safety Board. This interview is regarding a motor
6 vehicle crash which took place in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania, on
7 January 5, 2020. The subject of the interview is Quwanjay Ellis.
8 Could you say and spell your first name?

9 MR. ELLIS: Quwanjay Ellis. Q-u-w-a-n-j-a-y, E-l-l-i-s.
10 Quwanjay Ellis.

11 MR. BRAGG: And accompanying Quwanjay is his aunt, Ms. Audrey
12 Ellis.

13 MS. SWEENEY: Sweet.

14 MR. BRAGG: Sweet.

15 MS. SWEENEY: Sweeney.

16 MR. BRAGG: Sweeney. I'm sorry. Audrey Sweeney. And could
17 you say and spell your first name, first and last name please?

18 MS. SWEENEY: Audrey Sweeney, A-u-d-r-e-y, S-w-e-e-n-e-y.

19 MR. BRAGG: Okay. Thank you. And it is with your knowledge
20 and consent that this interview is being recorded, correct?

21 MR. ELLIS: Yeah.

22 MR. BRAGG: Okay.

INTERVIEW OF QUWANJAY ELLIS

23
24 BY MR. BRAGG:

25 Q. So go ahead and start by telling me a little bit about, about

1 the trip. How you got to the trip and how you ended up on the
2 bus, where you started from and where you were going.

3 A. I was headed to Columbus, Ohio.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. And I take the bus in New York, in Chinatown. I don't really
6 remember the address.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. I think that --

9 Q. When did you get on the bus?

10 A. Saturday night.

11 Q. Okay. About what time?

12 A. About 10 o'clock.

13 MR. BRAGG: And, ma'am, you think you remember the address
14 where it was?

15 MS. SWEENEY: I think it's 59 Canal Street.

16 MR. BRAGG: 59 Canal Street.

17 MS. SWEENEY: Yeah, if it's not 59, it's 49. It's somewhere
18 about, but it's Canal Street. Yes.

19 MR. BRAGG: Okay.

20 MR. ELLIS: Yeah, it's 59 Canal Street.

21 BY MR. BRAGG:

22 Q. And you were going to Columbus. Who were you, who were you
23 with?

24 A. My big brother Anton.

25 Q. Your big brother Anton?

1 A. Anthony.

2 Q. Anthony. Okay. Okay. And where did you sit on the bus?

3 A. Behind the driver, in the aisle seat, in the aisle.

4 Q. In the aisle. So you were in the -- on the left side or the
5 right side?

6 A. On the left side.

7 Q. Directly behind the driver?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Okay. And did you have the same driver from the time you got
10 on the bus until the crash occurred?

11 A. Yeah. Yeah.

12 Q. Okay. And so what can you tell me about the trip?

13 A. Like, what did I see, how did the accident happen?

14 Q. Yeah. Yeah.

15 A. I was about to doze off, and so like something talking to my
16 brain, and said to open my eyes back, and then when I open my
17 eyes, I see the bus drifting over to the yellow line, that is a
18 border for the opposite side of the road.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. And the passengers started to scream, and my driver
21 frightened because he was dozing off.

22 Q. Okay. So let me ask you. So you say he was dozing off.
23 What makes you think he was dozing off?

24 A. Because he was going with the steer.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Now did you notice the driver before he started losing
3 control? Did you see him before he started losing control? Like,
4 when you were sitting there, did you notice the driver at all?

5 A. No.

6 Q. No. Did you notice before that? Did you see anything
7 unusual about the driver's behavior?

8 A. No.

9 Q. No. So you didn't see anything like his head bobbing or
10 anything like that?

11 A. No.

12 Q. So before he lost control, did you think anything was wrong?
13 I mean, were you worried about his driving, or were you, were you
14 just along for the trip?

15 A. I was -- it's like I visual it before, like I was thinking
16 about it, like, suppose the driver is sleeping, like, that is all
17 in my mind before the accident.

18 Q. So you were just -- a natural concern, but there -- I mean,
19 before that, there was nothing the driver did to make you think he
20 was sleepy?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Okay. And so when the, the vehicle started going over to the
23 left line --

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. -- then what happened?

1 A. And then he frightened because the passengers were screaming
2 like he wake up, and then he make a wide swing to the right.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. That's so the bus hit the slump and turn over.

5 Q. Okay. And when the bus went over to, to the right, what did
6 you feel? Did you feel the bus turn over then? Because I'm
7 trying to understand at what point the bus overturned.

8 A. What -- when he made the wide swing.

9 Q. Okay. That's when it -- that's when you --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Okay. And then, so after the bus turned over, then what --
12 tell me what happened.

13 A. Another vehicle looking like a trailer, looking into the back
14 and the side part.

15 Q. Okay. And so how long from the time the bus turned over that
16 the trailer hit the bus? How long did that happen?

17 A. Like, 10 seconds.

18 Q. Ten seconds?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. So it was almost instantly?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Okay. And where did you end up when the bus overturned?
23 Where were you laying? Were you close to your seat or were you
24 somewhere completely different?

25 A. Close to my seat.

1 Q. Close to your seat? Okay. And are you on the bottom or are
2 you --

3 A. I actually falled out because it turned on the --

4 Q. Yeah, so you, you landed on the bottom. Okay. Is there
5 anything else you can think about what happened that might be
6 useful?

7 A. No seatbelt is in the bus.

8 Q. Yeah, there's no seatbelt. Okay. Okay. Did you hear the
9 driver say anything?

10 A. Say --

11 Q. Like, you know, was he -- when he lost control, was he
12 screaming? Did he say anything?

13 A. No.

14 Q. No. But you, but you heard other passengers, correct?

15 A. Yeah.

16 MR. BRAGG: Okay. Okay. So the time is 10:36. I will
17 conclude the interview. Thank you for meeting with me. I
18 appreciate it.

19 MR. ELLIS: All right. Thank you. Nice meeting you.

20 (Whereupon, at 10:36 a.m., the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

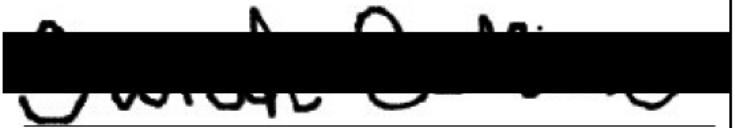
IN THE MATTER OF: HIGHWAY CRASH MOUNT PLEASANT
TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA
JANUARY 5, 2020
Interview of Quwanjay Ellis

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY20MH002

PLACE: Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania

DATE: January 7, 2020

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.



Sarah Collins
Transcriber