

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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SIKORSKY S76B HELICOPTER N72EX

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CRASH NEAR CALABASAS, CALIFORNIA,

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ON JANUARY 26, 2020

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Interviews of: CATHERINE "CATE" BRADY
Personal Assistant

Virtual

Wednesday,
February 19, 2020

APPEARANCES:

DUJUAN SEVILLIAN, PhD, Human Performance Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

FABIAN SALAZAR, Operational Factors Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

GARRET DALTON, Director of Operations
Island Express Helicopters

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I N T E R V I E W

DR. SEVILLIAN: On the record. So, Cate, my name is Dajuan Sevillian. I'm a Human Performance Investigator for the NTSB. Thanks for talking with us today.

The NTSB mission is to investigate airplane accidents and come up with safety recommendations to prevent future occurrences of accidents. So that's our mission.

You're here today because you're an expert, and we want to speak with you. And what you're seeing on the -- on the phone is -- what we have is NTSB investigators and the company as far as our party representation. Our party representation is there so that we can gather the facts, and to help us with getting the data we need for the investigation.

This interview is going to be recorded, but there will be a transcript that will be put together that will be part of a public docket. So nothing is considered confidential.

You're allowed one representative. Who would you like to represent you today?

MS. BRADY: I'm representing myself.

DR. SEVILLIAN: Okay. Sounds good. How the interview will work, we will have two rounds of interviews -- questions, and then any time that -- if you need clarification for a question, just let us know. Or if there's a question that you don't know, just say that you don't know. Okay?

MS. BRADY: Okay.

1 DR. SEVILLIAN: So with that being said, I want to just --
2 for us to go around and have everyone introduce themselves before
3 we get started. And any time that you need a break during the
4 interview, let us know. All right?

5 MS. BRADY: Okay.

6 DR. SEVILLIAN: So go, Fabian.

7 MR. SALAZAR: Hello again, Cate. This is Fabian Salazar. I
8 am representing the operations portion of the accident
9 investigation.

10 DR. SEVILLIAN: Garret. Garret, you there?

11 MR. DALTON: Hi. Can you hear me now?

12 DR. SEVILLIAN: Oh, yes. Yeah.

13 MR. DALTON: Hi, Cate. My name is Garret Dalton, Director of
14 Operations with Island Express Helicopters, and I'm representing
15 the operations and the aircraft.

16 MS. BRADY: Okay.

17 DR. SEVILLIAN: Okay. Any questions before we get started,
18 Cate?

19 MS. BRADY: I don't think so.

20 INTERVIEW OF CATHERINE "CATE" BRADY

21 BY DR. SEVILLIAN:

22 Q. So for the record, could you please state your first and last
23 name with spelling?

24 A. Yeah. So legally I'm Catherine, C-a-t-h-e-r-i-n-e. My last
25 name is Brady, B-r-a-d-y. But I always go by Cate, C-a-t-e.

1 Q. Okay. And what's your job title?

2 A. I'm a personal assistant to Kobe Bryant and the Bryant
3 family.

4 Q. Okay. How long have you been assistant to the Bryant family?

5 A. I started working for the Bryant family in May of 2019.

6 Q. Okay. And have you had any other positions before with other
7 VIPs?

8 A. Yeah. I worked for a football agency as well as an NFL
9 quarterback.

10 Q. Can you give us sort of the responsibilities that you have as
11 a personal assistant for the Bryant family?

12 A. Sure. I'm responsible for booking -- or kind of liaising,
13 booking any family travel that they have, whether that be
14 vacations or Kobe's basketball trips, anything that is kind of on
15 the personal side of things as opposed to business.

16 I work with all of the vendors in their house, so air
17 conditioning guys -- I'm like a house manager basically. And then
18 I help his wife with whatever they need: booking appointments,
19 car maintenance, basically anything that, like, you do in your
20 personal life that sounds like it probably isn't very fun. Like
21 dry cleaning, bill paying, all of that I help with.

22 Q. All right. And --

23 A. It's a very expansive job.

24 Q. Um-hmm. And as far -- you mentioned that you are responsible
25 for booking -- or liaison booking, and you also talked about

1 Kobe's basketball games, et cetera. Can you tell us a little bit
2 about the process of booking things for him, and how that process
3 -- how that works for basketball games?

4 A. So for basketball games, specifically, like, the local ones
5 -- so for Mamba Cup, I would work with another person who is
6 another coach on the team, Jon Spotts. And we would work on any
7 family events that the Bryants had that weekend and kind of
8 scheduling games around that. And then once we kind of figured
9 out what Kobe's schedule was and his family, then okay, Mamba Cup
10 we can play at 12 and 2, and we're good.

11 And then I would go and book all of his travel, like the
12 helicopter and car service, based on the times that I thought were
13 appropriate and any other outlying factors. Like on Sunday, he
14 wanted to see another team play a game before his game. So we
15 would book it around that.

16 Q. All right. So on January 26th, did you do any of the booking
17 of any of the times for the helicopter?

18 A. I did.

19 Q. Okay. And do you know what time you did that booking?

20 A. Like what -- when I scheduled it or what time I scheduled it
21 for?

22 Q. When did you schedule it, and then what time did you schedule
23 it for?

24 A. So I probably -- and I can look, and let you know for sure.
25 I usually book on the weekend. We'll find out what the games are

1 in the beginning of the week, so I'll tell Patti from OC
2 Helicopters kind of what times we're looking at. That particular
3 day, for Sunday, I actually changed the time the night before,
4 probably around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., because Kobe had decided he
5 wanted to go to watch another team play before his game. So it
6 was supposed to be a 9:45 departure, but the night before we
7 changed it to a 9:00 a.m. departure.

8 Q. Okay. And as far as changing that timeframe, were there any
9 things -- were there any issues with that, with changing the
10 times?

11 A. No. Not that I was aware of.

12 Q. Okay. Do you ever get involved with communicating with OC
13 Helicopters regarding how the weather is that day before you --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. -- book it?

16 A. Absolutely. I mean, like, not in -- like, I'm not a
17 meteorologist by any means, and neither is OC Helicopters, but
18 they have communicated that there may be some delays due to
19 weather, which I usually communicate with Kobe. So on Saturday,
20 there was -- they were supposed to leave at 9:45, and they left at
21 10:00 because of weather. So in a less-than-meteorological sense
22 then, yes, we do communicate about weather and that it may cause
23 delays, but nothing more than that.

24 Q. All right. So do you get a schedule of the tournament for --
25 the tournament that was going on that -- on January 26th and 25th?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And did the times -- was that an all-day thing? Was that --
3 the tournament an all-day situation?

4 A. So on both the -- both on the 25th and the 26th, they had two
5 games. Both were -- both days the games were at 12:00 p.m. and
6 2:00 p.m. So they left around 9:45 -- or they were supposed -- I
7 scheduled the helicopter to leave about 9:45 on both days. Kobe
8 likes to get there early.

9 And I always try to, like, add in time for any, anything --
10 traffic, weather, anything like that. So a 9:45 departure for a
11 12 o'clock game when you're taking a helicopter is a bit early,
12 but I just try to, like, add time because he would rather be there
13 on the earlier side than on the later side, so --

14 Q. All right. So you booked the helicopter for 9:45 departure.
15 It was --

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. But it was really 9 o'clock because he wanted to get there
18 early?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. And is that -- was that typical --

21 A. But that was just on Sunday, not on Saturday.

22 DR. SEVILLIAN: Just on Sunday. Okay. That's all the
23 questions I have for right now.

24 Fabian?

25 MR. SALAZAR: Thank you, Dujuan. You asked most all of my

1 questions, so I'm going to just run through my list.

2 BY MR. SALAZAR:

3 Q. Cate, you told me that you deal with Patti at OC Helicopters
4 for scheduling?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. Okay. Were you a part of requesting -- did you just request
7 a helicopter or did you request the pilot as well?

8 A. I never request a pilot, no.

9 Q. Okay. Did you ever have a conversation with the family about
10 a particular pilot that they preferred to fly with?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay. Were there times when the company, OC Helicopters,
13 couldn't support the request and had to turn the request down?

14 A. Yeah. There has been a couple instances.

15 Q. Did they tell you why they couldn't support your request?

16 A. The one that comes to mind was they wanted to go to a concert
17 in L.A., and President Trump was in town, so all the air space was
18 shut down. So that was one instance where he did want to fly and
19 was not able to because of that.

20 MR. SALAZAR: Okay. He talked to you about pickup times.

21 Well, you want to know something? Every question that I had for
22 you, Dujuan asked. So I do not have any other questions.

23 Back to you, Dujuan.

24 DR. SEVILLIAN: Okay. Sounds good.

25 Hey, Garret, any questions?

1 MR. DALTON: Yeah, I just have one question. Let's say you
2 had a flight scheduled for Saturday, and Saturday morning, Patti
3 at OC Helicopters communicated that the flight could not be
4 completed because of weather.

5 Would Kobe or -- and his people push back and give you a hard
6 time and send you back to Patti asking, why can't we fly? Or push
7 to get the flight done?

8 MS. BRADY: I don't want to answer that question because it's
9 never occurred. If there was an issue, I have been Kobe's
10 assistant for long enough to volunteer to drive him. But we've
11 never had that happen, so I don't know the exact answer to that.

12 MR. DALTON: Okay. That's perfect. Thank you. I'm done.
13 That's the only question I have.

14 DR. SEVILLIAN: Okay. We can now start our second round of
15 questioning. I can't think of anything else right now that I
16 have.

17 So, Fabian, do you have anything? Fabian?

18 MR. SALAZAR: Sorry about that; it was on mute. No, I do
19 not.

20 Cate, thank you very much for taking the time to talk to us.

21 MS. BRADY: No problem.

22 DR. SEVILLIAN: Is there any -- Cate, is there any, anything
23 that we should have asked you that we didn't?

24 MS. BRADY: I don't know what you're -- what information
25 you're looking for. I mean, I'm happy to help as much as I can,

1 but I don't know really what you guys are looking for in this
2 portion of events, but --

3 MR. SALAZAR: Yeah. Let me throw something in there.

4 Cate, we were -- the questions we were asking today are
5 designed to help us understand the coordination that you make with
6 the family that you represented -- I'm sorry, represent -- and OC
7 Helicopters in regards to getting the family to and from their
8 appointments.

9 So with that in mind, is there anything that you would like
10 to offer up only because we didn't ask you about it?

11 MS. BRADY: No. I mean, OC Helicopters has always done a
12 great job, and they make sure we have the exact manifest and
13 everyone's weights and all of that. So no, they've always done a
14 really good job with all that.

15 MR. SALAZAR: Well, ma'am, thank you very much for your time.
16 And with that, I'm going to go ahead and let you go. We
17 appreciate all the information you were able to give to us.

18 MS. BRADY: Okay. Thank you guys.

19 DR. SEVILLIAN: Thanks.

20 MR. SALAZAR: Bye-bye, Cate.

21 DR. SEVILLIAN: Take care.

22 MS. BRADY: Bye-bye.

23 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)
24
25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

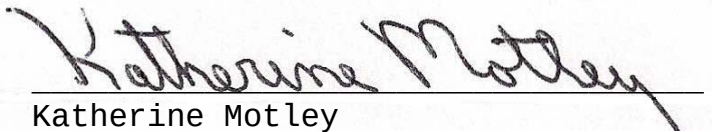
IN THE MATTER OF: SIKORSKY S76B HELICOPTER N72EX
 CRASH NEAR CALABASAS, CALIFORNIA,
 ON JANUARY 26, 2020
 Interview of Catherine "Cate" Brady

ACCIDENT NO.: DCA20MA059

PLACE: Virtual

DATE: February 19, 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.


Katherine Motley
Transcriber