

08/09/16 –Summary of interview with Mr. Jao-Shiang Luo

Assisted Inspector Gillson with the investigation of a crash of a C-177B, N30923, in McDonough, NY, near the grounds of the Palyul Retreat Center. Spoke to the PIC and aircraft owner Mr. Jao-Shiang Luo at the crash site.

He stated that he was giving his three passengers a ride to look at the grounds of the retreat. Prior to the sight-seeing flight over the property, Mr. Luo stated, that he flew from Greene Airport (4N7) to Sidney Airport (N23) to get fuel. After fueling in Sidney, he said he “unfortunately” had 50 gallons of fuel on board. He stated that he then made two passes over the Palyul Retreat Center. He was getting complaints from his passengers that he was going too fast. Therefore, he decided to slow down by doing slow flight on the next pass. He added full flaps. Then he noticed he was getting too slow and too close to the tops of the trees. He added full power and raised the flaps from full to 0 degrees or fully up. He stated that the airplane was not going up and in “a wink of an eye” the nose dropped and he was looking straight down, vertically at the ground.

Next the aircraft was on the ground and he was attempting to get out of the plane. He and the other passengers eventually made it out before the aircraft went up in flames and was completely destroyed by the ensuing fire. Mr. Luo made no mention of any mechanical irregularities regarding the operation of the C-177B.

Mr. Luo currently has approximately 380 hours total piloting time. His last BFR was accomplished in June of 2015 with CFI Jenda Wu. Mr. Luo’s medical certificate and pilot log book were burned in the post-crash fire. Mr. Luo had based his aircraft in Brookhaven, NY and the aircraft maintenance logbooks are in the possession of his mechanic at the airport.