1	ALABAMA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
2	MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
3	
4	IN RE:
5	SUPERIOR MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, LLC DOCKET NO. 31807
6	
7	APPLICATION FOR NEW OPERATION AS A COMMON CARRIER
8	
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12	* * * * * * * * *
13	TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS before the
14	Honorable Scott Morris, Administrative Law
15	Judge, at the Carl L. Evans Chief
16	Administrative Law Judge Hearing Complex,
17	RSA Union Building, 100 North Union Street,
18	Montgomery, Alabama, on Thursday, April 5,
19	2012, commencing at approximately 9:10 a.m.;
20	and reported by Gwendolyn P. Timbie,
21	Certified Court Reporter and Commissioner
22	for the State of Alabama at Large.
23	* * * * * * * * *

1	APPEARANCES
2	FOR THE APPLICANT:
3	Mr. Jay C. Coleman Ms. Veronica Ferguson
4	FOR EXPRESS MEDICAL TRANSPORTERS:
5	Mr. Judkins M. Bryan
6	WILKERSON & BRYAN Attorneys at Law
7	405 South Hull Street Montgomery, Alabama 36104
8	Monegomery, Arabama 30104
9	* * * * * * * * *
10	EXAMINATION INDEX
11	JAY C. COLEMAN
12	STATEMENT BY MR. COLEMAN 6
13	CROSS BY MR. BRYAN 9
14	RICHARD PETERSON
15	DIRECT BY MR. BRYAN 22
16	CROSS BY MR. COLEMAN 29
17	CROSS BY MS. FERGUSON 35
18	* * * * * * * * *
19	ALJ MORRIS: Let's go on the
20	record. Today's date is Thursday,
21	April the 5th, 2012. We are here
22	for Docket 31807. The applicant
23	is Superior Medical Transportation

1	Service, LLC. They're seeking to
2	institute a new operation as a
3	common carrier by motor vehicle in
4	intrastate commerce over irregular
5	routes in the transportation of
6	passengers and their baggage in
7	non-emergency medical service
8	between all points in the counties
9	of Montgomery, Autauga, and
10	Elmore.
11	This application was
12	filed on February 28, 2012. The
13	notice of today's hearing was
14	served on March 8, 2012.
15	This application has been
16	protested by Ala-Three, LLC, doing
17	business as Express Medical
18	Transporters.
19	With that, let's begin by
20	taking appearances. First on
21	behalf of the applicant.
22	If you would, please
23	state your name and your

1	relationship with the business.
2	MR. COLEMAN: Good morning,
3	Your Honor. My name is Jay C.
4	Coleman. I am the owner and
5	president of Superior Medical
6	Transportation Services, LLC.
7	ALJ MORRIS: All right. Thank
8	you, Mr. Coleman.
9	And for the protestant?
10	MR. BRYAN: Yes. My name is
11	Judkins Bryan. I'm the attorney
12	for Express Medical Transporters.
13	ALJ MORRIS: Thank you,
14	Mr. Bryan.
15	Do we have any
16	preliminary matters to address
17	this morning?
18	(No response)
19	ALJ MORRIS: Mr. Coleman, how
20	many witnesses will you have?
21	MR. COLEMAN: Just one.
22	ALJ MORRIS: Just one?
23	MR. COLEMAN: Yes, sir.
İ	

1	ALJ MORRIS: Is that just
2	yourself or
3	MR. COLEMAN: Actually, it's
4	two, with myself. That's
5	Ms. Ferguson, who is my associate.
6	ALJ MORRIS: All right. Is
7	Ms. Ferguson related to the
8	business in any way?
9	MR. COLEMAN: She's an
10	associate of mine.
11	ALJ MORRIS: All right,
12	Mr. Coleman. Will you be
13	presenting testimony?
14	MR. COLEMAN: Yes, sir.
15	ALJ MORRIS: All right. If
16	both of you would please stand. I
17	need swear to swear you in.
18	(Witnesses sworn)
19	ALJ MORRIS: All right,
20	Mr. Coleman. This is your
21	opportunity to tell us a little
22	bit about your business and what
23	you propose to do, your experience

1	in the transportation industry.
2	And at that point, the
3	protestants will have an
4	opportunity to ask you some
5	questions. And then we'll repeat
6	the same with your with
7	Ms. Ferguson. All right.
8	JAY C. COLEMAN
9	The witness, having first been duly
10	sworn to speak the truth, the whole truth
11	and nothing but the truth, testified as
12	follows:
13	MR. COLEMAN: Okay. As I
14	stated earlier, my name is Jay C.
15	Coleman. I am owner and president
16	of Superior Medical Transportation
17	Services.
18	This is a company that we
19	started in January of this year.
20	We were looking to start a new
21	business and were interested in
22	the transportation industry. And
23	specifically the non-emergency

1	medical transportation.
2	And that came out of
3	knowing people who were needing
4	this service. People who were
5	family members and associates of
6	ours who were having a hard time
7	to hard time getting back and
8	forth to medical appointments.
9	The services that they were using,
10	oftentimes there were long waits
11	in between time.
12	So we looked into the
13	in the marketplace and the
14	proposed service area. And we
15	decided that we could try to do
16	something to fill that gap, to
17	fill that void. So we came up
18	with the company Superior Medical
19	Transportation Service and filed
20	the necessary paperwork. And I
21	purchased a vehicle, and that
22	we ended up here.
23	I have not had any

1	experience in the transportation
2	industry per se, but I have worked
3	in the mental health industry.
4	I am also I'm a
5	counselor. Master's degree in
6	counseling. Currently pursuing a
7	doctorate in ministry and family
8	therapy.
9	And I come in contact
10	with a lot of families. A lot of
11	low income families. Families
12	that are underprivileged and
13	underserved.
14	And throughout my
15	counseling experiences and dealing
16	with these families, I realized
17	that there is an unmet need; that
18	I thought that we could maybe help
19	to fill that void.
20	ALJ MORRIS: Mr. Bryan, any
21	questions for Mr. Coleman?
22	MR. BRYAN: Sure. Yes.
23	

- 1 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 2 BY MR. BRYAN:
- 3 Q. You said that you started the business
- 4 in January of this year?
- 5 A. Yes, sir.
- 6 Q. Do you actually drive the -- you've
- 7 purchased one vehicle?
- 8 A. Yes, sir. I've purchased one vehicle so
- 9 far.
- 10 Q. Who is the driver of that vehicle?
- 11 A. I will be that driver.
- 12 Q. You will be that driver?
- 13 A. Yes, sir.
- 14 Q. So are you currently operating that
- 15 vehicle?
- 16 A. No, sir. Not yet.
- 17 Q. So this is truly just a startup?
- 18 A. It's truly a startup business.
- 19 Q. What have you done by way of training to
- 20 drive the vehicle?
- 21 A. At this particular time, I haven't done
- 22 any training for this particular
- vehicle. But we are signed up to do

1 some training at the -- at the thing in 2 Orange Beach, Alabama. And, also, we've been in contact with different agencies 3 who have training programs that we'll --4 we will probably be contracting with. 5 But we will complete whatever training 6 that they have set in place. 7 Q. I'm sorry. And where are you going to 8 9 be training? What's the organization? 10 MR. COLEMAN: What's the 11 name? 12 MS. FERGUSON: It's the Rural 13 Transportation Association, I 14 believe. 15 ALJ MORRIS: Just need -- only 16 Mr. Coleman can answer the question. 17 18 Yes. It's the Rural Transportation Α. Association. They're having -- in 19 20 Orange Beach, Alabama later this month, 21 in April. I don't have that in front of 22 me. 23 Q. That's fine.

- 1 And where will your office be
- 2 located? Where will the truck be?
- 3 A. Well, my office will be located in my
- 4 home office. But I will be at --
- 5 initially I will be parking the van at
- 6 my -- at my church.
- 7 Q. At your church. And what county -- what
- 8 city is that church in?
- 9 A. It's actually in Montgomery County.
- 10 It's here in Montgomery, where I live.
- 11 Q. In the city of Montgomery?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. All right. And how are you going to
- market your business?
- 15 A. Well, we're just going to use the -- all
- the media that's available. Radio,
- 17 television. I have a 20-year background
- in radio and media. So that will
- definitely be used. Word of mouth.
- We're going to market to churches and
- 21 different organizations.
- 22 Q. So when a phone call comes in, will that
- come into -- where will that call be

- 1 made to?
- 2 A. Well, it all depends. If we're
- 3 contracting with an agency who has
- 4 access to a call center, the calls will
- 5 be coming to them. But calls will be
- 6 coming into myself. If they were to --
- 7 they call us directly, the calls will be
- 8 coming to myself.
- 9 Q. To a cell phone or office?
- 10 A. Cell phone.
- 11 Q. All right. And how many -- what are
- going to be your business hours that
- 13 you're going to be driving this truck?
- 14 A. We're proposing to go from 7 to 7.
- 7 a.m. to 7 at night. Six days a week.
- 16 Q. Monday through Saturday?
- 17 A. Monday through Saturday.
- 18 Q. Do you intend to go outside of
- 19 Montgomery -- the city limits of
- 20 Montgomery, into the other counties?
- 21 A. Yes, sir.
- 22 Q. Do you have your -- what type of
- insurance do you have in place?

- 1 A. Right now the insurance that I have in
- 2 place is just a regular liability to
- 3 cover the vehicle. Pending
- authorization, we're going to get the
- 5 necessary insurance that's required by
- 6 the state, which is the million dollar
- 7 limit. We have that information, which
- 8 would require the insurance company
- 9 to -- I think the Form E -- to file the
- 10 Form E with the state of Alabama.
- 11 Q. In your filing, you listed the vehicle.
- 12 Have you purchased this 2006 Ford
- 13 shuttle bus?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. And how many miles are on it?
- 16 A. I'm not real sure. I have that written
- 17 somewhere.
- 18 Q. The certificate of title shows 239,900.
- 19 A. That's it, then.
- 20 Q. Do you feel it's in good enough shape to
- 21 provide service?
- 22 A. It's in excellent service. My brother
- is a certified mechanic, and it's been

- 1 checked out thoroughly. Actually drove
- 2 it from Arkansas.
- 3 Q. All right. What was the use of this
- 4 vehicle before you purchased it?
- 5 A. It was in a fleet of medical
- 6 transportation.
- 7 Q. So is it ADA compliant?
- 8 A. Yes, sir.
- 9 Q. You can transport someone in a
- 10 wheelchair?
- 11 A. Yes, sir.
- 12 Q. All right. And do you plan to go out in
- 13 rural areas?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. What is your contingency plan if you get
- out in a rural area and the truck breaks
- down or has problems?
- 18 A. If the truck breaks down, we would have
- to call for help. I'd have to call a
- 20 mechanic to come get me.
- 21 Q. So you're not concerned about having a
- 22 patient on board with transporting them
- and break down and not have any backup

- 1 plan?
- 2 A. I'm a man of faith. I pray a lot.
- 3 Q. All right. On your business plan, how
- 4 many trips a day do you think you'll be
- 5 making? Or a week? Do you have a plan
- 6 yet what you think --
- 7 A. I don't have an idea how many trips I'll
- 8 make.
- 9 Q. And you testified that there's an unmet
- 10 need.
- 11 A. Yes, sir.
- 12 Q. And how did you determine there was an
- 13 unmet need?
- 14 A. Through research. Research and
- references. Actually, we were
- referencing some numbers and stats from
- 17 the Central Alabama Human Services and
- 18 Coordination Transportation Plan for the
- 19 tricounty area.
- 20 And also we did a survey. A more
- 21 personal survey, where we actually went
- 22 out to different businesses and agencies
- and asked them to fill out these surveys

- about their transportation needs. And
- time and time again we found that there
- 3 were a lot of unmet needs in this area.
- 4 Q. In non-emergency medical transportation?
- 5 A. Yes, sir.
- 6 Q. And the plan you're referring to is
- 7 the -- you said the Human Service
- 8 Coordination Transportation Plan? Is
- 9 that the September, 2008 plan?
- 10 A. No, sir. It's the September, 2011.
- 11 Updated one.
- 12 Q. Will there be any other drivers employed
- 13 besides yourself?
- 14 A. Yes, sir. In the future, there will be.
- 15 Q. Are there any other employees besides
- 16 yourself and Ms. Ferguson? Is she an
- 17 employee? You referred to her as an
- 18 associate. Is she one of your
- 19 employees?
- 20 A. No. She's not an employee.
- 21 Q. Do you intend to be -- do you intend to
- get a toll-free number or any other land
- lines? Or are you just going to work

- off your cell number?
- 2 A. Well, actually, we have -- we actually
- 3 have a toll-free line, which can be
- 4 forwarded to a land line or to a cell
- 5 line, for faxing and all that purposes.
- 6 Q. You currently have in place a toll-free
- 7 number?
- 8 A. Yes, sir.
- 9 O. What is that number?
- 10 A. The number is 888-976-8748.
- 11 Q. So it's already active?
- 12 A. Say again?
- 13 Q. It's already active? I can call it
- 14 today?
- 15 A. Yes, sir. You can call it.
- 16 Q. And it will go to -- who will answer
- 17 that phone?
- 18 A. I would probably answer it or
- 19 Ms. Ferguson would answer it. Depending
- on where it's forwarded to. Or it may
- go to an answering machine, and we'll
- get paged.
- 23 Q. Are you an approved vendor by Medicaid

- 1 yet?
- 2 A. I have a Medicaid provider number. The
- 3 national Medicaid provider number. But
- 4 right now for the state Medicaid, it's
- 5 pending. Pending this -- the outcome of
- 6 this authority.
- 7 Q. And you filed a financial statement.
- 8 Your statement shows your total assets
- 9 are 18,250 at this point?
- 10 A. Give or take.
- 11 Q. That's all the questions I have. Thank
- 12 you, sir.
- 13 A. Thank you.
- 14 ALJ MORRIS: Now,
- 15 Ms. Ferguson, do you -- is she
- going to give a presentation? Or
- 17 how are you planning on --
- MS. FERGUSON: If I give a
- 19 presentation, can I ask questions
- 20 later?
- 21 ALJ MORRIS: That will come
- 22 later.
- MS. FERGUSON: Or if I don't,

1	can I still ask?
2	ALJ MORRIS: Yeah. You can
3	still. But probably should give
4	your presentation first.
5	MS. FERGUSON: Okay. My name
6	is Veronica Ferguson. I do not
7	have any background in the
8	transportation business.
9	My former career was in
10	law enforcement. I did 27 years.
11	So I'm kind of well versed with
12	dealing with people. That's
13	one I consider my strongest
14	points, was dealing with people.
15	This is a new venture for
16	me. I was brought on by
17	Mr. Coleman. It was something
18	that me and my husband had
19	previously discussed. However, we
20	just didn't get around to doing
21	that.
22	So when he presented the
23	opportunity to actually help him

1	or assist, I jumped at it, because
2	this is something I'm thinking
3	about doing in the future.
4	I think I did my
5	experience, which is zero. And
6	that's it.
7	MR. BRYAN: I have no
8	questions.
9	ALJ MORRIS: You have no
10	questions? I've got a few.
11	Ms. Ferguson, what is
12	your are you going to be a part
13	owner in the business or
14	MS. FERGUSON: That's up in
15	the air. I'm thinking about it.
16	ALJ MORRIS: So right now
17	you're just
18	MS. FERGUSON: I'm assisting
19	him.
20	ALJ MORRIS: You're assisting
21	him. Okay.
22	So you have no business
23	in or you have no experience in

1	the transportation industry?
2	MS. FERGUSON: Transportation,
3	no.
4	ALJ MORRIS: And you're
5	retired law enforcement?
6	MS. FERGUSON: Yes, sir.
7	ALJ MORRIS: Were you actually
8	a police officer?
9	MS. FERGUSON: Yes, sir.
10	Twenty-seven years.
11	ALJ MORRIS: Did you get any
12	kind of training in terms of
13	driving during that time?
14	MS. FERGUSON: Yes, I have. I
15	have that experience.
16	ALJ MORRIS: Well, that's all
17	I have.
18	Mr. Bryan, how many
19	witnesses are you going to have?
20	MR. BRYAN: Just one, Your
21	Honor.
22	
23	

- 1 RICHARD PETERSON
- 2 The witness, having first been duly
- 3 sworn to speak the truth, the whole truth
- 4 and nothing but the truth, testified as
- 5 follows:
- 6 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 7 BY MR. BRYAN:
- 8 Q. Would you please state your full name
- 9 and address for the record.
- 10 A. Richard Peterson, 1715-A Pleasant Grove
- 11 Road, Alabama. I work for EMT.
- 12 Q. And what is your position?
- 13 A. General manager.
- 14 Q. And how long have you been employed by
- 15 EMT?
- 16 A. Almost a year.
- 17 Q. What is the nature of your -- what do
- 18 you do on a day-to-day basis for EMT?
- 19 A. A little bit of everything. Wherever
- the need calls.
- 21 Q. All right. Where is EMT currently
- 22 operating?
- 23 A. We have an office in Birmingham,

- 1 Montgomery, Dothan, Mobile.
- 2 Q. And how many vehicles do you currently
- 3 have in your fleet?
- 4 A. We're at probably 46, 47.
- 5 Q. I'm going to hand you a document. Can
- 6 you tell me what that is?
- 7 A. This is our financial statement.
- 8 O. Current financial statement? As of what
- 9 date?
- 10 A. December 31st, 2011.
- MR. BRYAN: Your Honor, I
- 12 would like to offer this exhibit
- into evidence, please. We didn't
- 14 file a current financial statement
- 15 for their company.
- 16 ALJ MORRIS: Okay.
- 17 MR. BRYAN: I'm sorry. We
- 18 didn't have it ready.
- 19 Q. All right. Getting back to the fleet.
- In the tricounty area, which we're
- 21 discussing today, which is Montgomery
- 22 County and Autauga County and Elmore
- 23 County, what office services that?

- 1 A. Montgomery.
- 2 O. And it's located where?
- 3 A. It's on 100 -- 104 Mendel Parkway.
- 4 O. And how many trucks do you have in that
- 5 fleet?
- 6 A. Eleven.
- 7 Q. In your opinion, is there an unmet need
- 8 in Montgomery, Autauga, and Elmore
- 9 County?
- 10 A. No, sir.
- 11 Q. Do you ever have any call -- do
- people -- what kind of 1-800 number --
- 13 telephone numbers -- how do people
- 14 communicate with you?
- 15 A. We have two 1-800 numbers. We have also
- 16 a couple of local numbers.
- 17 Q. And when they call in, where does that
- 18 go?
- 19 A. That goes to basically Birmingham as a
- 20 call center. We have six employees that
- just answer phones.
- 22 Q. And then when they get the call, what do
- 23 they do?

- 1 A. We take in the call. Then we go -- it
- will go from there to whatever day it
- is. And then we dispatch it the next
- 4 day and dispatch it out to the drivers.
- 5 Q. To your knowledge, are there any calls
- 6 that have been turned down in the
- 7 tricounty area in the last --
- 8 A. We never turn down any calls.
- 9 Q. Approximately how many -- of the 11
- 10 trucks in your fleet, how many are
- 11 usually operating on a day-to-day
- 12 basis? How many are out there?
- 13 A. Normally -- on a normal day, probably
- nine. We usually have one for backup if
- we do have a problem, which we need, you
- 16 know, a backup. But --
- 17 Q. So you currently have about two trucks
- that are just sitting idle every day?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. What is your -- for the record, what is
- 21 your authority you hold with the state
- of Alabama? What certificates?
- 23 A. We have PSC in the whole state of

- 1 Alabama.
- 2 Q. And how long has Express Medical
- 3 Transporters been providing service in
- 4 Alabama?
- 5 A. I think about three years. Three years.
- 6 Q. Before Express Medical Transporters, it
- 7 was called Fresh Air?
- 8 A. Fresh Air Accessible.
- 9 Q. Express Medical Transporters is a
- national franchise; is that correct?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Do all your vehicles include wheelchair
- 13 transports?
- 14 A. No. Not all of them are wheelchair.
- 15 It's pretty much half and half. We have
- ambulatory and then we also have three
- 17 Sprinters that can carry 11 people and
- three wheelchairs.
- 19 Q. And how many days a week do you provide
- 20 transportation services?
- 21 A. Every single day of the week.
- 22 Q. Twenty-four hours a day?
- 23 A. Twenty-four hours.

- 1 Q. Are you an approved vendor for Medicaid?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Are there any restrictions on your
- 4 authority?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Does EMT require advanced payment for
- 7 its services?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. And as far as you know, is EMT in good
- 10 standing with the Commission?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. It's financially sound?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Have you added any trucks in the last
- 15 year? Do you know?
- 16 A. Yes. Ten. Actually, I might be wrong.
- 17 It might be 11. I think we're at 11.
- 18 Q. You have the ability -- you're in how
- 19 many counties approximately?
- 20 A. We're almost in the whole state of
- 21 Alabama. There's just a few that we
- 22 probably do not touch every single day.
- 23 Q. So if the need increases in a county,

- 1 can you -- do you have the ability to
- 2 move trucks from one location to
- 3 another?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And your drivers, how are they trained?
- 6 A. Well, they go through defensive
- 7 driving. We have also defensive
- 8 driving, CPR, sensitivity course. We
- 9 really try to take them through an
- 10 extensive training. And that's one
- 11 reason it takes us so long to get a
- 12 driver on the road.
- 13 Q. What is your typical response time when
- 14 you receive a call from the call
- 15 center?
- 16 A. Our typical response time? It really
- depends. We try to be there within the
- 18 hour. Within one hour.
- 19 Q. Do you have a toll-free number?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Do you have a website on the web?
- 22 A. Yes, sir.
- 23 Q. All right. Based on the testimony

[
1	you've heard today, in your opinion, do
2	you think Express Medical Transporters
3	has the capacity to meet existing needs
4	in the area?
5	A. Yes, sir.
6	MR. BRYAN: No further
7	questions.
8	ALJ MORRIS: Thank you,
9	Mr. Bryan.
10	Mr. Coleman or
11	Ms. Ferguson, who do you want
12	to
13	MR. COLEMAN: Well, I would
14	like to ask a few questions.
15	ALJ MORRIS: Okay.
16	CROSS-EXAMINATION
17	BY MR. COLEMAN:
18	Q. Mr. Peterson?
19	A. Yes.
20	Q. Do you have any documentation to show
21	that there that all of the needs
22	transportation needs in the tricounty
23	area are met? How would you prove that?

- 1 A. Basically by every ticket that we've --
- every customer that we've ever picked up
- is a confirmation of meeting everybody's
- 4 needs. We have never turned down any
- work.
- 6 Q. Right. But you -- but there's no way of
- 7 knowing that -- there are some calls
- 8 that you don't get, right? You're not
- 9 claiming that you just cover -- I think
- 10 we spoke earlier. Ms. -- the owner said
- 11 that she covers the state.
- 12 You're claiming -- are you saying
- that there -- that every need is met in
- 14 Elmore County, Autauga County, and
- Montgomery?
- 16 A. I'm pretty much saying yes, sir.
- 17 Q. But you have no documentation to show
- 18 that?
- 19 A. Other than the tickets that we've
- 20 received on and traveled and taken
- 21 places to and from.
- 22 Q. Those are the people that you served?
- 23 A. Those are the people that we've served

- and other companies that have asked us
- 2 to help them out.
- 3 Q. Are you familiar with FM -- a company
- 4 here in Montgomery by the name of -- the
- 5 acronyms are FMCNA, Capital City
- 6 Dialysis on South Jackson Street?
- 7 A. Yes. I think we drop quite a few
- 8 customers.
- 9 Q. I have a survey from them and -- where
- they said, we have transportation
- 11 services, but we can also benefit from
- more options and -- more options.
- MR. BRYAN: Your Honor, we're
- 14 going to object. This is hearsay,
- and we're going to --
- 16 Q. Would that be -- would you think that --
- 17 would that be a true statement on that
- 18 part? I mean, they make that
- 19 statement. They said that they have
- 20 transportation services, but they can
- 21 always use more.
- 22 A. I don't know who -- I don't know who you
- talked to. I wouldn't say that would be

1		completely accurate.
2	Q.	What about DCI Montgomery, Highland
3		Park? 1912 Cherry Street in Montgomery,
4		Alabama. Are you familiar with that
5		company with that agency? Dialysis.
6	Α.	I do. I think I recall them.
7	Q.	They made a statement that says,
8		patients are frequently having to wait
9		over two hours for rides. Says unsafe
10		and inconvenient. And they stated that
11		there is a need.
12		But you wouldn't know anything about
13		that, would you?
14		ALJ MORRIS: Mr. Coleman,
15		what's the source of your
16		information?
17		MR. COLEMAN: These are the
18		surveys that we actually took.
19		And I'm going to introduce it as
20		evidence, if I may. These are the
21		surveys that we actually took.
22		Face-to-face surveys with
23		companies here in the tricounty

1	area who are welcoming our
2	service. And because there is
3	an unmet need.
4	ALJ MORRIS: Are the people
5	that you surveyed available here?
6	MR. COLEMAN: No, they're
7	not. But I have the signed
8	statements.
9	ALJ MORRIS: Under the hearsay
10	rule, we can't accept that, unless
11	they're actually here for cross-
12	examination.
13	MR. COLEMAN: Well, we
14	can't you can't use these
15	signed surveys as evidence?
16	ALJ MORRIS: No. Not unless
17	you've actually got those people
18	that you surveyed available here
19	for testimony, so that the
20	protestants have an opportunity to
21	cross-examine them.
22	MR. COLEMAN: All right.
23	Q. (BY MR. COLEMAN) But the point that

1 well, I'm not making a point. I was 2 actually asking a question. You said that there -- that you meet 3 all the needs of all the transportation 4 services. 5 One further question. Are you 6 familiar with -- do you know what free 7 enterprise means? 8 9 Α. Yes. 10 Do you agree that we live in a free Ο. enterprise society? 11 12 I agree to an extent; that if we're out Α. 13 there and we have many more businesses 14 come in, nobody is going to survive. 15 And if you're -- I know what our 16 business loss is and how hard we try. And as many more businesses come in, 17 18 it's like there's no way that we're all going to profit. We haven't hit a 19 20 profit yet. 21 MR. COLEMAN: I don't have any 22 further questions. Ms. Ferguson 23 might have some questions.

- 1 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 2 BY MS. FERGUSON:
- 3 Q. I just wanted to ask one question right
- 4 now.
- 5 You said that you all have 46
- 6 vehicles?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And out of that 46, 11 -- ten to 11 are
- 9 assigned here in the tricounty area?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And you also said that you have nine of
- 12 those vehicles on -- I guess on duty at
- any particular time?
- 14 A. We have almost -- we have more than that
- 15 at times. I mean, it's hard to say. It
- depends on what day.
- 17 Q. Well, somewhere around nine?
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. So how many -- because you're
- 20 statewide. How many other vehicles do
- 21 you have that are statewide if you're
- meeting the need everywhere? How are
- 23 they assigned?

- 1 A. They're assigned by -- Birmingham has
- like 27. Dothan has 11. And, actually,
- 3 we have a couple more. We have eight in
- 4 Mobile, 11 here. We're at 50 something.
- 5 Q. But that -- yeah. That would add up to
- 6 57.
- 7 A. We are -- we are constantly purchasing
- 8 new vehicles. And that's why I said I
- 9 may be wrong on how many we bought this
- 10 year. Because at one time --
- 11 Q. No. Not how many you bought this year.
- 12 I'm just looking for a total. Because
- what I'm trying to get at is, that if
- 14 you're saying that you meet all the
- 15 needs here in Montgomery, Autauga, and
- 16 Elmore Counties and you have, according
- to what you said, nine vehicles at one
- 18 time, with one or two backup for that
- 19 tricounty area -- I'm just not
- 20 understanding how you can actually meet
- 21 the needs of all the -- I guess the
- people here in those -- tricounty area.
- 23 And you're servicing -- when I spoke

- 1 to Ms. Warhurst, she asked me who were
- we going to service. And that would be
- 3 your senior citizens, your low income,
- 4 your disabled, and your veterans. And I
- 5 believe that's your target audience
- 6 also.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Yes? Okay.
- 9 Well, getting this information from
- 10 the 2011 Human Services Coordinated
- 11 Transportation Plan, currently we
- 12 have -- according to 2010, we had 26,241
- just in Montgomery alone. And that's
- the elderly population. And Elmore is
- 15 9,436; Autauga, 7,956.
- Now, out of that, you're saying that
- 17 you meet -- there is nobody out there
- that possibly needs additional
- 19 transportation, with the current
- 20 providers that are here and your
- 21 service?
- 22 A. I'm saying we meet the need.
- 23 Q. You meet the needs of the people that

- 1 you actually interact with?
- 2 A. Because at every -- if you're going by
- 3 that, at -- every day -- are you saying
- 4 every day that's that -- that's the
- 5 need?
- 6 Q. No. No. I'm just saying that is
- 7 just the elderly population. Now, I
- 8 know that might be the population. And
- 9 all of those do not require your
- 10 services. By no means am I saying
- 11 that.
- 12 A. Right.
- 13 Q. But I'm thinking that's just the
- 14 elderly. Out of the disabled, we have a
- whole bunch of people. Persons in
- 16 poverty, a whole bunch of people.
- 17 Veterans, a whole bunch of people.
- People with zero cars, which means they
- 19 have no transportation. They have to
- 20 rely on somebody else.
- 21 18,659 in Montgomery alone. Elmore
- 22 County, 2,386; Autauga, 2,117. Not to
- 23 say that you supply the needs to all of

- 1 those people.
- What I'm trying to make sure that --
- 3 maybe we're misunderstanding one
- 4 another. We're saying that there are
- 5 some unmet needs. And I believe what
- 6 you're saying is that the people you
- 7 come in contact with, you have met their
- 8 needs. And there is a difference
- 9 there.
- 10 A. I'm telling you as -- how we meet the
- 11 need is -- if the day changed tomorrow,
- we require more down here, then we move
- vans wherever it's needed. We meet the
- 14 need.
- 15 Q. You meet the needs of those that you
- 16 service.
- 17 A. And those that we can find.
- 18 Q. Exactly.
- 19 A. That we go out to get.
- 20 O. What I think -- and I think we still
- 21 have a misunderstanding.
- 22 ALJ MORRIS: Ms. Ferguson, I
- think we're clear on this.

- 1 MS. FERGUSON: You understand
- 2 what --
- 3 ALJ MORRIS: I think we need
- 4 to move along to something else.
- 5 MS. FERGUSON: Okay.
- 6 Q. That would be it, other than -- you said
- 7 that you move your cars around, correct?
- 8 A. Excuse me?
- 9 Q. If there's a need somewhere else, you
- 10 move your cars around?
- 11 A. Or we'll buy another van. Yes.
- 12 Q. Well -- okay. Because what you said was
- that if there's -- let me give you an
- 14 example. You tell me yes or no.
- 15 You have your cars strategically
- 16 placed wherever throughout the state.
- 17 There is something going on in
- Birmingham, and you need more vehicles.
- 19 Do you remove the vehicles from --
- 20 A. No, ma'am.
- 21 Q. -- Montgomery?
- 22 A. No, ma'am.
- 23 Q. So how do you handle that situation?

- 1 A. Birmingham is pretty much self-
- 2 contained. And we -- if we did
- anything, we would either purchase or
- 4 move a van down here. If we needed
- 5 anything more down here.
- 6 Because as you just stated, in your
- 7 records that -- how the population is,
- 8 everyone don't go every day.
- 9 Q. No.
- 10 A. We know it. We know our criteria.
- 11 So if we need to bring a van down or
- buy another van -- we have bought them
- for -- to meet all the needs. We have
- 14 not missed any need.
- 15 Q. That would be the long-term need. What
- 16 I'm saying is --
- 17 A. And the short-term need.
- 18 Q. Well, if something happens in Birmingham
- and you don't have enough vehicles,
- 20 you're saying that you move from
- 21 Montgomery to --
- 22 A. We've never not had enough vehicles.
- That's why we always try to have extra

1		vehicles.
2	Q.	So you're saying you meet the needs of
3		all the people in the tricounty area?
4	A.	Yes, ma'am.
5		MS. FERGUSON: I'm sorry. Is
6		it Your Honor or is it Your
7		Honor? Do I officially address
8		you
9		ALJ MORRIS: Yes. That's
10		fine.
11		MS. FERGUSON: We've looked at
12		several, I guess, reports that
13		were either put out by the
14		state we have the Alabama state
15		plan on aging for fiscal years
16		2011/2012. We also have assessing
17		the perspective needs of Alabama
18		seniors, caregivers, and
19		professionals in the field of
20		aging and disability. August,
21		2009 through February, 2010.
22		That's just to name a few. And
23		then you have the transportation

1	plans of the different counties.
2	And then they have a metropolitan
3	planning organization that
4	actually handles all three
5	counties.
6	So with those reports,
7	everybody is saying the same
8	thing; that there's a
9	transportation need that's not
10	being met.
11	ALJ MORRIS: At this point,
12	this is your time for do you
13	have any further questions?
14	MS. FERGUSON: I'm just
15	saying can I introduce that
16	information?
17	ALJ MORRIS: For purposes of
18	cross-examination, you can
19	introduce that, if you're going to
20	have ask him some questions
21	based on those documents.
22	MS. FERGUSON: Okay. Do I let
23	him see it?

1		ALJ MORRIS: Bring it up to me
2		first.
3		MS. FERGUSON: That's the name
4		of it. And these are some of the
5		opportunities. They did the
6		strength and weakness
7		opportunities.
8		ALJ MORRIS: Mr. Bryan, if you
9		want to
10		MR. BRYAN: We have no
11		objection to entering this report,
12		if they want to enter it.
13		ALJ MORRIS: Okay.
14	Q.	(BY MS. FERGUSON) I just wanted to
15		point out, according to this I just
16		wanted to point out, according to that
17		plan, they're saying that there are some
18		needs on this, which is what
19		Mr. Bryan he approved. This is a
20		comprehensive economic development
21		strategy, okay, for the entire state.
22		Now, these are some of the things
23		that once they do their report they

- 1 come out with what they call the SWOT
- analysis, which is your strength, your
- 3 weaknesses, your opportunities, and your
- 4 threats.
- 5 Under opportunities, what do you see
- 6 that's highlighted there?
- 7 A. It says improvement to transportation
- 8 system rule.
- 9 Q. And rule would be one of them?
- 10 A. Uh-huh.
- 11 Q. And also this one.
- 12 A. Improve public transportation senior
- workforce.
- 14 Q. Exactly. But -- now, they're coming up
- with there's a transportation need for
- seniors and so forth. And we're saying
- the same thing. We're also saying that
- not just is it transportation needs, but
- 19 there's also a need for them to receive
- 20 medical attention.
- 21 ALJ MORRIS: Ms. Ferguson, do
- 22 you have a question here?
- MS. FERGUSON: I just wanted

- to make -- Your Honor, that's it.
- 2 ALJ MORRIS: Do you have any
- 3 follow-up?
- 4 MR. BRYAN: No, Your Honor.
- 5 MS. FERGUSON: Your Honor, one
- 6 more question. And I'm not sure
- 7 who can answer this.
- 8 Q. (BY MS. FERGUSON) How do you evaluate
- 9 your performance?
- 10 A. Our performance?
- 11 O. Yes.
- 12 A. We have a -- we basically built a
- questionnaire, and we go through it with
- our clients.
- 15 Q. And they return them back to you?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Do you keep them on file?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. About how many would you say that you
- get monthly, yearly?
- 21 A. I don't even -- at this moment, I
- 22 don't -- I couldn't recall a number on
- that. We have a lot of members. So I

- couldn't recall that.
- 2 Q. So you don't know -- that's with your
- 3 client. Do you have anything to, I
- 4 guess, say how you're performing with
- 5 your provider -- with the people who you
- 6 contract with? Say Ride-Link.
- 7 A. Say that again.
- 8 Q. You're a provider --
- 9 A. You just threw me because you're
- 10 actually throwing names in now.
- 11 Q. You're a provider for -- exactly.
- 12 You're a provider for Ride-Link,
- 13 correct?
- 14 A. Yeah.
- 15 Q. How do you -- you told me how you base
- 16 your performance between you and your
- 17 clients. The people you're picking up.
- 18 How do you base your performance between
- 19 you and Ride-Link, for example? The
- 20 people that you're providing the service
- or contracting the service with.
- MS. FERGUSON: Or maybe
- Ms. Warhurst -- if she wants to

1		answer.
2		MS. WARHURST: I've not been
3		sworn in. I can't answer.
4	Α.	I think we've only had one complaint
5		from a written complaint from Ride-
6		Link, if you're asking from Ride-Link.
7	Q.	Yes. And any other people that or
8		organizations that you provide service
9		for.
10		What was that complaint for?
11	Α.	I don't even remember at this time, and
12		I don't think I that would be privy
13		to you.
14		MS. FERGUSON: Finished.
15		ALJ MORRIS: With that, once I
16		get the transcripts back, which
17		will probably be about ten days
18		at that point, I will prepare a
19		report and recommended order,
20		which you should probably expect
21		within about four to five weeks
22		after that.
23		The parties will have 20

1	days to file exceptions to the
2	report and recommended order. If
3	exceptions are filed, the other
4	parties will have an additional 20
5	days to file comments on the
6	exceptions at that point which
7	will be presented to the
8	Commission. If no comments or
9	exceptions are filed to the report
10	and recommended order after the 20
11	days, it will become the order of
12	the Commission by operation of
13	law.
14	And with that, we'll take
15	this under advisement. And this
16	hearing is concluded. Thank you.
17	(The proceedings concluded at
18	4:50 p.m.)
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	

1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2	STATE OF ALABAMA
3	MONTGOMERY COUNTY
4	I, Gwendolyn P. Timbie, Certified
5	Court Reporter and Commissioner for the
6	State of Alabama at Large, hereby certify
7	that on Thursday, April 5, 2012, I reported
8	the PROCEEDINGS in the matter of the
9	foregoing cause, and that pages 2 through 50
10	contain a true and accurate transcription of
11	said proceedings.
12	I further certify that I am neither
13	kin nor of counsel to the parties to said
14	cause, nor in any manner interested in the
15	results thereof.
16	This 13th day of April, 2012.
17	
18	/s/Gwendolyn P. Timbie GWENDOLYN P. TIMBIE, COURT REPORTER
19	And Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large
20	CCR 172, Expires 09/30/12
21	MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: 3/10/2013
22	
23	

WORD INDEX	29 2:16	15:2, 7, 11, 14	address 4:16
	_	16: <i>5</i> , <i>10</i> , <i>14</i> , <i>20</i>	22:9 42:7
< 0 >	< 3 >	17:2, 8, 10, 12,	Administrative
09 50:20	3 50:21	15, 18 18:2, 10,	1: <i>14</i> , <i>16</i>
	30 50:20	13, 18 22:10, 13,	advanced 27:6
<1>	31807 1:5 2:22	16, 19, 23 23: <i>4</i> ,	advisement
10 50:21	31st 23:10	7, 10 24:1, 3, 6,	49: <i>15</i>
100 1: <i>17</i> 24:3	35 2:17	10, 15, 19, 19	again. 47:7
104 24:3	36104 2:7	25:1, 8, 13, 19,	agencies 10:3
11 25:9 26: <i>17</i>		23 26:5, 8, 9, 11,	15:22
27:17 35:8, 8	< 4 >	1 <i>4</i> , 21, 23 27:2,	agency 12:3
36:2, <i>4</i>	4:50 49:18	5, 8, 11, 13, 16,	32:5
11. 27: <i>17</i>	405 2:7	20 28: <i>4</i> , <i>6</i> , 11,	aging 42:15, 20
12 50:20	46 23: <i>4</i> 35: <i>5</i> , <i>8</i>	16, 20, 22 29:5,	agree 34:10, 12
13th 50: <i>16</i>	47. 23: <i>4</i>	19 30:1, 16, 19,	air 20: <i>15</i> 26: <i>7</i> ,
1715-A 22: <i>10</i>		23 31:7, 22	8
172 50:20	< 5 >	32:6 34:9, 12,	ALABAMA 1:1,
18,250 18:9	5 50:7	19 35:7, 10, 14,	2, 18, 22 2:7
18,659 38:21	5, 1: <i>18</i>	18 36:1, 7 37:7,	10:2, 20 15: <i>17</i>
1-800 24:12, 15	50 36: <i>4</i> 50: <i>9</i>	22 38:2, 12, 14	22:11 25:22
1912 32:3	57. 36:6	39:10, 17, 19	26:4 27:21
	5th 2:21	40:8, 11, 20, 22	32: <i>4</i> 42:14, 17
< 2 >		41:1, 10, 17, 22	50:2, 6, 19
2 50:9	< 6 >	42: <i>4</i> 43: <i>8</i>	Alabama. 13: <i>10</i>
2,117 38:22	6 2:12	44:19 45:7, 10,	26:1
2,386 38:22		12 46:10, 12, 12,	Ala-Three 3:16
20 48:23 49: <i>4</i> ,	<7>	16, 18, 21 47:7,	ALJ 2:19 4:7,
10	7 12:14, 15, 15	9, 14 48:4, 11,	13, 19, 22 5:1, 6,
2006 13: <i>12</i>	7,956. 37:15	18	11, 15, 19 8:20
2008 16:9	7. 12: <i>14</i>	a.m 1:19 12:15	10: <i>15</i> 18: <i>14</i> , <i>21</i>
2009 42:21		ability 27:18	19:2 20:9, <i>16</i> ,
2010 37:12	< 8 >	28:1	20 21:4, 7, 11,
2010. 42:21	8 3:14	about 32:12	16 23:16 29:8,
2011 37:10	888-976-8748.	accept 33:10	15 32:14 33:4,
42:16	17:10	access 12:4	9, 16 39:22
2011. 16: <i>10</i>		Accessible.	40:3 42:9
23:10	<9>	26:8	43:11, 17 44:1,
2012 1:19 2:21	9 2:13	according 36:16	8, 13 45:21
3:12 42:16	9,436 37:15	accurate 50:10	46:2 48:15
50:7	9:10 1: <i>19</i>	accurate. 32:1	all 11: <i>15</i> 21: <i>16</i>
2012. 3: <i>14</i>		acronyms 31:5	34:18
50:16	< A >	active 17:11, 13	also 24:15
2013 50:21	a 3:2 8:4, 6	actually 17:2	also. 37:6
20-year 11: <i>17</i>	9:5, 8, 11, 13, 16,	21:7	ambulatory
22 2:15	18, 21 10:18	actually , 36:2 ADA 14:7	26:16
239,900. 13: <i>18</i> 26,241 37: <i>12</i>	11:3, 9, 12, 15 12:2, 10, 14, 17,	add 36:5	an 5:9 6:3
26,241 37.72 27 19: <i>10</i> 36:2		added 27:14	15: <i>12</i> 16: <i>16</i> , <i>17</i> 28:9 40: <i>1</i> 3
28 3:12	21 13:1, 14, 16,	added 27:74	
20 3.12	19, 22 14:5, 8, 9, 11, 14, 18, 19, 21	37: <i>18</i> 49: <i>4</i>	analysis 45:2
	11, 17, 10, 13, 21	31.10 43.4	<u> </u>

and 1:20 3:9 4:4 6:11, 22 7:7 8:12 11:20 15:14, 17 16:1 20:5 22:4 26:17 30:14 36:15 38:8 42:18, 22 48:11 answer 10:16 17:16, 18, 19 24:21 46:7 answer. 48:1, 3 answering 17:21 any 4:15 7:23 8:20 21:11 30:4 34:21 46:2 APPEARANCES 2:1 3:20 applicant 2:22 applicant. 3:21 APPLICATION 1:5 3:11, 15
appointments.
7:8
approved 17:23
27:1 44:19
27:1 44:19 approximately
27:1 44:19
27:1 44:19 approximately 1:19 25:9 27:19 April 1:18 2:21
27:1 44:19 approximately 1:19 25:9 27:19 April 1:18 2:21 10:21 50:7, 16
27:1 44:19 approximately 1:19 25:9 27:19 April 1:18 2:21 10:21 50:7, 16 are 12:11
27:1 44:19 approximately 1:19 25:9 27:19 April 1:18 2:21 10:21 50:7, 16 are 12:11 25:10 35:8, 22
27:1 44:19 approximately 1:19 25:9 27:19 April 1:18 2:21 10:21 50:7, 16 are 12:11 25:10 35:8, 22 39:4
27:1 44:19 approximately 1:19 25:9 27:19 April 1:18 2:21 10:21 50:7, 16 are 12:11 25:10 35:8, 22 39:4
27:1 44:19 approximately 1:19 25:9 27:19 April 1:18 2:21 10:21 50:7, 16 are 12:11 25:10 35:8, 22 39:4 area 7:14 14:16 23:20
27:1 44:19 approximately 1:19 25:9 27:19 April 1:18 2:21 10:21 50:7, 16 are 12:11 25:10 35:8, 22 39:4 area 7:14 14:16 23:20 25:7 29:4, 23
27:1 44:19 approximately 1:19 25:9 27:19 April 1:18 2:21 10:21 50:7, 16 are 12:11 25:10 35:8, 22 39:4 area 7:14 14:16 23:20 25:7 29:4, 23 33:1 35:9
27:1 44:19 approximately 1:19 25:9 27:19 April 1:18 2:21 10:21 50:7, 16 are 12:11 25:10 35:8, 22 39:4 area 7:14 14:16 23:20 25:7 29:4, 23 33:1 35:9 36:19 42:3 area. 15:19
27:1 44:19 approximately 1:19 25:9 27:19 April 1:18 2:21 10:21 50:7, 16 are 12:11 25:10 35:8, 22 39:4 area 7:14 14:16 23:20 25:7 29:4, 23 33:1 35:9 36:19 42:3 area. 15:19 16:3 36:22
27:1 44:19 approximately 1:19 25:9 27:19 April 1:18 2:21 10:21 50:7, 16 are 12:11 25:10 35:8, 22 39:4 area 7:14 14:16 23:20 25:7 29:4, 23 33:1 35:9 36:19 42:3 area. 15:19 16:3 36:22 areas 14:13
27:1 44:19 approximately 1:19 25:9 27:19 April 1:18 2:21 10:21 50:7, 16 are 12:11 25:10 35:8, 22 39:4 area 7:14 14:16 23:20 25:7 29:4, 23 33:1 35:9 36:19 42:3 area. 15:19 16:3 36:22 areas 14:13 Arkansas. 14:2
27:1 44:19 approximately 1:19 25:9 27:19 April 1:18 2:21 10:21 50:7, 16 are 12:11 25:10 35:8, 22 39:4 area 7:14 14:16 23:20 25:7 29:4, 23 33:1 35:9 36:19 42:3 area. 15:19 16:3 36:22 areas 14:13

ICAL TRANSPO
asked 15:23 31:1 37:1 asking 34:2 48:6
assessing 42:16 assets 18:8 assigned 35:9, 23 36:1 assist 20:1
assisting 20:18, 20
associate 5: <i>10</i> 16: <i>18</i> associate. 5: <i>5</i>
associates 7:5 Association 10:13, 19
at 11:5 35:12 42:11 49:17 attention. 45:20
attorney 4:11 Attorneys 2:6 audience 37:5 August, 42:20
Autauga 3:9 23:22 24:8 30:14 36:15
37:15 38:22 authority 25:21 27:4
authority. 18:6 authorization 13:4
available 11: <i>16</i> 33: <i>5</i> , <i>18</i>
back 7:7 23:19 46:15 48:16 background 11:17 19:7
backup 14:23 25:14, 16 36:18 baggage 3:6 base 47:15, 18
Based 28:23 43:21 basically 24:19
00 / 10 /0

```
basis 22:18
25:12
be 5:12 11:1,
23 12:5, 7 15:4
17:3 31:23
37:2
be. 16:14
Beach 10:2, 20
because 20:1
36:12
been 3:15
13:23 48:2
behalf 3:21
believe 37:5
39:5
believe. 10:14
benefit 31:11
besides 16:15
between 47:18
Birmingham
24:19 36:1
40:18 41:1, 18
Birmingham,
22:23
bit 5:22 22:19
board 14:22
bought 36:9, 11
41:12
break 14:23
breaks 14:16, 18
bring 41:11
44:1
brother 13:22
brought 19:16
Bryan 2:3, 6, 13,
15 4:10, 11
8:20, 22 20:7
21:18, 20 23:11,
17 29:6 31:13
44:8, 10, 19
46:4
Bryan. 4:14
29:9
BRYAN: 9:2
22:7
Building 1:17
built 46:12
bunch 38:15,
16, 17
bus 13:13
```

business 3:17 5:8, 22 6:21 9:3 11:14 12:12 15:3 20:13, 22 34:16 business. 4:1 9:18 19:8 businesses 15:22 34:13, 17 **But** 18:3 45:18 **buy** 40:11 41:12 **by** 3:19 9:2 13:5 19:16 22:7, 14 29:17 35:2 38:2 < C > **C.** 4:3 6:14 call 11:22, 23 12:*4*, 7 14:*19*, 19 17:13, 15 24:11, 17, 20, 22 25:1 28:14, 14 45:1 called 26:7 calls 12:4, 5, 7 25:5 30:7 calls. 22:20 25:8 can 19:2 23:5 31:20 43:18 capacity 29:3 Capital 31:5 **career** 19:9 caregivers 42:18 **Carl** 1:15 CARRIER 1:7 3:3 carry 26:17 cars 38:18 40:7, 10, 15 cause 50:9, 14 **CCR** 50:20 cell 12:9. 10 17:*1*, *4* **center** 12:4 24:20 28:15 **Central** 15:17

30:1 46:12

certificate
13:18 50:1
certificates
25:22
Certified 1:21
13:23 50: <i>4</i>
certify 50:6, 12
changed 39:11
checked 14:1
Cherry 32:3
Chief 1:15
church 11:7, 8
church. 11:6
churches 11:20
citizens 37:3
city 11:8, 11
12: <i>19</i> 31: <i>5</i>
claiming 30:9,
12
clear 39:23
client 47:3
clients 47:17
clients. 46:14
Coleman 2:3,
Coleman 2.3,
11, 12, 16 4:2, 4,
19, 21, 23 5:3, 9,
<i>12, 14, 20</i> 6: <i>8,</i>
13, 15 8:21
10: <i>10</i> , <i>16</i> 19: <i>17</i>
29:10, 13 32:17
33:6, 13, 22, 23
34:21
Coleman, 32: <i>14</i>
Coleman. 4:8
COLEMAN:
29: <i>17</i>
come 8:9
11:23 14:20
18: <i>21</i> 34: <i>14</i> , <i>17</i>
39:7 45:1
comes 11:22
coming 12:5, 6,
8 45:14
commencing
1:19
comments 49:5,
8
commerce 3:4

ICAL TRANSP
COMMISSION
1:1 27:10 49:8,
12 50:21 Commissioner
1:21 50:5, 19
COMMON 1:5
3:3
communicate 24:14
companies
31:1 32:23
company 6:18
7: <i>18</i> 13: <i>8</i> 31:3 32: <i>5</i>
company. 23:15
complaint 48:4,
5, 10
complete 10:6
completely 32:1 Complex, 1:16
compliant 14:7
comprehensive 44:20
concerned
14: <i>21</i>
concluded
49: <i>16</i> , <i>17</i> confirmation
30:3
consider 19:13
constantly 36:7
contact 8:9 10:3 39:7
contain 50:10
contained 41:2
contingency 14: <i>15</i>
contract 47:6
contracting
10:5 12:3
47:21 Coordinated
37: <i>10</i>
Coordination
15: <i>18</i> 16: <i>8</i> correct 26: <i>10</i>
40:7 47:13
counsel 50:13
counseling 8:6,

```
15
counselor 8:5
counties 3:8
12:20 27:19
36:16
counties. 43:1,
county 11:7
23:22, 22, 23
24:9 30:14, 14
38:22 50:3
county, 27:23
County. 11:9
couple 24:16
36:3
course 28:8
Court 1:21
50:5, 18
cover 13:3 30:9
covers 30:11
CPR 28:8
criteria. 41:10
CROSS 2:13,
16, 17
cross- 33:11
CROSS-EXAMIN
ATION 9:1
29:16 35:1
43:18
cross-examine
33:21
Current 23:8,
14 37:19
Currently 8:6
9:14 17:6
22:21 23:2
25:17 37:11
customer 30:2
customers. 31:8
< D >
date 2:20 23:9
day 15:4 25:2,
4, 13, 18 26:21,
22 38:3, 4
39:11 50:16
day. 27:22
```

```
days 12:15
26:19 48:17
49:1, 5, 11
day-to-day
22:18 25:11
DCI 32:2
dealing 8:15
19:12, 14
December 23:10
decided 7:15
defensive 28:6.
definitely 11:19
degree 8:5
Depending
17:19
depends 12:2
28:17 35:16
determine 15:12
development
44:20
Dialysis 31:6
Dialysis. 32:5
did 41:2
didn't 23:13
difference 39:8
different 10:3
11:21 15:22
43:1
DIRECT 2:15
22:6
directly 12:7
disability 42:20
disabled 37:4
38:14
discussed 19:19
discussing
23:21
dispatch 25:3, 4
do 7:15 9:23
22:17 24:11, 22
29:1 35:20
45:21
DOCKET 1:5
2:22
doctorate 8:7
document 23:5
documentation
29:20 30:17
```

35:16 41:8

documents.	enforcement	familiar 31:3	24:5 25:10
43:21	19: <i>10</i> 21: <i>5</i>	32:4 34:7	fleet. 23:19
doing 3:16	enter 44:12	families 8:10,	FM 31:3
19:20 20:3	entering 44:11	11, 11, 16	FMCNA 31:5
dollar 13:6	enterprise 34:8,	family 7:5 8:7	follows: 6:12
done 9:21	11	far 27:9	22:5
don't, 18:23	entire 44:21	far. 9:9	follow-up 46:3
Dothan 23:1	evaluate 46:8	faxing 17:5	for 1:22 2:2, 3
36:2	Evans 1:15	February 3:12	19:15 27:6
drive 9:6, 20	everybody 43:7	42:21	45:15
driver 9:10, 12	everybody's	feel 13:20	for. 48:9
28:12	30:3		Ford 13:12
driver. 9:11	evidence 23:13	Ferguson 2:3,	
		17 5:5, 7 6:7	foregoing 50:9
drivers 16:12	32:20 33:15	10:12 16:16	Form 13:9, 10
28:5	Exactly 45:14	17:19 18:15, 18,	former 19:9
drivers. 25:4	Exactly. 39:18	23 19:5, 6	forth 7:8 45:16
driving 12:13	47:11	20:11, 14, 18	forwarded 17:4,
21:13 28:7, 8	EXAMINATION	21:2, 6, 9, 14	20
drop 31:7	2:10 22:6	29:11 34:22	found 16:2
drove 14:1	examination.	39:22 40:1, 5	four 48:21
duly 6:9 22:2	33:12	42: <i>5</i> , <i>11</i> 43: <i>14</i> ,	franchise 26:10
duty 35:12	example 40:14	22 44:3, 14	free 34:7, 10
	47:19	45: <i>21</i> , <i>23</i> 46: <i>5</i> ,	frequently 32:8
<e></e>	excellent 13:22	8 47:22 48:1 <i>4</i>	Fresh 26:7, 8
earlier 6:14	exceptions	FERGUSON:	from 15: <i>16</i>
30:10	49:1, 3, 6, 9	35:2	31:11 37:9
economic 44:20	Excuse 40:8	few 31:7	41:20
eight 36:3	exhibit 23:12	few. 20:10	from. 30:21
either 41:3	existing 29:3	field 42:19	front 10:21
42:13	expect 48:20	file 13:9 23:14	full 22:8
elderly 37:14	experience	46:17 49:1, 5	further 29:6
38:7, 14	5:23 8:1 20:5,	filed 3:12 7:19	34:6, 22 43:13
Eleven. 24:6	23	18:7 49:3, 9	50:12
Elmore 23:22	experience.	filing 13:11	future 16:14
24:8 30:14	21: <i>15</i>	fill 7:16, 17	future. 20:3
36:16 37:14	experiences	8:19 15:23	
38:21	8:15	financial 18:7	<g></g>
Elmore. 3:10	Expires 50:20,	23:7, 8, 14	gap 7:16
else. 38:20	21	financially 27:12	General 22:13
40:4	EXPRESS 2:3	find. 39:17	get 14:15
employed	3:17 4:12 26:2,	fine. 10:23	get. 39:19
16: <i>12</i> 22: <i>14</i>	6, 9 29:2	42:10	getting 7:7
employee 16:17	extensive 28:10	Finished. 48:14	23:19 37:9
employee. 16:20	extent 34:12	First 3:20 6:9	Give 18: <i>10</i> , <i>16</i> ,
employees	extra 41:23	22:2	18 19:3 40:13
16: <i>15</i> , <i>19</i> 24:20		first. 19:4 44:2	go 2:19 12:14,
EMT 22:15, 18,	<f></f>	fiscal 42:15	18 14:12 17:16,
21 27:6, 9	Face-to-face	five 48:21	21 24:18 25:1,
EMT. 22:11	32:22	fleet 14:5 23:3	2 28:6 39:19
ended 7:22	faith 15:2	14.0 23.3	2 20.0 33.13
CHUCU 1.22	iailii 13.2		

41:8 46:13	him. 20:19	inconvenient	
goes 24:19	hit 34:19	32:10	< K >
going 10:8	hold 25:21	increases 27:23	keep 46:17
11:13, 15, 20	home 11:4	INDEX 2:10	kin 50:13
12:12, 13 13:4	Honor 4:3	industry 6:22	kind 19: <i>11</i>
16:23 18: <i>16</i>	23:11 31:13	8:2 21: <i>1</i>	21:12 24:12
20:12 21:19	42:6, 7 46:1, 5	industry. 6:1	know 25:16
23:5 31:14, 15	Honor. 21:21	8:3	27:9, <i>15</i> 31:22,
32:19 34:14, 19	46: <i>4</i>	information	22 32:12 34:7,
37:2 38:2	Honorable 1:14	13:7 32:16	15 38:8 41:10,
40:17 43:19	hour 28:18	37:9 43:16	10 47:2
			_
Good 4:2	hour. 28:18	initially 11:5	knowing 7:3
13:20 27:9	hours 12:12	institute 3:2	30:7
Grove 22:10	26:22 32:9	insurance	knowledge 25:5
guess 35:12	hours. 26:23	12:23 13:1, 5, 8	_
36:21 42:12	how 4:19 15:3	intend 12:18	<l></l>
47: <i>4</i>	27:18	16:21, 21	land 16:22 17:4
Gwendolyn	Hull 2:7	interact 38:1	Large 50:6, 19
1:20 50:4, 18,	Human 15: <i>17</i>	interested 6:21	Large. 1:22
18	16:7 37: <i>10</i>	50: <i>14</i>	last 27:14
	husband 19: <i>18</i>	intrastate 3:4	later. 18:22
<h>></h>		introduce 32:19	Law 1:14, 16
had 19: <i>18</i>	<l><!-- --></l>	43:15, 19	2:6 19:10 21:5
half 26:15, 15	I 5:16 6:13	irregular 3:4	law. 49:13
hand 23:5	7:20 10:13	is 4:10 5:6	let 43:22
handle 40:23	21:14 23:11	16:6, 8 20:11	liability 13:2
handles 43:4	36: <i>8</i> 37: <i>4</i> 38: <i>7</i>	25:20 33:2	limit 13:7
happens 41:18	39:22 46:21, 23	37:14 38:6	limits 12:19
hard 7:6, 7	47:3 48:15	42:5	line 17:3, 4, 5
34:16 35:15	idea 15:7	is, 41:7	lines 16:23
has 12:3 36:1	idle 25:18	it 17:13 25:1, 2	Link 48:6
have 14:18	If 5:15 25:14	26:6 35:15	listed 13:11
26:15 31:19	36:13 49:2	it. 17:15 20:6,	little 5:21 22:19
41: <i>13</i>	l'II 15: <i>7</i>	15 44:12 46:1	live 34:10
have. 21:17	Improve 45:12	its 27:7	live. 11:10
health 8:3	improvement	it's 5:3 18:4	LLC 1:5 3:1, 16
heard 29:1	45:7		LLC. 4:6
Hearing 1:16	IN 1:4 3:3, 6	<j></j>	local 24:16
3:13 49:16	6:21 8:5 10:1,	Jackson 31:6	located 11:2, 3
hearsay 33:9	19 13:1 14:12	January 6:19	24:2
hearsay, 31: <i>14</i>	19:9 20:14, 23	9: <i>4</i>	location 28:2
help 8:18	26:3 30:13	Jay 2:3, 11 4:3	long 7:10
14: <i>19</i> 19:23	36:3 38:15	6:8, 14	22: <i>14</i> 26:2
31:2	40:17	Judge 1:15, 16	28:11
here 2:21 33:18	in, 34:17	Judkins 2:3	long-term 41:15
here. 7:22 41:5	in, 54.77	4:11	looked 7:12
Highland 32:2	include 26:12	jumped 20:1	42:11
, <u> </u>	income 8:11	just 5:1 43:14	
highlighted 45:6		•	looking 6:20
him 19:23	income, 37:3	44:15	36: <i>12</i>
			loss 34:16

lot 8:10, 10
16:3 46:23
lot. 15:2
low 8:11 37:3
< M >
ma'am. 40:2 <i>0</i> ,
22 42:4
machine 17:21
make. 15:8
making 15: <i>5</i>
34:1
man 15:2
manager. 22:13
manner 50:14
many 21:18
March 3:14
market 11:14,
20
marketplace
7:13
Master's 8:5
matter 50:8
matters 4:16
may 17:20
maybe 47:22
me 44: <i>1</i>
me. 10:22
14:20
mean 31: <i>18</i>
35: <i>15</i>
means 34:8
38:10, 18
mechanic 13:23
14:20
media 11: <i>16</i> , <i>18</i>
Medicaid 17:23
18:2, <i>3</i> , <i>4</i> 27: <i>1</i>
MEDICAL 1:5
2:3, 23 3:7, 17
4:5, 12 6:16
7:1, 8, 18 14:5
16: <i>4</i> 26:2, <i>6</i> , 9
29:2 45:20
meet 29:3 34:3
36: <i>14</i> , <i>20</i> 37: <i>17</i> ,
22, 23 39:10, 13,
<i>15</i> 41: <i>1</i> 3 42:2
meeting 30:3
35:22
1

ICAL TRANSI
members 7:5
46:23
Mendel 24:3
mental 8:3
met 29:23
30:13 39:7
met. 43:10
metropolitan
43:2
miles 13:15
million 13:6 mine. 5:10
mine. 5:10
ministry 8:7
missed 41:14
misunderstandin
g 39:3
misunderstandin g. 39:21
Mobile 36:4
Mobile. 23:1
moment 46:21
Monday 12:16,
17
MONTGOMERY
1:2, 18 2:7 3:9
11:9, 10, 11
12:19, 20 23:1, 21 24:8 30:15
21 24:8 30:15
31:4 32:2
36:15 37:13
38:21 40:21 41:21 50:3
Montgomery,
32:3
Montgomery.
24:1
month, 10:20 monthly 46:20
more 15:20
more. 31:21
morning 4:17
morning, 4:2
Morris 1:14
2:19 4:7, 13, 19, 22 5:1, 6, 11, 15,
22 5:1, 6, 11, 15,
<i>19</i> 8:20 10: <i>15</i>
18: <i>14</i> , <i>21</i> 19: <i>2</i>
20:9, 16, 20
21: <i>4</i> , <i>7</i> , <i>11</i> , <i>16</i>
23:16 29:8, 15

RTATION SERV
32:14 33:4, 9, 16 39:22 40:3 42:9 43:11, 17 44:1, 8, 13 45:21 46:2 48:15 motor 3:3 mouth. 11:19 move 28:2 39:12 40:4, 7, 10 41:4, 20 Mr 2:3, 3 Ms 2:3 my 8:14 11:3 20:4 myself. 12:8
< N >
name 3:23 4:3, 10 6:14 10:11 19:5 22:8 31:4 42:22 44:3 names 47:10 national 18:3 26:10
nature 22:17
necessary 7:20 13:5
need 5:17 8:17
10:15 15:13 22:20 24:7 25:15 27:23 30:13 35:22 38:5 39:11 40:3, 9, 18 41:11, 15 43:9 45:15, 19 need. 15:10 32:11 33:3 37:22 39:14
41: <i>14</i> , <i>17</i>
needed 39: <i>13</i> 41: <i>4</i>
needing 7:3
needs 16:1, 3 29:3, 21, 22
30:4 34:4
36:15, 21 37:18, 23 38:23 39:5,

```
42:2, 17 44:18
45:18
neither 50:12
never 25:8
30:4 41:22
NEW 1:5 3:2
6:20 19:15
36:8
next 25:3
night 12:15
nine 25:14
35:11, 17 36:17
no 20:7, 9
44:10
no. 21:3 27:5,
8 40:14 41:9
non-emergency
3:7 6:23 16:4
normal 25:13
Normally 25:13
North 1:17
not 19:6 30:8
36:19 43:9
notice 3:13
now 20:16
Now, 18:14
now. 35:4
47:10
number 16:22
17:1, 7, 9, 10
18:2, 3 24:12
28:19 46:22
numbers 15:16
24:13, 15
numbers. 24:16
< 0 >
object 31:14
objection 44:11
of 3:5 7:2, 5
8:10 10:21
12:18, 19, 22
18:5 21:12
25:23 27:20
30:6 35:11
38:23 42:2, 19
43:17 49:11, 12
50:10
offer 23:12
```

8, 15 41:13

office 11:1 2 1
office 11:1, 3, 4
12:9 22:23
23:23
officer 21:8
officially 42:7
oftentimes 7:10
Okay 6:13
19: <i>5</i> 40: <i>12</i>
43:22 44:21
45.22 44.21
Okay. 20:21
23:16 29:15
37: <i>8</i> 40: <i>5</i>
44:13
on 3:20 46:22
once 44:23
48: <i>15</i>
one 28:10
36:17 39:3
46:5
one. 4:21
16:11 45:11
only 10: <i>15</i>
operating 9:14
22:22 25:11
OPERATION
1:5 3:2 49:12
opinion 24:7
_
29:1
opportunities
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities.
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity 5:21 6:4 19:23
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity 5:21 6:4 19:23 33:20
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity 5:21 6:4 19:23 33:20 options 31:12
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity 5:21 6:4 19:23 33:20 options 31:12 options. 31:12
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity 5:21 6:4 19:23 33:20 options 31:12 options. 31:12 or 17:18 18:16
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity 5:21 6:4 19:23 33:20 options 31:12 options. 31:12 or 17:18 18:16 29:10 41:3, 11
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity 5:21 6:4 19:23 33:20 options 31:12 options. 31:12
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity 5:21 6:4 19:23 33:20 options 31:12 options. 31:12 or 17:18 18:16 29:10 41:3, 11 48:7 49:8
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity 5:21 6:4 19:23 33:20 options 31:12 options. 31:12 or 17:18 18:16 29:10 41:3, 11 48:7 49:8 Orange 10:2, 20
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity 5:21 6:4 19:23 33:20 options 31:12 options. 31:12 or 17:18 18:16 29:10 41:3, 11 48:7 49:8 Orange 10:2, 20 order 49:2, 10,
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity 5:21 6:4 19:23 33:20 options 31:12 options. 31:12 or 17:18 18:16 29:10 41:3, 11 48:7 49:8 Orange 10:2, 20 order 49:2, 10, 11
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity 5:21 6:4 19:23 33:20 options 31:12 options. 31:12 or 17:18 18:16 29:10 41:3, 11 48:7 49:8 Orange 10:2, 20 order 49:2, 10, 11
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity 5:21 6:4 19:23 33:20 options 31:12 options. 31:12 or 17:18 18:16 29:10 41:3, 11 48:7 49:8 Orange 10:2, 20 order 49:2, 10, 11 order, 48:19
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity 5:21 6:4 19:23 33:20 options 31:12 options. 31:12 or 17:18 18:16 29:10 41:3, 11 48:7 49:8 Orange 10:2, 20 order 49:2, 10, 11 order, 48:19 organization
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity 5:21 6:4 19:23 33:20 options 31:12 options. 31:12 or 17:18 18:16 29:10 41:3, 11 48:7 49:8 Orange 10:2, 20 order 49:2, 10, 11 order, 48:19 organization 10:9 43:3
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity 5:21 6:4 19:23 33:20 options 31:12 options. 31:12 or 17:18 18:16 29:10 41:3, 11 48:7 49:8 Orange 10:2, 20 order 49:2, 10, 11 order, 48:19 organization 10:9 43:3 organizations
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity 5:21 6:4 19:23 33:20 options 31:12 options. 31:12 or 17:18 18:16 29:10 41:3, 11 48:7 49:8 Orange 10:2, 20 order 49:2, 10, 11 order, 48:19 organization 10:9 43:3 organizations 48:8
opportunities 44:5 45:3, 5 opportunities. 44:7 opportunity 5:21 6:4 19:23 33:20 options 31:12 options. 31:12 or 17:18 18:16 29:10 41:3, 11 48:7 49:8 Orange 10:2, 20 order 49:2, 10, 11 order, 48:19 organization 10:9 43:3 organizations

ICAL IRANSPO
11:21 other 49:3 our 33:1 34:15 out 34:12 out. 31:2 outcome 18:5 outside 12:18 owner 4:4 6:15 20:13 30:10
<pre>< P > p.m. 49:18 paged. 17:22 pages 50:9 paperwork 7:20 Park 32:3 parking 11:5 Parkway. 24:3 part 20:12 31:18</pre>
particular 9:21, 22 35:13 parties 48:23 49:4 50:13 passengers 3:6 patient 14:22 patients 32:8 payment 27:6 Pending 13:3 18:5, 5
people 7:3, 4 19:12 24:12, 13 26:17 30:22, 23 33:4, 17 36:22 37:23 38:15, 18 39:6 42:3 47:5, 17, 20 48:7 people. 19:14 38:16, 17 39:1 performance
46:9, 10 47:16, 18 performing 47:4 personal 15:21 Persons 38:15 perspective 42:17 PETERSON 2:14 22:1, 10

phone 11:22 12:9 17:17 phone. 12:10 phones. 24:21 picked 30:2 picking 47:17 place 12:23
13:2 17:6 place. 10:7 placed 40:16 places 30:21 plan 14:12, 15 15:1, 3, 5, 18
16:6, 8, 9 37:11 42:15 44:17 planning 18:17 43:3 plans 43:1 Pleasant 22:10
please 3:22 5:16 22:8 23:13 point 6:2 18:9 33:23 34:1
44:15, 16 48:18 49:6 point, 43:11 points 3:8 19:14 police 21:8
population 37:14 38:7, 8 41:7 position 22:12 possibly 37:18 poverty 38:16
pray 15:2 preliminary 4:16 prepare 48:18 presentation 18:16, 19 19:4
presented 19:22 49:7 presenting 5:13 president 4:5 6:15 pretty 26:15
30:16 41:1 previously

```
19:19
privy 48:12
probably 10:5
17:18 19:3
23:4 25:13
27:22 48:17, 20
problem 25:15
problems 14:17
PROCEEDINGS
1:13 49:17
50:8
proceedings.
50:11
professionals
42:19
profit 34:19, 20
programs 10:4
propose 5:23
proposed 7:14
proposing 12:14
protestant 4:9
protestants 6:3
33:20
protested 3:16
prove 29:23
provide 13:21
26:19 48:8
provider 18:2, 3
47:5, 8, 11, 12
providers 37:20
providing 26:3
47:20
PSC 25:23
PUBLIC 1:1
45:12
purchase 41:3
purchased 7:21
9:7, 8 13:12
14:4
purchasing 36:7
purposes 43:17
purposes. 17:5
pursuing 8:6
put 42:13
< Q >
Q 9:3, 6, 10, 12,
```

14, 17, 19 10:8, 23 11:7, 11, 13,

22 12:9, 11, 16,

29:18

SUPERIOR ME
18, 22 13:11, 15, 18, 20 14:3, 7, 9, 12, 15, 21 15:3, 9, 12 16:4, 6, 12, 15, 21 17:6, 9, 11, 13, 16, 23 18:7, 11 22:8, 12, 14, 17, 21 23:2, 5, 8, 19 24:2, 4, 7, 11, 17, 22 25:5, 9, 17, 20 26:2, 6, 9, 12, 19, 22 27:1, 3, 6, 9, 12, 14, 18, 23 28:5, 13, 19, 21, 23 29:18, 20 30:6, 17, 22 31:3, 9, 16 32:2, 7 33:23 34:10 35:3, 8, 11, 17, 19 36:5, 11 37:8, 23 38:6, 13 39:15, 18, 20 40:6, 9, 12, 21, 23 41:9, 15, 18 42:2 44:14 45:9, 11, 14 46:8, 11, 15, 17, 19 47:2, 8, 11, 15 48:7 question 34:6 35:3 45:22 46:6 question. 10:17 34:2 questions 6:5 8:21 18:11, 19 20:10 34:22 43:13, 20 questions. 20:8 29:7, 14 34:23 quite 31:7 < R >
radio 11: <i>18</i> Radio 11: <i>16</i>

Radio, 11:*16* **RE:** 1:4

ready. 23:18 **real** 13:16 realized 8:16 really 28:9, 16 reason 28:11 recall 32:6 46:22 47:1 **receive** 28:14 45:19 received 30:20 recommended 48:19 49:2, 10 record 2:20 25:20 **record.** 22:9 records 41:7 references 15:*15* referencing 15:16 **referred** 16:*17* referring 16:6 regular 13:2 related 5:7 relationship 4:1 rely 38:20 remember 48:11 **remove** 40:19 repeat 6:5 **report** 44:23 48:19 49:2, 9 report, 44:11 reported 1:20 50:7 Reporter 1:21 50:5, 18 **REPORTER'S** 50:1 reports 42:12 reports, 43:6 require 13:8 27:6 38:9 39:12 required 13:5 **Research** 15:14, 14 response 4:18

results 50:15 retired 21:5 **return** 46:15 RICHARD 2:14 22:1, 10 **Ride-** 48:5 Ride-Link 47:19 **Ride-Link**, 47:12 Ride-Link. 47:6 48:6 **rides** 32:9 right 4:7 5:6, *15* 11:*13* 12:*11* 13:1 14:3, 12 15:3 18:*4* 20:16 22:21 23:19 28:23 30:6, 8 35:3 right, 5:11, 19 **right.** 6:7 33:22 38:12 **Road** 22:11 road. 28:12 routes 3:5 **RSA** 1:17 rule 33:10 45:9 rule. 45:8 **Rural** 10:12, 18 14:13, 16 40:6 50:11, 13

< S > **said** 30:10 **same** 43:7 **Saturday** 12:*16* **Saturday.** 12:17 saying 30:12, 16 36:14 37:16. 22 38:3, 6, 10 39:4, 6 41:16, 20 42:2 43:7, 15 44:17 45:16, 17 **Says** 32:9 45:7 **says**, 32:7 Scott 1:14 **se** 8:2

see 43:23 45:5

seeking 3:1 **self-** 41:1

senior 37:3 45:12 **seniors** 42:18 45:16 sensitivity 28:8 September 16:9, 10 **served** 3:14 30:22, 23 **SERVICE** 1:1, 5 3:1, 7 7:4, 14, 19 13:21, 22 16:7 26:3 33:2 37:2, 21 47:20, 21 48:8 **service.** 39:16 Services 4:6 7:9 15:17 23:23 26:20 27:7 31:11, 20 37:10 38:10 Services. 6:17 34:5 servicing 36:23 **set** 10:7 **shape** 13:20 **she** 18:15 short-term 41:17 **show** 29:20 30:17 **shows** 13:18 18:8 **shuttle** 13:13 signed 9:23 33:7, 15 single 26:21 27:22 sir 9:8, 16 16:*10*, *14* 17:*15* **sir.** 4:23 5:14 9:5, 13 12:21 13:14 14:8, 11, 14 15:11 16:5 17:8 18:12 21:6. 9 24:10 28:22 29:5 30:16 **sitting** 25:18

28:13, 16

restrictions 27:3

TECTIMONIV

Set Emon will
situation 40:23
Six 12:15 24:20
so 9:8
society 34:11
some 6:4 44:17
somebody
38:2 <i>0</i>
something
19: <i>17</i>
something. 36:4
somewhere.
13: <i>17</i>
sorry 10:8 23: <i>17</i> 42: <i>5</i>
23.17 42.0
sound 27:12 source 32:15
South 2:7 31:6
speak 6:10
-
22:3
specifically 6:23
spoke 30:10
36:23
Sprinters 26:17
stand 5:16
standing 27:10 start 6:20
started 6:19
9:3
startup 9: <i>17</i> , <i>18</i> State 1: <i>22</i>
3:23 13:6, 10
18: <i>4</i> 22:8
25:21, 23 27:20
42:14, 14 50:2,
6, 19
state. 30:11
40:16 44:21
stated 6:14
32:10 41:6
STATEMENT
2: <i>12</i> 18: <i>8</i> 23: <i>8</i> ,
14 31:17, 19
32:7
statement. 18:7
23:7
statements.
33:8
statewide 35:20,
21
<u> </u>

1:13 5:13
28:23 33:19
Thank 4:7, 13 18:11, 13 29:8
18:11, 13 29:8
49:16
that 8:17 9:14
11:22 12:12
24: <i>4</i> , <i>17</i> , <i>20</i>
31: <i>17</i> , <i>18</i> 32: <i>4</i> ,
10 35:14 36:18
37:16, 23 42:12
43:3, 15 44:16
45:17 50:7
that. 19:21
38:11 47:1
48.22
That's 5:4
19:12 37:13
42:9
the 1: <i>1</i> 3 2: <i>1</i> 9 3: <i>1</i> 2 5: <i>7</i> 6: <i>2</i>
7:13 10:10, 16
1.13 10.10, 10
13: <i>4</i> , 9 15: <i>18</i> 18:2 19:7, 22
18:2 19:7, 22
25:6 28:17
31:4 32:17, 20 33:19 36:14, 21
33:19 36:14, 21
38:4, 13 39:10,
13 42:13 44: <i>4</i> ,
5 47:19 49:1, <i>5</i> ,
7 50:5, 8, 8, 14,
19
their 39:7
them 14:22
41: <i>1</i> 2
them. 32:6
33:21
then. 13:19
therapy. 8:8
there 16:2
37:17
there. 39:9
thereof. 50:15
these 33:14 they 38:18
tney 38:18
44:23
they're 33:6
thing 10:1

43:8 45:17 things 44:22 think 13:9 15:4, 6 20:4 26:5 27:17 29:2 30:9 31:7, 16 32:6 39:20, 20, 23 40:3 48:*4*, 12 thinking 20:2, 15 38:13 this 14:3 36:9 49:15 this. 39:23 46:7 thoroughly 14:1 thought 8:18 threats. 45:4 Three 26:5, 5, 16, 18 43:4 threw 47:9 **throwing** 47:*10* Thursday 1:18 50:7 Thursday, 2:20 ticket 30:1 tickets 30:19 **Timbie** 50:4, 18, 18 **Timbie**, 1:20 time 7:6, 7 9:21 16:2, 2 21:13 28:13, 16 35:13 36:10, 18 43:12 48:11 time. 7:11 times 35:15 title 13:18 to 3:1 7:16 9:19 10:8 11:13 13:2, 20 16:21 28:1, 2 33:20 36:5 38:19, 22 43:19 44:14 47:23 today 17:14 23:21 29:1 **Today's** 2:20 3:13 told 47:15

DOI ENION WIE
toll-free 16:22
17:3, 6 28:19
tomorrow, 39:11
took. 32:18, 21
total 18:8 36:12
touch 27:22
trained 28:5
training 0:10
training 9:19, 22 10:1, 4, 6, 9
22 10:1, <i>4</i> , <i>6</i> , 9
21:12 28:10
transcription
· -
50:10
transcripts
48: <i>16</i>
transport 14:9
TRANSPORTATI
ON 1:5 2:23
3:5 4:6 6:1. 16.
3:5 4:6 6:1, 16, 22 7:19 8:1
40.40 40 45:40
10: <i>13</i> , <i>18</i> 15: <i>18</i>
16: <i>1</i> , <i>4</i> , <i>8</i> 19: <i>8</i>
21:1 26:20
20:22 21:40 20
29:22 31:10, 20
34:4 37:11, 19
38:19 42:23
43:9 45:7, 12,
15, 18
Transportation,
21:2
transportation.
7:1 14:6
Transporters
26:3, 6, 9 29:2
Transporters.
3:18 4:12
TRANSPORTER
S: 2:3
transporting
14:22
transports
26:13
traveled 30:20
tricounty 15:19
23:20 25:7
29:22 32:23 35:9 36:19, 22
35.0 36.10 22
42:3
trips 15:4, 7
truck 11:2
12:13 14:16, 18
12.13 14.10, 10

ICAL INAMSI
trucks 24:4
trucks 24:4 25:10, 17 27:14
28:2
true 31:17
50:10
truly 9:17, 18
truth 6:10, 10,
14 00:0 10,
11 22:3, 3, 4
try 7: <i>15</i> 28:9, 17 41:23
try. 34:16
trying 36:13
39:2
turn 25:8
turned 25:6
30:4
Twenty-four
26:22, 23
Twenty-seven
21:10
two 5:4 24:15
25:17 32:9
36:18
type 12:22
typical 28:13, 16
< U >
Uh-huh. 45: <i>10</i>
underprivileged
8:12
underserved.
8:13
understand 40:1
understanding
36:2 <i>0</i>
Union 1:17, 17
unless 33:10, 16
unmet 8:17
15: <i>9</i> , <i>1</i> 3 16:3
24:7 33:3 39:5
unsafe 32:9
up 7:17 30:2
45: <i>14</i>
-
up. 47:17
Updated 16: <i>11</i>
us 31: <i>1</i>
use 11: <i>15</i> 14: <i>3</i>
31:21 33:14
using, 7:9
u3111u. 1.3

KIMION BEK
usually 25: <i>11</i> , <i>14</i>
<pre> < V > van 11:5 40:11 41:4, 11, 12 vans 39:13 vehicle 3:3 7:21 9:7, 8, 10, 15, 20, 23 13:3 14:4 vehicle. 13:11 vehicles 23:2 26:12 35:6, 12, 20 36:8, 17 40:19 vehicles, 41:19 vehicles, 41:19 vehicles, 40:18 41:22 42:1 vendor 17:23 27:1 venture 19:15 Veronica 2:3 19:6 veroed 10:11</pre>
versed 19: <i>11</i>
veterans 37: <i>4</i> 38: <i>1</i> 7
void 7:17
void. 8: <i>19</i>
<w> wait 32:8 waits 7:10 want 29:11 44:9, 12 wanted 35:3 44:14, 16 45:23</w>
wants 47:23 Warhurst 37:1
47:23 48:2
was 3:11, 13
34:1 40:12 way 5:8 9:19
30:6 34:18
we 6:18 7:14
19: <i>19</i> 23: <i>17</i> 27:21 28:8
33:13 37:11
weakness 44:6

weaknesses
45:3
web 28:21
website 28:21
week 15:5
26:19
week. 12: <i>15</i>
26:21
weeks 48:21
welcoming 33:1 Well 11:3, 15
40:0 47:0
12:2 17:2
19: <i>11</i> 21: <i>16</i> 28: <i>6</i> 29: <i>13</i>
28:0 29:73
33:13 34:1
35:17 37:9
40: <i>12</i> 41: <i>18</i> we'll 17:2 <i>1</i>
we II 17:21
went 15:21 were 7:4 15:15
37: <i>1</i> we're 11: <i>15</i> , <i>20</i>
10.0 1/ 12./
12:2, <i>14</i> 13: <i>4</i> 23: <i>4</i> , <i>20</i> 27: <i>17</i> ,
20 31:13, 15
34:12, 18 36:4
39: <i>3</i> , <i>4</i> , 23
45: <i>16</i> , <i>17</i>
we've 10:2
30.1.2.19.23
30:1, 2, 19, 23 41:22 42:11
48: <i>4</i>
what 5:22 11:7
23:8 39:5
41:15 44:18
wheelchair
14:10 26:12
wheelchair.
26:14
wheelchairs.
26:18
when 28:13
where 31:9
Wherever 22:19
which 13:7
48:16 49:6
WILKERSON
2:6
will 11: <i>18</i> 12: <i>4</i>

	TOTAL TRUTTED O	 TCD, ELC 01
with 6:6 19:11 32:22 46:13 47:4 with. 10:5 47:21 witness 6:9 22:2 witnesses 4:20 5:18 21:19 Word 11:19 work 16:23 22:11 work. 30:5 worked 8:2 workforce. 45:13 would 29:13 written 13:16 48:5 wrong 36:9 wrong. 27:16	you. 18:13 48:13 49:16 your 3:23 5:20 16:18 21:20 27:3 32:15 37:20 38:9 41:6 42:6 45:2, 3 47:2, 16 you're 21:4 35:19, 21 47:9 you've 9:6 <z> zero 20:5 38:18</z>	
Yeah 19:2 36:5 Yeah . 35: <i>18</i>		
47:14 year 9:4 27:15		
36:10 year. 6:19 22:16 36:11		
yearly 46:20 years 26:5		
42: <i>15</i> years. 19: <i>10</i>		
21:10 26:5 Yes. 8:22		
11:12 25:19 26:11 27:2, 11,		
13 28:4, 20 29:19 34:9		
35:7, 10 37:7 40:11 46:11, 16,		
yet. 9:16 34:20		
you 25:15 31:22 34:6		
39: <i>6</i> , <i>15</i> 40: <i>9</i> 43: <i>12</i> 44: <i>8</i>		
46:19 47:5 you, 4:13 29:8		