

For Immediate Release

SALTZ, MONGELUZZI, BARRETT & BENDESKY, P.C.

Statement regarding newly released fatal building collapse video

PHILADELPHIA, PA (July 19, 2013) – The newly released video from a passing SEPTA bus is critical in the investigation of the events leading up to the fatal collapse for numerous reasons, including its independent verification that:

- There is no excavator arm shown as the wall collapses.



Source: CBS Philly

Using the video to correlate a photo from across Market Street, it can be proven that the photo was taken 10 seconds after the collapse and it is clear that the excavator arm is pointed away from the wall that collapsed. This means it is highly unlikely that the excavator operator did strike the wall that collapsed.



Source: SEPTA Route 31 Bus

Instead, the wall failed because it was not properly supported, or braced, in compliance with OSHA regulations and demolition industry best practices.

- The video further substantiates that the failure to properly plan an engineered demolition was the responsibility – and the fault – of corporate owners and managers and not lower level functionaries who are being blamed by those who were in control from the outset of the project.
- The video supports the conclusion that this collapse was not caused by an alleged drug crazed operator who knocked down the wall that collapsed with a battering ram, but because of the actions and inactions of the owner, Salvation Army and City who knew about a looming disaster and didn't prevent it.

Robert J. Mongeluzzi, whose firm represents several victims of the disaster, said after viewing the video and attending the City Council special demolition process hearing yesterday said, “There needs to be a full and open disclosure of the events leading up to the building collapse including the testimony of the owners, Salvation Army representatives and City officials all of whom were on notice of a tragedy waiting to happen and did not stop it from occurring. Out of respect for the victims and their families, that cannot happen soon enough.”

The legal team working on the case for Saltz Mongeluzzi, the firm that acted as lead counsel in the Tropicana collapse, the Pier 34 collapse and the Kimmel Center collapse, also includes Larry Bendesky, Andrew R. Duffy and Jeffrey Goodman.