IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

FEDEX GROUND PACKAGE SYSTEMS, INC.)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	Case No. 3:22-cv-00656
v.)	
)	JURY DEMANDED
ROUTE CONSULTANT, INC.,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

ROUTE CONSULTANT INC.'S MOTION TO DISMISS

Defendant Route Consultant, Inc. ("Route Consultant") respectfully moves the court to dismiss the Complaint (Doc. No. 1) filed by FedEx Ground Package Systems, Inc. ("FedEx Ground") pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. Although the Complaint purports to state causes of action against Route Consultant for "false advertising" under the Lanham Act (15 U.S.C. § 1051, et seq.) and the Tennessee Consumer Protection Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 47-18-101, et seq. ("TCPA"), Route Consultant is not a competitor of FedEx Ground; nor does the Complaint allege that Route Consultant is making false statements about its own services or those of FedEx Ground.

Rather, the Complaint is directed at statements made by Spencer Patton. Mr. Patton owns Route Consultant and various other businesses, including four (4) contracted service providers ("CSPs"), who were parties to contracts for the delivery of FedEx Ground packages until FedEx Ground terminated such contracts one (1) day after the Complaint was filed. FedEx Ground's Complaint is directed at communications from Mr. Patton pleading with FedEx Ground to address the dire economic problems facing all CSPs (including his own) and advocating on their behalf for fairer treatment from FedEx Ground. This is not false advertising and the statements are not "purely commercial" in nature. The filing of the Complaint by FedEx Ground is a blatant effort to silence Mr. Patton and to punish him for speaking out. The Complaint fails to state a claim against Route Consultant and must be dismissed pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6).

In support of its motion, Route Consultant files its accompanying memorandum of law, and copies of the following documents referenced in FedEx Ground's complaint:¹

Exhibit A: July 20, 2022 Letter of Assurance from Mr. Patton;

A certified transcript of the 13-minute video titled "FedEx Ground: A Letter Exhibit B1: of Assurance";

A certified transcript of the 3-minute video titled "In brief: A Letter of Exhibit B2: Assurance" that describes the Letter of Assurance:

Exhibit B3: A certified transcript of the 50-minute video titled "Discussion of Letter of Assurance to FedEx Ground;"

A certified transcript of the 7-minute video entitled "A Follow-Up to our Exhibit B4: Conversations with FedEx Ground;"

Exhibit B5: A certified transcript of the August 10, 2022 video soliciting nominations for a 10-person trade association to promote the common interests of its members: and

A certified transcript of the August 24, 2022 video titled "2022 Expo Recap Exhibit B6: & Initial Address of FedEx Ground TSP Rate Announcement."

Exhibit C: Press Release dated July 20, 2022

Exhibit D: July 27, 2022 Letter from John Smith at FedEx Ground to all CSPs addressing the Letter of Assurance.

¹ These documents, referenced in the Complaint, may be considered properly by this Court without converting the motion into a motion for summary judgment. See Bassett v. NCAA, 528 F.3d 426, 430 (6th Cir. 2008) ("When a court is presented with a Rule 12(b)(6) motion, it may consider the Complaint and any exhibits attached thereto, public records, items appearing in the record of the case and exhibits attached to defendant's motion to dismiss so long as they are referred to in the Complaint and are central to the claims contained therein."); see also Alsbrook v. Concorde Career

Colleges, Inc., 469 F. Supp. 3d 805, 822-23 (W.D. Tenn. 2020) and Campbell v. Prometheus Lab'ys, Inc., No. 3:07-0558, 2008 WL 237723, at *1 (M.D. Tenn. Jan. 28, 2008).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Brian C. Neal_

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Attorneys for Defendant Route Consultant, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing was served upon the parties listed below via the Court's CM/ECF system on this 19th day of September, 2022:

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/s/ Brian C. Neal



Reader's Note: It is important that you review the accompanying video message prior to reading the letter. Please take a moment to watch the video first.

Disclaimer: Route Consultant is not endorsed by and is not recommended by Federal Express Corporation and FedEx Ground. Route Consultant is not sponsored by, is not approved by, is not associated with, and has no connection whatsoever with Federal Express Corporation or FedEx Ground.

Spencer Patton

Patton Logistics, Inc. | Route Consultant 5511 Virginia Way, Suite 400 Brentwood, TN 37027

July 20, 2022

Raj Subramaniam John Smith

FedEx Ground | FedEx Corporation 1000 FedEx Drive Moon Twp, PA 15108

Raj Subramaniam, John Smith, & FedEx Ground Leadership Team,

At the core of the relationship between FedEx Ground and its Contracted Service Providers (CSPs), there must be a win/win dynamic. For significant stretches of FedEx Ground's CSP-based model, that win/win dynamic has not only existed, but thrived. CSPs understand that FedEx Ground's first and highest obligation is to its shareholders: maximize profits, return capital.

Additionally, FedEx Ground has worked hard to construct a balance sheet that withstands substantial economic headwinds and rapid price changes. CSPs, by contrast, do not have the \$60 billion balance sheet that FedEx Ground boasts. As a result, when economic conditions change in 12 months faster than they have in 30 years, CSP's balance sheets simply cannot weather that storm.

CSPs take substantial capital risk when they purchase their delivery territories: working capital to operate the business, the debt and capital requirements for growth, and the leverage on their vehicle assets—all attached to a personal guarantee. CSPs are small business owners (usually with



10-25 employees) that simply do not have the financial resources to withstand historic price increases in three critical categories: fuel, wages, and trucks.

The purpose of this letter and statement is three-fold:

- 1. Establish a strong business case to FedEx Ground for an increase in compensation for CSPs via thoroughly documented analysis. This letter and appendix will prove that contractor costs have changed materially as a result of well-publicized global price increases, and those cost changes are worthy of immediate adjustments from FedEx Ground.
- 2. Establish a clear timeline for network-wide renegotiation. Prior letters of concern have called for open-ended discussions that ultimately made no progress towards a financial resolution.
- 3. Encourage FedEx Ground to make a courageous re-assessment of the viability of Sunday delivery. Sunday delivery has been both an incredible struggle and a financial disaster for all parties involved.

FedEx Ground, knowingly or unknowingly, has placed the financial viability of CSPs in their Ground network at enormous risk. Written from the desk of one of the largest contractors in the United States, believe me when I write that the situation is far more dire than the general public currently understands. Not a single day passes without my phone ringing with the story of yet another contractor who is financially collapsing under the weight of these dramatic cost changes that have gone unaddressed by FedEx Ground in 2022.

FedEx Ground has a precedent for addressing extraordinary circumstances. As recently as 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, FedEx Ground offered a flat, across-the-board 6-month compensation increase for its contractors in order to overcome the extraordinary conditions of that year. The changes experienced over the past 12 months, though, are magnitudes greater than what CSPs experienced in 2020. Yet, there has been no financial adjustment in any capacity.

An anonymous group of FedEx Ground contractors wrote two letters of concern in 2022. More than 1,000 contractors, representing more than 25,000 drivers, collectively signed those letters of concern. However, thousands of other contractors privately expressed unease in adding their signatures to the list, due to fear of retaliation against their contracts. Both of those letters of concern were met with little more than corporate speak: "FedEx is listening, FedEx invites



conversation." In reality, those conversations did not result in financial adjustments for the CSPs who desperately needed it.

The previous letters of concern lacked specific financial asks. The letters also lacked clear deadlines for financial adjustments. This letter strives to provide clarity and specificity.

There are two specific requests contained in this letter:

- 1. For the pickup and delivery network, a \$0.50 per stop pay increase on all Ground and e-commerce stops. This increase will apply on a go-forward basis to all current operating agreements. The rate increase will last for 12 months and will be re-evaluated in 2023 based on market conditions. As a highlight of how desperate the situation has become in the pickup and delivery space, FedEx Ground is issuing record amounts of contingency pay to stabilize the network's service levels. These contingency resources often make 2-5x the pay of the original CSP.
- 2. For the linehaul network, a \$0.20 per mile pay increase on all solo and team runs. Spot runs will receive a 10% increase in compensation. As a highlight of how desperate the situation has become in the linehaul space, FedEx Ground is now outsourcing upwards of 30% of their linehaul network to external purchased power rather than utilizing its CSP network. This external (non-CSP) purchased power receives substantial premiums over the rates paid to existing CSPs.

It is understood that these requests will take time to implement. Unfortunately, CSPs simply do not have the balance sheets to weather further delays. CSPs have absorbed immense pressure from the magnitude of these price shocks and do not have much financial runway left. The timeline for these negotiations will remain open until November 25, 2022.

This letter is also written to encourage FedEx Ground to make a bold reassessment of the viability of Sunday deliveries. FedEx Ground historically observed Sundays, as well as major holidays, such as Easter, the Fourth of July, and Thanksgiving, as times of rest for both their staff and CSPs. Now, CSPs are contractually required to deliver each Sunday and on each of those holidays.

The rapid introduction of Sunday deliveries on a nationwide scale created significant operational, technological, and financial strains for both FedEx Ground and its CSPs. By our estimates, Sunday deliveries are costing FedEx Ground upwards of \$500 million in earnings drag. That \$500 million figure is getting worse, not better. Likewise, Sunday deliveries erased more than one-third of CSP's profit margins in less than one year's time. In parallel fashion, that margin erosion is worsening, not improving.



Sundays wreak havoc on FedEx Ground's ability to accurately forecast the next day's volume: the technological infrastructure and package volume projection algorithms are woefully inept. FedEx Ground has been unable to solve these forecast errors for two years now. Without accurate forecasts, CSPs struggle to align their costs to match the actual packages that are made available for delivery each day.

The attached Appendix strives to thoroughly document the business case for why FedEx Ground must provide the outlined pay increases. The FedEx Ground network is in a significant state of unreported distress. For those seeking to verify the level of distress in the network, allow this letter to point out some places to start investigating.

The key metrics that reveal the trouble that exists directly below the surface are:

- 1. Declining service levels across the entire FedEx Ground network due to CSPs walking out on their delivery territories.
- 2. A close examination into the number of CSPs whose contracts are terminated and/or they walk out on their territories in comparison to historical trends. CSP default rates are soaring.
- 3. A close examination of the quantity of open, under-, or entirely unserved territories being posted daily on BuildAGroundBiz.com. This website reveals the true level of distress that exists in the network.

To all non-FedEx Ground readers of this letter: do your research and ask the hard questions that reveal the extent of this crisis.

In FedEx's most recent earnings report on June 23, 2022, their numbers showed a stunning 30% expansion of profit margins in the very same quarter that saw CSP profit margins drop to new lows. In fact, FedEx disclosed that it had expanded its profit margins through successful arbitrage of its fuel surcharges, pushed through to customers, versus what was paid to its CSPs. This is one example that demonstrates the dislocation of the win/win dynamic, originally intended for the CSP model.

As of October 1, 2022, FedEx Ground will begin fining a substantial percentage of its CSPs between 1-3% of their annual revenues as a required contribution towards FedEx Ground's insurance policies. This will be another burden upon contractors in a season where CSPs simply cannot handle any added pressure.



On August 20 and 21 more than half of all CSPs in the United States will gather at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas for the annual Route Consultant Contractor Expo + Party. At that event, the Route Consultant Purchasing Alliance will be announced, allowing CSPs an avenue for expense savings. CSPs fully understand that they must also participate in this season of belt-tightening. We are diligently working to lower costs, improve efficiency, and put in sweat assets. The financial changes that we need, though, must also include an addition to topline revenue from FedEx Ground.

Additionally at Contractor Expo, the Route Consultant Purchasing Alliance will announce the formation of a 10-person CSP Committee. This committee will be a unified voice to FedEx Ground, empowered with the collective authority to speak on behalf of thousands of CSPs across the United States. The committee's initial focus will be the ongoing negotiations with FedEx Ground for the changes that CSPs urgently need, within the timeframe of November 25, 2022.

In conclusion, both FedEx Corporate and FedEx Ground have new CEOs that are inheriting a tough situation: activist investors joining the board, analysts' frustration with a stagnant stock price, challenges with Capex, and CSPs that desperately need financial help.

As a message directly to John Smith and Raj Subramaniam, please accept my encouragement to use this opportunity to dramatically win over the hearts and minds of your CSPs. We have struggled mightily through this pandemic—working to deliver the Purple Promise as essential workers in spite of incredible challenges. If you will take a bold step to honor our requests for a recovery in compensation, you will cement a loyalty within your service-minded CSP base that will propel FedEx Ground's growth for many years to come. If, instead, you decide to make our burden heavier via not only a rejection of our revenue requests, but with the addition of a brand new 1-3% revenue penalty on your struggling CSPs, you will bring this entirely CSP-led network to its very knees.

Please review the attached Appendix in support of the price adjustments.

Respectfully submitted,

Spencer Patton, Contracted Service Provider Since 2013



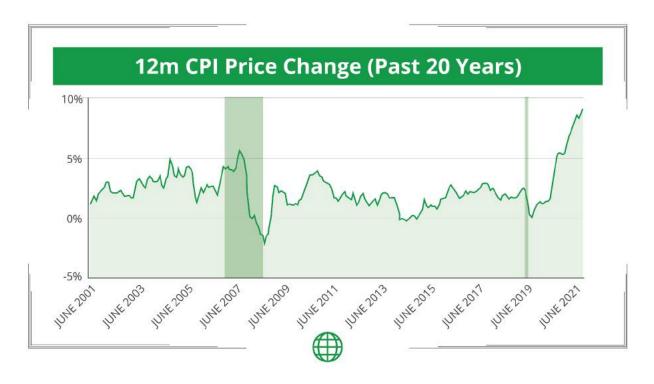
CSP Challenges in the Current Economic Environment

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A Perfect Storm for FedEx Contracted Service Providers (CSPs)

The global economy is experiencing its biggest macroeconomic shift in the last 40 years. The latest year-over-year inflation numbers came in at 9.1%, the highest since 1981. While wages, fuel, and generally higher costs impact all businesses, this is a perfect storm for FedEx Contracted Service Providers (CSPs).



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics



CSPs Have Three Main Cost Buckets:

- 1. Wages
- 2. Fuel
- 3. Vehicles (equipment/repair & maintenance)

Each of these expenses increased significantly over the last few years due to inflation. The table below shows the average costs for CSPs as percentages of Total Revenue in 2019 and 2022, comparatively.

Cost Type	2019 (% of Total Rev)	2022 (% of Total Rev)
Wages	55%	63%
Fuel	8-12%	16-22%
Equipment/Repair & Maintenance	8-12%	12-16%

Source: Internal Data Sets

July 20, 2022 Page 3 of 13



CSPs Cannot Influence Topline Revenue

Many businesses adjust to inflationary pressure by passing increased costs on to consumers—this maintains profit margins and a healthy, viable business. However, as wages, fuel, and vehicle costs rapidly increase, CSPs have no ability to directly impact their revenue, severely impacting profit margins.

The increasing costs are in no way related to inefficiencies in CSPs' operations: these are higher costs for the exact same product, which directly and negatively impact the bottom line.

→ Our goal in the below analysis is to highlight each of these three main cost areas for CSPs, illustrate how much these costs have risen since pre-pandemic years, and demonstrate the direct impact to margins via these increased costs.

Wages, fuel, and vehicle-related cost increases are not an exhaustive list of price increases absorbed by CSPs. It is important to note additional material items also increased in cost, including insurance and technology.

> July 20, 2022 Page 4 of 13



Labor + Recruiting Costs

The national unemployment rate is hovering near an all-time low of 3.6%. Low unemployment rates create a candidate-controlled labor market. Potential employees have many options on where to work. However, they are demanding higher wages for the same service.

Employee Type	2019 (Avg. Hourly)	2022 (Avg. Hourly)	
All US Private Employees	\$27.60	\$32.08 (16% increase)	
Transportation + Warehousing Employees	\$24.77	\$27.86 (14% increase)	

In 2022, the average hourly earnings of all US private employees is \$32.08, compared to \$27.60 in 2019, a 16% increase. Average hourly earnings for employees in the transportation and warehousing industries is currently \$27.86, compared to \$24.77 in 2019, a 14% increase.

Paying drivers more does not increase efficiency. Higher wages directly impact the bottom line; additionally, there are more employee-related costs in a tight labor market, such as benefits and bonuses needed to help retain talent.

> July 20, 2022 Page 5 of 13



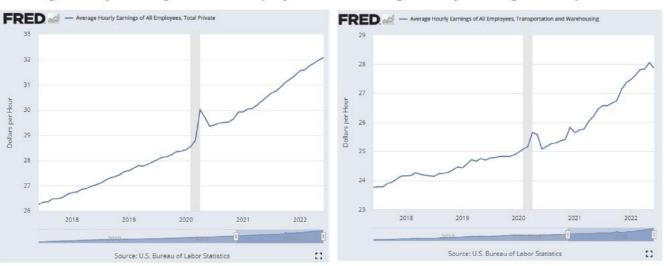
CSPs Compete with FedEx Ground for Employees

In 2021 FedEx Ground announced a plan to increase pay, award retention bonuses, present clear pathways for promotion, and offer full benefits to both part-time and full-time package handlers upon start date. While CSPs can benefit operationally from skilled package handlers, the announcement had a direct, negative impact on CSPs and their ability to recruit/retain drivers. CSPs cannot afford to compete with the robust benefits that FedEx Ground offers package handlers.

Since drivers and package handlers typically stem from the same demographic and applicant pool, CSPs lost current and potential drivers who opted to take a better paying package handler position.



Average Hourly Earnings: Transportation



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics



Added Cost: Full-time Recruiters

Given the increased turnover and difficulty of staffing, CSP recruitment costs increased as CSPs need to attract, retain, and replace employees consistently. Prior to 2022, businesses were able to fulfill staffing needs through Indeed or Craigslist advertisements, largely for free. However, as competition over employer visibility on Indeed and other lead generation platforms increased amidst labor shortages, so did the cost and effectiveness of advertising.

- CSPs' Cost Per Click (CPC) and Cost Per Apply (CPA) have increased by 2,000% (some contractors report 3,000% increases).
- Conversion rates are down 60-70%.

This means that pre-pandemic CSPs had a higher success rate converting leads to compliant drivers at an exponentially lower cost than in today's competitive market. Recruiting drivers in the current market is a full-time job. Many CSPs have added a full-time recruiter or a staffing service to their expenses; on average, a full-time staffing solution costs \$60,000 per year.

Other employers in the logistics space, including Amazon DSPs, can convert applicants to new hires in 2-3 days. Due to the FedEx-required FADV approval processing time, it takes 7-21 days for FedEx Ground driving candidates to be approved to drive for a CSP. Successful staffing requires constant FADV management and communication with candidates to keep them interested throughout an elongated approval process.

→ With labor costs at approximately 55% of Total Revenue, a 15% increase in wage costs decreases CSPs' profit margins by about 8.25%.

July 20, 2022 Page 7 of 13



Fuel Costs

The average national fuel price for both gas and diesel has hit all-time highs since tracking began in 1990.

Fuel Type	Year 2019 (Avg.)	June 2022 (Avg.)
Retail Gas	\$2.25	\$4.92 (a 119% increase)
Diesel	\$2.98	\$5.75 (a 93% increase)

In June 2022, the average retail gas price was \$4.92, compared to \$2.25 in 2019, a 119% increase. In June 2022, the average retail diesel price was \$5.75, compared to \$2.98 in 2019, a 93% increase.



Source: US Energy Information Administration



While CSPs recognize that FedEx Ground intends to mitigate the volatility of fuel prices with a variable fuel subsidy, this hedge only minimally shields CSPs from extreme rises in fuel costs.

With geopolitical tensions in Russia and Saudi Arabia, plus a persistent inflationary environment, we think higher oil prices may be the new normal for the years to come (and be a permanent drag on profit margins).

→ With fuel costs at approximately 12% of Total Revenue, a 100% increase in fuel costs decreases CSPs' profit margins by about 6%.

Note: given the fuel subsidy provided by FedEx Ground, our analysis cuts the profit margin impact by 50%



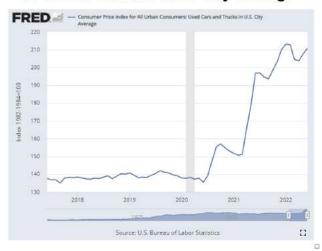
Equipment and Repair & Maintenance Costs

Truck shortages across the US have increased prices for purchasing new trucks, purchasing used trucks, and renting trucks. A dramatic increase in pandemic-related delivery volume required CSPs to add additional trucks to their fleet; even when volume is steady, CSPs must regularly refresh their fleet with new units.

New and used vehicle costs are heavily, negatively impacted by higher inflation. Nationally, prices for new vehicles increased 18%, and prices for used vehicles increased 50%.

CPI: New Vehicles in US City Average

CPI: Used Vehicles in US City Average



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Please see below for a comparison of truck prices from 2019 to 2022 for typical vehicles in a CSP fleet:

TRUCK TYPE	2019 COST	2022 COST	INCREASE
Ford Transit Dually Rear Wheel (gas)	\$38,720.00	\$63,145.00	63%
Ford Utilimaster P700 (gas)	\$47,300.00	\$67,900.00	44%
Ford Morgan Olson P1000 (gas)	\$53,620.00	\$76,500.00	43%
Ford Morgan Olson P1200 (gas)	\$55,120.00	\$78,000.00	42%
Average	\$48,690.00	\$71,386.25	48%

The average CSP runs a 10-truck fleet, and they typically need to replace two trucks per year (or 20% of the fleet). As the average truck price increased from \$48,690 to \$71,386, CSPs saw a marked impact on their cash flow.

→ Cash flow impact: two fleet vehicles per year at an increase of \$22,696 per vehicle is \$45,392 additional costs per year.

July 20, 2022 Page 11 of 13

Case 3:22-cy-00656 Document 17-1 Filed 09/19/22 Page 16 of 18 PageID #: 80



Maintenance Costs

In addition to the replacement costs, there are costs associated with maintaining an existing fleet.

- Tire costs alone have increased 16-24% for 19.5-inch and 16-inch tires.
- Based on our extensive access to CSP data, we observe a 9% increase in the average cost of repair & maintenance since pre-pandemic years.
- → With repair & maintenance costs at approximately 10% of Total Revenue, a 9% increase in repair & maintenance costs decreases CSPs' profit margins by about 1%.

July 20, 2022 Page 12 of 13



Conclusion + Summary

The average FedEx Ground business run by a CSP earns a 10% operating margin.

Comparing costs from pre-pandemic data sets, we see:

- → Wage pressures reduced profit by -8.25%
- → Fuel increases reduced profit by -6%
- → Repair & maintenance reduced profit by -1%

As a result, the average FedEx Ground business run by a CSP currently operates on profit margins below 0%.

Furthermore, this margin degradation does not include the impacts to cash flow, such as the increased costs of purchasing new trucks. With revenues relatively flat year-over-year, we hope this analysis provides a more accurate picture of the true increases in operational costs CSPs are facing this year.

For many CSPs, an enhanced FedEx Ground contract is the difference between profitable operations and financial ruin. A devastatingly cost-prohibitive structure for CSPs will ultimately lead to network-wide CSP default.

> Page 13 of 13 July 20, 2022

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1 MALE VOICEOVER: As civilian areas are 3 pummelled every day now by Russian missiles. FEMALE VOICEOVER 1: Tonight, 6 record-breaking prices at the pump nationwide. FEMALE VOICEOVER 2: If the world runs 7 low on food, who gets to eat, and who doesn't? 8 MALE VOICEOVER 2: 0.53 million workers 9 quit their jobs in November. 10 11 "Route Consultant is not endorsed by and 12 is not recommended by Federal Express Corporation and FedEx Ground. Route Consultant is not sponsored by, is 13 14 not approved by, is not associated with, and has no 15 connection whatsoever with Federal Express Corporation or FedEx Ground." 16 17 MR. PATTON: My name is Spencer Patton. 18 I'm one of the largest FedEx Ground contractors in the 19 United States and I'm based in Nashville, Tennessee. 2.0 The purpose of this video is to accompany 21 a corresponding document that states our requests of 22 FedEx Ground to adjust compensation across the board 23 given the unprecedented market circumstances that are impacting us. Contractors have issued two letters of 24 concern to FedEx Ground so far in 2022, and while FedEx 25 Page 2

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Ground has invited discussion, invited communication, and even invited efforts to renegotiate our contract, all of those have come to no financial difference at all. All of my renegotiation requests supported with strong facts and data have been outright denied. Many contractors share my exact same story.

Before getting to those pieces, let me establish a baseline for why this video is necessary. Contractors in general are suffering to a degree that is largely unseen by the general public, and to some degree FedEx Ground themselves. Our fuel costs have doubled in less than a year. Our wage costs have soared dramatically as documented in our paperwork, as well as widely published in the media. And our truck costs and the lack of availability in trucks have dramatically spiked our cost in this important cost segment for us. All of these elements mandate that we receive financial compensation from FedEx Ground to adjust contracts that were just not engineered for the world in which we are living.

FedEx Ground actually has precedent for doing this back in 2020. When COVID happened, FedEx Ground released an across-the-network compensation increase that lasted for approximately six months. That increase was vital to our ability to be able to serve as

Page 3

2.2

essential workers and keep this economy running.

Mere in 2022, the conditions are magnitudes worse than what justified that intervention from FedEx Ground in the middle of 2020. The contractor network, specifically the FedEx Ground network, is in far more peril than what anyone realizes. If Wall Street analysts, if FedEx corporate, and FedEx Ground understood the degree to which the network is in danger, there would be widespread panic.

As the largest contractor in the United States, I have no history of crying wolf. Hear me when I tell you that there is not a day that goes by that I do not hear from my fellow contractors that are seeking a financial path out of certain bankruptcy. The contractors need help. We have served as essential workers and have overcome unprecedented challenges to arrive in this moment. And now, in our moment of need, we need FedEx Ground to respond to us.

The prior letters of concern lacked two things that this video and the corresponding letter will seek to fix. First, the letters lacked a specific financial ask. We're going to fix that here in this video and the letter. Secondly, it lacked a specific timeline for resolution. We're also going to provide a timeline in our corresponding communication.

Page 4

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The first ask that contractors have of FedEx Ground relates to the pickup and delivery last mile component. The request is to see a 50 cent per stop increase that will apply across all agreements, and that application will be towards both Ground and e-commerce deliveries.

Second, for line haul, the request is for a 20 cent per mile increase that will affect both solo and team runs. Both of these increases will have a 12-month duration, at which time there will be a reassessment, because the economy could change again. We could be going into the teeth of a recession, we could be just beginning our inflationary journey. That 12 months will allow us a time to reassess and recalibrate the contractual dynamics that we will only know once we arrive in 2023. But what I do know now is that contractors are in enormous financial distress, the likes of which has never been more severe.

One other piece missing from the letters of concern was a clear timeline. The timeline for our negotiations here will extend through November 25th of 2022. The reality is, contractors are running out of the financial resources to be able to continue to operate this network. Contractors do not boast the same 60 billion dollar balance sheet that FedEx Ground has. We

Page 5

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know from FedEx Ground's recent earnings release that
we've seen FedEx Ground's margins increase by about 30
percent in the last quarter, at the same time that Ground
contractors saw their margins plumb to new lows.

Highlighted in that earnings release was the fact that FedEx Ground had pushed through fuel surcharges to its customers, but had benefitted from the arbitrage of not passing through that same fuel surcharge back to its contractors, the ones actually consuming the fuel.

We have to rely upon FedEx Ground recognizing in a timely fashion that additional financial compensation is warranted given 9.1 percent CPI that came out a couple days ago and all of the well-documented cost changes that are accompanied in the letter with this video.

In 30 days from this video, more than 50 percent of all contractors in the United States will be gathering in Las Vegas. We are taking over the entire Paris Hotel, some 3,300 rooms, and we will be discussing two main things. The first thing is we have groundbreaking announcements to make concerning deals that have been struck with multibillion dollar businesses. These businesses have offered incredible price adjustments for contractors due to our collective

Page 6

2.2

purchasing power that is going to allow contractors to acquire goods and services that we use every single day at prices that are unheard of. That's part of what our commitment is to FedEx Ground is that we recognize that we have to tighten our own belts. We have to be smart about our expenses, we have to be smart about our efficiency, and we are making every effort to do our part and then some.

The second half of the Expo is going to feature the formation of a committee. Not a union, but a committee. This committee will feature ten contractors that are elected to speak for the broad thousands of contractors that don't have an ability to speak for themselves in a way that FedEx Ground can properly absorb. This committee of ten contractors is going to help outline and continue to reaffirm what most every contractor in the country is experiencing now, that we need financial help.

To Raj Subramaniam, please hear me in knowing that you are a new CEO in the position, but very much not new to FedEx Ground. You have an opportunity here for contractors to win over the hearts and minds of some 6,000 small business owners across the United States.

The yoke has been quite heavy on us over

Page 7

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the last couple years as we have strived as essential workers to overcome all obstacles. Please take this moment where we provide in a business case to show you that our costs have changed dramatically. We need FedEx Ground to meet us in this moment of need, and if you take that step to lighten the burden off of our shoulders here and provide the financial viability of these businesses back to us, you will win a dedicated workforce that will serve you for your entire tenure as CEO. Please take this opportunity to exercise that leadership in a moment of sincerely expressed and validated needs.

watching this video, let me give a message to you too. I recognize that for the thousand of you that have signed prior letters of certain, there were thousands more willing to sign but feared retaliation from FedEx Ground towards your agreement. Let me be the first to say that I don't make this video without some level of fear myself. As the largest contractor in the United States I know that I am putting myself out there in a way that I hope shows my commitment, not only to contractors, but also to FedEx Ground. It is not kind or smart for me to stay silent while I see a enormous threat on the immediate horizon for the FedEx Ground network as a whole.

Page 8

Please detect in the sincerity of my tone and the authenticity in my entire history as a contractor to FedEx Ground that I have no intention of wanting a war here. Please know that I recognize I'm taking an enormous risk. There are contractors that won't speak up out of the fear of them losing their operating agreement with FedEx Ground. But what I also know is that my integrity and that I have brought thousands of people into this space as an investment, they're depending upon the cash flow of these businesses and ensuring that this is a viable investment going forward.

FedEx Ground's network has no future without the financial viability of its contractors.

Indeed, FedEx Ground's network is only as healthy as the financial health of its contractors. And hear it from me clearly, someone with more access to data than anyone else outside of FedEx Ground, there has never been a moment of more financial distress than this time here. I have made no habit of crying wolf, and I am not crying wolf here.

In conclusion, know that my desired outcome here is not to unionize. It is instead to unify both FedEx Ground back with their contractors. This FedEx model has always been engineered to be a win/win dynamic. And it's natural that sometimes the pendulum is

Page 9

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going to swing from one side to the other for who has the upper hand. But hear me when I tell you that pendulum is at an extreme that cannot sustain. Contractors need to see FedEx Ground meet us here with financial relief given the environment that we are in. We will document that to you and stand true to our word and invite that discussion through November 25th of 2022. Please meet us in that way and find a path forward here together. Page 10

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1	CERTIFICATE
2	STATE OF MICHIGAN
3	COUNTY OF MACOMB
4	
5	I, Andrea Filar, C.S.R. and Notary Public
6	in and for the County of Macomb, State of Michigan, do
7	hereby certify that the attached is a true, correct, and
8	complete transcript of my stenographic notes taken at the
9	time and place hereinbefore stated and they were
10	transcribed upon a computer under my direct supervision.
11	The undersigned assumes no responsibility for copies not
12	made under my direction or control. September 19, 2022
13	
14	
15	Andrea-filar Scheer
16	Charles posts / 10. sec
	Andrea Filar, CSR - 8349
17	Notary Public, Macomb County
	My Commission Expires: 10-01-2028
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	Page 11

[0.53 - contractors]

0	access 9:16	balance 5:25	collective 6:25
0.53 2:9	accompanied	bankruptcy 4:14	come 3:3
	6:15	based 2:19	commerce 5:5
1	accompany 2:20	baseline 3:8	commission
1 2:5	acquire 7:2	beginning 5:13	11:17
10-01-2028	additional 6:12	belts 7:5	commitment 7:4
11:17	adjust 2:22 3:18	benefitted 6:7	8:21
12 5:10,13	adjustments	billion 5:25	committee 7:10
19 11:12	6:25	board 2:22	7:11,11,15
2	affect 5:8	boast 5:24	communication
2 2:7,9	ago 6:14	breaking 2:6	3:1 4:25
20 5:8	agreement 8:17	broad 7:12	compensation
2020 3:22 4:4	9:6	brought 9:8	2:22 3:18,23
2022 2:25 4:2	agreements 5:4	burden 8:6	6:13
5:22 10:7 11:12	allow 5:14 7:1	business 7:23	complete 11:8
2023 5:16	analysts 4:7	8:3	component 5:3
25th 5:21 10:7	andrea 1:9 11:5	businesses 6:24	computer 11:10
26748 11:16	11:16	6:24 8:7 9:10	concern 2:25
3	announcements	c	4:19 5:20
3,300 6:20	6:22	c.s.r. 11:5	concerning 6:22
30 6:2,17	application 5:5	case 8:3	conclusion 9:21
5	apply 5:4	cash 9:10	conditions 4:2
	approved 2:14	cent 5:3,8	connection 2:15
50 5:3 6:17	approximately	ceo 7:20 8:9	consultant 2:11
6	3:24	certain 4:14 8:15	2:13
6,000 7:23	arbitrage 6:8	certificate 11:1	consuming 6:9
60 5:24	areas 2:3	certify 11:7	continue 5:23
8	arrive 4:17 5:16	challenges 4:16	7:16
8349 1:9 11:16	associated 2:14	change 5:11	contract 3:2
	assumes 11:11	changed 8:4	contractor 4:4
9	assurance 1:5	changes 6:15	4:10 7:17 8:19
9.1 6:13	attached 11:7	circumstances	9:2 contractors 2:18
a	authenticity 9:2 availability 3:15	2:23	2:24 3:5,9 4:13
ability 3:25 7:13		civilian 2:3	4:15 5:1,17,22
able 3:25 5:23	b	clear 5:20	5:24 6:4,9,18,25
absorb 7:15	back 3:22 6:9	clearly 9:16	7:1,11,13,15,22
	8:8 9:23		8:12,21 9:5,13
			0.12,21 7.3,13

[contractors - ground]

0.15 22 10.2	desired 9:21	onormous 5:17	0.14 17 22 24
9:15,23 10:3 contracts 3:18	detect 9:1	enormous 5:17	9:14,17,23,24 10:4
		8:23 9:5	- '
contractual 5:15	difference 3:3	ensuring 9:10	fellow 4:13 8:12
control 11:12	direct 11:10	entire 6:19 8:9	female 2:5,7
copies 11:11	direction 11:12	9:2	filar 1:9 11:5,16
corporate 4:7	discussing 6:20	environment	financial 3:3,17
corporation 2:12	discussion 3:1	10:5	4:14,22 5:17,23
2:15	10:6	essential 4:1,15	6:12 7:18 8:7
correct 11:7	distress 5:17	8:1	9:13,15,18 10:4
corresponding	9:18	establish 3:8	find 10:8
2:21 4:20,25	document 2:21	exact 3:6	first 4:21 5:1
cost 3:16,16 6:14	10:5	exercise 8:10	6:21 8:17
costs 3:11,12,14	documented	expenses 7:6	fix 4:21,22
8:4	3:13 6:14	experiencing	flow 9:10
country 7:17	doing 3:22	7:17	food 2:8
county 11:3,6,17	dollar 5:25 6:23	expires 11:17	formation 7:10
couple 6:14 8:1	doubled 3:11	expo 7:9	forward 9:11
covid 3:22	dramatically	express 2:12,15	10:8
cpi 6:13	3:13,15 8:4	expressed 8:11	fuel 3:11 6:6,8
crying 4:11 9:19	due 6:25	extend 5:21	6:10
9:19	duration 5:10	extreme 10:3	future 9:12
csr 1:9 11:16	dynamic 9:25	f	g
customers 6:7	dynamics 5:15	fact 6:6	gathering 6:19
d	e	facts 3:4	general 3:9,10
danger 4:8	e 5:5	far 2:25 4:5	getting 3:7
data 3:5 9:16	earnings 6:1,5	fashion 6:12	give 8:13
day 2:4 4:12 7:2	eat 2:8	fear 8:18 9:6	given 2:23 6:13
days 6:14,17	economy 4:1	feared 8:16	10:4
deals 6:22	5:11	feature 7:10,11	goes 4:12
dedicated 8:8	efficiency 7:7	federal 2:12,15	going 4:22,24
degree 3:9,10	effort 7:7	fedex 1:5 2:13,16	5:12 7:1,9,15
4:8	efforts 3:2	2:18,22,25,25	9:11 10:1
deliveries 5:6	elected 7:12	3:11,18,21,22	goods 7:2
delivery 5:2	elements 3:17	4:4,5,7,7,18 5:2	ground 1:5 2:13
denied 3:5	endorsed 2:11	5:25 6:1,2,6,11	2:16,18,22,25
depending 9:9	engineered 3:19	7:4,14,21 8:4,16	3:1,11,18,21,23
1 8	9:24	8:22,24 9:3,7,12	4:4,5,7,18 5:2,5

[ground - owners]

5:25 6:3,6,11	incredible 6:24	level 8:18	n
7:4,14,21 8:5,16	inflationary	lighten 8:6	name 2:17
8:22,24 9:3,7,17	5:13	likes 5:17	nashville 2:19
9:23 10:4	integrity 9:8	line 5:7	nationwide 2:6
ground's 6:1,2	intention 9:3	living 3:20	natural 9:25
9:12,14	intervention 4:3	losing 9:6	
groundbreaking	investment 9:9	low 2:8	necessary 3:8
6:22	9:11	lows 6:4	need 4:15,17,18 7:18 8:4,5 10:3
h	invite 10:6	m	needs 8:11
habit 9:19	invited 3:1,1,2	macomb 11:3,6	negotiations
half 7:9	issued 2:24	11:17	5:21
hand 10:2	j	magnitudes 4:3	network 3:23
happened 3:22	jobs 2:10	main 6:21	4:5,5,8 5:24
haul 5:7	journey 5:13	making 7:7	8:24 9:12,14
health 9:15	justified 4:3	male 2:3,9	never 5:18 9:17
healthy 9:14	k	mandate 3:17	new 6:4 7:20,21
hear 4:11,13		margins 6:2,4	notary 11:5,17
7:19 9:15 10:2	keep 4:1 kind 8:22	market 2:23	notes 11:8
hearts 7:22	know 5:15,16	media 3:14	november 2:10
heavy 7:25	6:1 8:20 9:4,7	meet 8:5 10:4,7	5:21 10:7
help 4:15 7:16	9:21	message 8:13	0
7:18	knowing 7:20	michigan 11:2,6	obstacles 8:2
hereinbefore	Kilowing 7.20	middle 4:4	offered 6:24
11:9	l	mile 5:2,8	once 5:15
highlighted 6:5	lack 3:15	million 2:9	ones 6:9
history 4:11 9:2	lacked 4:19,21	minds 7:22	operate 5:23
hope 8:21	4:23	missiles 2:4	operating 9:6
horizon 8:24	largely 3:10	missing 5:19	opportunity
hotel 6:20	largest 2:18 4:10	model 9:24	7:21 8:10
i	8:19	moment 4:17,17	outcome 9:22
immediate 8:24	las 6:19	8:3,5,10 9:18	outline 7:16
impacting 2:24	lasted 3:24	month 5:10	outright 3:5
important 3:16	leadership 8:10	months 3:24	outside 9:17
increase 3:24,25	length 1:8	5:13	overcome 4:16
5:4,8 6:2	letter 1:5 4:20,23	multibillion 6:23	8:2
increases 5:9	6:15		owners 7:23
	letters 2:24 4:19		
	4:21 5:19 8:15		

[panic - surcharge]

р	pushed 6:6	respond 4:18	single 7:2
panic 4:9	putting 8:20	responsibility	six 3:24
pane 4.7 paperwork 3:13	q	11:11	small 7:23
paris 6:20	_	retaliation 8:16	smart 7:5,6 8:22
part 7:3,7	quarter 6:3	risk 9:5	soared 3:12
_	quit 2:10	rooms 6:20	solo 5:8
passing 6:8	quite 7:25	route 2:11,13	space 9:9
path 4:14 10:8	r	running 4:1 5:22	speak 7:12,13
patton 2:17,17	raj 7:19	runs 2:7 5:9	9:5
pendulum 9:25	reaffirm 7:16	russian 2:4	specific 4:21,23
10:2	reality 5:22	S	specifically 4:5
people 9:8	realizes 4:6		spencer 2:17
percent 6:3,13	reassess 5:14	saw 6:4	spiked 3:16
6:18	reassessment	second 5:7 7:9	sponsored 2:13
peril 4:6	5:11	secondly 4:23	stand 10:6
pickup 5:2	recalibrate 5:14	see 5:3 8:23 10:4	state 11:2,6
piece 5:19	receive 3:17	seek 4:21	stated 11:9
pieces 3:7	recession 5:12	seeking 4:13	states 2:19,21
place 11:9	recognize 7:4	seen 6:2	4:11 6:18 7:24
please 7:19 8:2,9	8:14 9:4	segment 3:16	8:19
9:1,4 10:7	recognizing 6:12	september 11:12	stay 8:23
plumb 6:4	recommended	serve 3:25 8:9	stenographic
position 7:20	2:12	served 4:15	11:8
power 7:1	record 2:6	services 7:2	
precedent 3:21	relates 5:2	severe 5:18	step 8:6
price 6:25	release 6:1,5	share 3:6	stop 5:3
prices 2:6 7:3	released 3:23	sheet 5:25	story 3:6
prior 4:19 8:15	relief 10:4	shoulders 8:6	street 4:6
properly 7:14	rely 6:11	show 8:3	strived 8:1
provide 4:24 8:3	renegotiate 3:2	shows 8:21	strong 3:4
8:7	renegotiation	side 10:1	struck 6:23
public 3:10 11:5	3:4	sign 8:16	subramaniam
11:17		signature 11:16	7:19
published 3:14	request 5:3,7	signed 8:14	suffering 3:9
pummelled 2:4	requests 2:21	silent 8:23	supervision
pump 2:6	3:4	sincerely 8:11	11:10
purchasing 7:1	resolution 4:24	sincerity 9:1	supported 3:4
purpose 2:20	resources 5:23		surcharge 6:8

[surcharges - yoke]

surcharges 6:7		whatsoever 2:15
surcharges 6.7 sustain 10:3	u	widely 3:14
swing 10:1	undersigned	widespread 4:9
	11:11	willing 8:16
t	understood 4:7	wining 8.16 win 7:22 8:8
take 8:2,5,9	unheard 7:3	
taken 11:8	unify 9:22	9:24,24 wolf 4:11 9:19
team 5:9	union 7:10	
teeth 5:12	unionize 9:22	9:20 word 10:6
tell 4:12 10:2	united 2:19 4:10	
ten 7:11,15	6:18 7:23 8:19	workers 2:9 4:1
tennessee 2:19	unprecedented	4:16 8:2
tenure 8:9	2:23 4:16	workforce 8:8
thing 6:21	unseen 3:10	world 2:7 3:19
things 4:20 6:21	upper 10:2	worse 4:3
thousand 8:14	use 7:2	y
thousands 7:12	V	year 3:12
8:15 9:8	validated 8:11	years 8:1
threat 8:23	vanuateu 8.11 vegas 6:19	yoke 7:25
tighten 7:5	viability 8:7 9:13	
time 5:10,14 6:3	viable 9:11	
9:18 11:9	video 2:20 3:8	
timeline 4:24,25	4:20,23 6:16,17	
5:20,20	8:13,18	
timely 6:12	vital 3:25	
tone 9:1	voiceover 2:3,5,7	
tonight 2:5	2:9	
transcribed 1:9		
11:10	W	
transcript 11:8	wage 3:12	
truck 3:14	wall 4:6	
trucks 3:15	wanting 9:3	
true 10:6 11:7	war 9:3	
two 2:24 4:19	warranted 6:13	
6:21	watching 8:13	
	way 7:14 8:20	
	10:8	
	we've 6:2	

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5	In Brief a Letter of Assurance
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8	Length - 3:27
9	Transcribed by Andrea Filar - CSR-8349
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MR. PATTON: The contractor network, specifically the FedEx Ground network, is in far more peril than what anyone realizes. If Wall Street analysts, if FedEx corporate, and FedEx Ground understood the degree to which the network is in danger, there would be widespread panic.

As the largest contractor in the United States, I have no history of crying wolf. Hear me when I tell you that there is not a day that goes by that I do not hear from my fellow contractors that are seeking a financial path out of certain bankruptcy.

The contractors need help. We have served as essential workers and have overcome unprecedented challenges to arrive in this moment. And now, in our moment of need, we need FedEx Ground to respond to us.

Contractors in general are suffering to a

Page 2

degree that is largely unseen by the general public, and to some degree FedEx Ground themselves. Our fuel costs have doubled in less than a year. Our wage costs have soared dramatically, as documented in our paperwork, as well as widely published in the media. And our truck costs and the lack of availability in trucks, have dramatically spiked our cost in this important cost segment for us. All of these elements mandate that we receive financial compensation from FedEx Ground to adjust contracts that were just not engineered for the world in which we are living.

The timeline for our negotiations here will extend through November 25th of 2022. The reality is, contractors are running out of the financial resources to be able to continue to operate this network. Contractors do not boast the same 60 billion dollar balance sheet that FedEx Ground has. We know from FedEx Ground's recent earnings release that we've seen FedEx Ground's margins increase by about 30 percent in the last quarter, at the same time that Ground contractors saw their margins plumb to new lows.

This FedEx model has always been engineered to be a win/win dynamic, and it's natural that sometimes the pendulum is going to swing from one side to the other for who has the upper hand. But hear me when I

Page 3

tell you that pendulum is at an extreme that cannot sustain. Contractors need to see FedEx Ground meet us here with financial relief given the environment that we are in. Page 4

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3	COUNTY OF MACOMB
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[10-01-2028 - moment]

_		J 4 5 10	
1	c	direct 5:10	ground 2:5,8,10
10-01-2028 5:17	c.s.r. 5:5	direction 5:12	2:12,23 3:2,9,17
19 5:12	certain 2:19	documented 3:4	3:20 4:2
2	certificate 5:1	dollar 3:16	ground's 3:18,19
2022 3:13 5:12	certify 5:7	doubled 3:3	h
25th 3:13	challenges 2:22	dramatically 3:4	hand 3:25
26748 5:16	commission 5:17	3:7	hear 2:16,18
	compensation	dynamic 3:23	3:25
3	3:9	e	help 2:20
30 3:19	complete 5:8	earnings 3:18	hereinbefore 5:9
6	computer 5:10	elements 3:8	history 2:16
60 3:16	connection 2:7	endorsed 2:3	i
8	consultant 2:3,5	engineered 3:10	important 3:7
8349 1:9 5:16	continue 3:15	3:23	increase 3:19
	contractor 2:9	environment 4:3	k
a	2:15	essential 2:21	
able 3:15	contractors 2:18	expires 5:17	know 3:17
adjust 3:10	2:20,25 3:14,16	express 2:4,7	l
analysts 2:12	3:20 4:2	extend 3:13	lack 3:6
andrea 1:9 5:5	contracts 3:10	extreme 4:1	largely 3:1
5:16	control 5:12	f	largest 2:15
approved 2:6	copies 5:11	far 2:10	length 1:8
arrive 2:22	corporate 2:12	federal 2:4,7	letter 1:5
associated 2:6	corporation 2:4	fedex 2:5,8,10,12	living 3:11
assumes 5:11	2:7	2:12,23 3:2,9,17	lows 3:21
assurance 1:5	correct 5:7	3:17,18,22 4:2	m
attached 5:7	cost 3:7,7	fellow 2:18	macomb 5:3,6
availability 3:6	costs 3:2,3,6	filar 1:9 5:5,16	5:17
b	county 5:3,6,17	financial 2:19	mandate 3:8
balance 3:17	crying 2:16	3:9,14 4:3	margins 3:19,21
bankruptcy 2:19	csr 1:9 5:16	fuel 3:2	media 3:5
billion 3:16	d	g	meet 4:2
boast 3:16	danger 2:13	general 2:25 3:1	michigan 5:2,6
brief 1:5	day 2:17	given 4:3	model 3:22
	degree 2:13 3:1	goes 2:17	moment 2:22,23
	3:2	going 3:24	
		501115 3.27	

[natural - year]

n natural 3:23	release 3:18 relief 4:3	timeline 3:12 transcribed 1:9 5:10
need 2:20,23,23 4:2 negotiations 3:12 network 2:9,10 2:13 3:15	resources 3:15 respond 2:24 responsibility 5:11 route 2:3,5 running 3:14	transcript 5:8 truck 3:5 trucks 3:6 true 5:7
new 3:21 notary 5:5,17 notes 5:8 november 3:13	saw 3:20 see 4:2 seeking 2:18	undersigned 5:11 understood 2:12 united 2:15
operate 3:15 overcome 2:21 p	seen 3:18 segment 3:8 september 5:12 served 2:21 sheet 3:17	unprecedented 2:22 unseen 3:1 upper 3:25
panic 2:14 paperwork 3:4 path 2:19 patton 2:9	side 3:24 signature 5:16 soared 3:4 specifically 2:10	wage 3:3 wall 2:11 we've 3:18 whatsoever 2:7
pendulum 3:24 4:1 percent 3:19 peril 2:11 place 5:9	spiked 3:7 sponsored 2:5 state 5:2,6 stated 5:9 states 2:16	widely 3:5 widespread 2:14 win 3:23,23 wolf 2:16
plumb 3:21 public 3:1 5:5,17 published 3:5	states 2.10 stenographic 5:8 street 2:11 suffering 2:25 supervision 5:10	workers 2:21 world 3:11 y year 3:3
reality 3:13 realizes 2:11 receive 3:9 recommended	sustain 4:2 swing 3:24 t taken 5:8 tell 2:17 4:1 time 3:20 5:9	
2:4		

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5	Discussion of the Letter of Assurance to FedEx Ground
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8	July 20, 2022
9	Length - 50:32
10	Transcribed by Andrea Filar, CSR-8349
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MR. PATTON: Welcome everybody to today's Wednesday webinar. Certainly an interesting webinar today. We are all throughout the media today. If you have not seen the press releases that have come out from our organization, we have a lot to talk about today.

just stumbling into this webinar randomly, you have no idea what you signed up for. This is not like a regular webinar. We don't drill boring information into your head here. We teach you, we teach you about FedEx Ground contracting, we teach you about contracting with Amazon. We try to help you and meet you where you're at. If you are a prospective investor that is trying to figure out if this is a good place to make an investment, if you're a current contractor trying to figure out how to make your business more profitable and use the best practices, we have something here for you today. We try to have something here for you each and every Wednesday that we do this webinar.

My name is Spencer Patton. I'm based in Nashville, Tennessee, and I'm one of the largest contractors to FedEx Ground in the United States. I have some 225 employees and 275 trucks on the road across 10

Page 2

different states. All that means is that I have found ways to screw things up and mess them up over the years and I teach out of the ways that I have made mistakes so that way you hopefully don't have to make those same mistakes.

So we are going to have some fun today,

I'm going to make you laugh today some. We're going to

have a couple dad jokes that are going to make you groan,

and that's just part of what we do here in this webinar.

You can count on it each week.

I got to do the only boring thing especially today to read is the disclaimer, so let me knock that out and then we'll get into today's content. Route Consultant is not endorsed by and is not recommended by Federal Express Corporation and FedEx Ground. Route Consultant is not sponsored by, is not approved by, is not associated with, and has no connection whatsoever with Federal Express Corporation or FedEx Ground.

All that means is that I am not an employee of FedEx Ground. When I speak to you here today, I'm speaking on behalf of myself, not of FedEx corporate. There are some 6,000 FedEx Ground contractors that I am privileged to speak on behalf of many of them, as they have given me a platform to be able to help teach

Page 3

and run events all across the country that, in just 30 days from today, we're going to have our annual Expo and have more than half of all the contractors in the United States come together under one roof in Las Vegas, Nevada. We're taking over the entire Paris Hotel, some 3,300 rooms. So it is an exciting time and we are in full mode of getting ready for that event and it's going to be a big one.

The information I share with you today will not be materially non-public information that you can trade FedEx's stock price upon, but hopefully it will be materially helpful information for you as you're trying to figure out what this investment is all about, or for my current contractors that are here, how to make your business more profitable.

So let's get to the news of the day. So the news of the day, we released a press release today that featured a video and a letter. And the video and letter in combination called for some financial changes to come to the relationship between contractors and FedEx Ground. We have had two prior letters this year in 2022 that came from other contractors. We did not write those two prior letters, they were called letters of concern. And they basically articulated different challenges that were going on in the industry that we all kind of can

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guess, based upon the changing cost dynamics that we've seen so far this year. We've seen fuel prices double, we've seen wage prices go way up, we've seen vehicle costs go way up, and the availability of trucks go way down. All of those things are complexities in our space that make our margins tougher. So the need has been one that has gotten more significant as the year has progressed, and that's something that we speak to in our video and our letter.

We're asking for two main things in this public address is we're asking for a 50 cent per stop increase for Ground and e-commerce package, or not packages, but stops. So 50 cents for Ground and e-commerce deliveries, the stops that we make. And for line haul we're asking for a 20 cent per mile increase for the compensation in the line haul world. So we've assigned a timeline to this, we've given November 25th as 20, of 2022 to be able to have these discussions and negotiations with FedEx Ground. It is something that I clearly express on the video that the Ground network needs this support.

And interestingly, FedEx Ground has precedent for doing this in the past. Just in the middle of 2020, about two years ago, we saw FedEx Ground do a mid-contract adjustment where they elevated everyone's

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compensation for a period of six months. And that was because the conditions during COVID were extraordinary. We were dealing with all of these new costs and absenteeism and all of these dynamics that were in play. And when you compare what was going on in 2020 to what's going on now, you actually see a magnitude more of disruption to the business. We're seeing, like I said, fuel prices that have doubled. I can plot you a very compelling chart that will show you fuel prices a year ago and fuel prices now, and you're going to see it go from the lower left of that chart to the upper right. And that means that we have more cost in our business that, ultimately, we need to see compensation for.

So the video and letter importantly

emphasize that this is not a declaration of war against FedEx Ground. FedEx Ground has my immense gratitude and appreciation for the opportunities that they have provided some 6,000 FedEx Ground contractors across the United States. This model has been around for 30 plus years, so this is not like FedEx Ground is new to this, nor are contractors new to this. There have been times where the pendulum has swung between both parties, and here we are seeing that dynamic in play where the contractors need to see the pendulum from a financial compensation perspective swing back their way.

Page 6

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So if you're interested in watching the video or reading the letter, I'm sure we'll link to that here in the chat so that way you can go and hear that in its entirety. But the key message that I want you to take away from it is I have a tremendous vested interest here, I'm one of the largest contractors in the United States. There is no one that wants to see routes do better than I, but I also serve and work to steward the small businesses, some 6,000 contractors that have given me this platform, and so I take enormously seriously that I have the lives, business-wise, financial, of a lot of people across the United States at stake here, and I want to make sure that we do a great job representing them and advocating for their interest in a time where we can support it from a business case and a data perspective, all right. So that's the context for the news of the day. For those of you that are new here, we do

every single event, whether it's in-person or Zoom like this, with open Q&A. It's one of the highlight features that we do, but we also add a little twist to it. We don't just do a dry Q&A where you just get in Zoom and ask questions. We have a little fun with it, you know we're going to. So we do a question of the day in every Q&A that we do. I like to learn a little bit about you,

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you can learn a little bit about me, so here's how it works. At the bottom of your screen there's a Q&A button. Not the chat button, but the Q&A button. You can populate questions there and Annalee and I are going to answer questions for about half an hour today that can cover what the news of the day is, but it can cover anything else too, because all of you all are in different steps in your FedEx journey and trying to figure out what this space is about or for current contractors trying to figure out how to make your business more profitable.

each week, but the question of the day that you have to answer is I want to know what is that favorite T-shirt that is in your closet, you've been holding onto it way too long, all right, but that shirt, we know, it's not going anywhere. So I've got my favorite T-shirt in my closet, Annalee has one too, I want to hear what it is. Tell us what it is, give us a little story behind it, and then we're going to answer your questions. If you answer that question of the day for us, you're much more likely to get chosen out of the list of questions that we have submitted. So have a little fun with us, we'll have a little fun with you, okay.

Let me welcome Annalee. Annalee is the

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CEO of Route Consultant and helps run everything that you see here. Annalee is going to go over some of our new inventory that we have coming to market. Each week we cover the new listings that are coming for review, so Annalee will cover that and answer our question of the day. So Annalee, take it away.

ANNALEE: All right, so I'll kind of rapid fire through these. There is, we had ten new listings on the P&D side this week. So two part carve in North Chicago, Illinois. Six P&D routes and then a ten P&D route slice respectively listed at 368 and 460 in purchase price. Both operations come with spare vehicles, both price, both price really well in like around a 50 percent of revenue range. Great tenured contractor with great transition support for that one as well.

In Quincy, Illinois I've got five P&D routes listed at 500 thousand. Low mileage territory, really nice high-value fleet on that one. Spare vehicle, or spare drivers available with that one so great opportunity in Quincy.

In Alabama I've got two opportunities.

One in the East Birmingham area that's seven P&D routes

listed at 600 thousand. Management on that one, two

spare vehicles. Also potentially SBA eligible for this,

Page 9

so if you're really looking for that SBA opportunity this is a great one to check out. And then another opportunity for you guys in Alabama that's eight P&D routes listed at 600. Manager with that one, spare vehicle. Also potentially a remote ownership opportunity if you're looking for something like that. They've got it structured that way now so it's a good opportunity to see that continuity if that's the type of structure you're looking for.

In Denver, Colorado we've got 17 P&D routes listed at a million. Management in place on that one. Again, also currently being operated remotely for that opportunity. Vast majority of the fleet is 2016 or newer, so nice, high-growth territory, really nice fleet on that one. Also priced really well at 65 percent of revenue.

In western North Carolina I've got nine P&D routes listed at 500 thousand. That opportunity has spare vehicles. It's a really dense CSA that's close to the terminal, so if stem miles in today's fuel economy is important to you that might be one you want to look at.

And then one more for P&D in Wilmington,

Massachusetts we've got eight P&D routes listed at 725.

Two spare vehicles on that one. Also looks like this one

may be SBA eligible, so again if that's of high

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importance to you, you want to check that out.

Management in place on that one, a really tenured

the operations.

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For line haul, I imagine this one will go quickly, we've got eight line haul runs in Las Vegas,
Nevada listed at 3.6 million. It's three dedicated solos, five unassigned solos. Management, spare driver kind of supervisor. Really, really good staffing structure there. Also available some seller financing on that one, spare trucks, so again just kind of a really nice looking opportunity in Las Vegas. I expect that one will go really quickly, so if you've been waiting for west coast line haul you'll want to move fast on that.

contractor as well so you've got good continuity there in

and then one Amazon opportunity for you guys this week in Bedford, Ohio. It's roughly 30 DSP routes. You know those fluctuate day to day and week to week on the DSP side, but has three managers already in place, seven spare vehicles, really efficient operation, really good, clean, consistent financial records which we also know is not always the case, so if that's of high importance to you, you might want to check that out.

Really strong DSP with a great track record of service on that one too. So learn from good quality. So that's what I have for you guys in new inventory this week.

Page 11

T-shirts, this was like a really hard one because you know I always want to give like 12 answers, but I pretty much actually have three T-shirts that I One of them is one of my like college dance company T-shirts that that's like the one I hang onto that has like literally holes in it, but it's so comfortable that I will still wear it forever. I wear my Route Consultant First Expo shirt all the time and I will always hold onto that one. And then I just want to give this shout out, even though I feel like it's really funny because I work for like the largest FedEx contractor, I myself am a FedEx contractor, but I'm going to give a shout out to Jason Bone down in Georgia because I wear a Bone Head Trucking T-shirt like almost every day because he gave me one and it's the softest T-shirt I've ever had. So shout out to you.

MR. PATTON: I have seen you do that a lot. So Jason Bone, you are well represented here. I don't know if Jason's on this webinar, but it, for those of you all that don't know Jason, Jason is someone that you need to know. He's an amazing contractor. And the name of his company, because all contractors get to name their businesses, Bone Head Trucking and, you know, I've seen some great and clever names over the years. I've also seen some people name their businesses horrible

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1 I have named some of my businesses horrible names, that that's neither here nor there, but I have 2 seen Jason's company well represented here in the office. So for me --5 ANNALEE: My own husband actually wears a Bone Head Trucking shirt to our FedEx delivery operation 7 literally almost every day. So we're avid fans, Jason. MR. PATTON: All right, so we'll get to 8 the Q&A right after mine. My, so my favorite shirt, so 9 my wife is a huge Harry Potter fan. She just loves Harry 10 Potter. I surprised her with a trip to Harry Potter down 11 12 to Universal Studios and she made a bunch of like dad 13 joke Harry Potter shirts that were just absolutely 14 terrible. And if you, if you know any Harry Potter stuff 15 they're, they're, like I can give you some amazing dad jokes that you will particularly appreciate. So I just 16 17 like going around those because like if you're a Harry 18 Potter fan people will know and get the jokes, otherwise people are just going to look at you like you're a big 19 nerd, because I am a big nerd and that's what it is. So 20 21 that's my go-to T-shirt because I just, I just love a good dad joke to, to be able to go out there. 2.2 2.3 Annalee, can we start off with James Flynn's question, because he, he asked an important one 24 25 and I want to, I want to get going on that.

Page 13

1	where you were going to start?
2	ANNALEE: I already picked that one,
3	that's where I was going to start.
4	MR. PATTON: Good. Look at that James,
5	you got two picks right out of the gate. Annalee and I
6	we didn't, we didn't even plan that.
7	ANNALEE: All right. So James, his
8	favorite T-shirt that he still wears is a Guinness
9	T-shirt that he got in, at St. James Gate in Dublin. So
L O	that's a solid, that's a strong opener. I was going to
L1	go with
L 2	MR. PATTON: Maybe that's why I chose
L 3	James. I mean like the Guinness T-shirt from Dublin I, I
L 4	think that's, that's pretty legendary, so.
L 5	ANNALEE: Class act. James's question,
L 6	Spencer, and he just said also is grateful of course for
L 7	the leadership, thoughtful, deliberate, action-oriented,
L 8	so really appreciates the effort and the gesture there.
L 9	His questions is, do you have a specific call to action
20	request for contractors?
21	MR. PATTON: Yeah. So James, this is a
22	super important part. I'm glad you asked the question
23	because I need to cover one other part that is really
24	critical to the announcement today. So in 30 days from
25	today, as I mentioned, we're going to have our annual
	Page 14

Expo, and that is where more than half of the contractors in the United States will be gathering under one roof.

And at that Expo we are going to form a committee. Not a union, we're forming a committee. This committee will be ten contractors. These ten contractors are going to be elected by their peers of FedEx contractors.

So when we are at the Expo, we're going to set up a camera and we're going to allow people to nominate themselves to serve on that committee. Or you can nominate someone else, but we're going to be able to take your video. For those of you that can't come to the Expo for one reason or the other, you can still nominate yourself, we're going to encourage you to record a video. And then after the Expo is over we're going to open up about a week-long voting period and during that period your vote on the elected committee is your action item, effectively a signature that you are in support of the committee and are showing solidarity with the thousands and thousands of contractors that are putting their effort behind the formation of this group.

So that call to action between now and the Expo is two-fold. Number one, please share our message. We recognize that while we have the name, phone number, and e-mail address of every contractor in the United States, not every one is going to hear this

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message today. So please take this back to your terminal, there's some 660 terminals across the United States. Please take this message and make sure that everybody is aware of what is going on.

And secondly, if at all possible, come to the Expo. The Expo is free, there's no charge, we buy all your food, all your drink, alcoholic, nonalcoholic, all of it is covered. And we're going to show you a great time and celebrate you as an entrepreneur out there in a year that has had some tough reasons of looking for a way to celebrate, okay. So we're going to have a great time out there.

So that event will form, form that committee, we'll have about a week-long election of the top ten people that get the most votes will serve on that committee, and then that committee coming out of the Expo will really feature the best and elected contractors that have a sphere of influence back in their home terminals, because that's ultimately what got them elected was that sphere of influence. So that's your call to action, that's the next 30 to 45 day outlook of what we will be forming and our game plan from here.

ANNALEE: Yeah, absolutely. Spencer, next question comes from Kevin Van Cleave who said his favorite T-shirt is hanging in the closet, it's an old

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1 St. Louis Cardinals T-shirt. He thought he was finished with it so he did some painting while wearing it and so 2 now it's got white paint all over a red shirt but he still can't shake it, so. 5 MR. PATTON: I, I tell you, so I've got operations in St. Louis. We, we, you know, that's one of 7 the heartbeat of our operations is there, and so from

time to time that I'm in town and there's a St. Louis game going on, I don't know that there are more rabid or knowledgeable baseball fans than Cards in St. Louis. I 10 mean I know I may like immediately offend people here that are like, you know, maybe have something else to say

> about the fan base, but I'm telling you, that group, they know baseball, and so I always love seeing the games out

Spencer, Kevin's question is, ANNALEE: if you were a betting man what odds would you put on Sundays being eliminated? He said, you know, three years later the volume hasn't really materialized, what are your thoughts on how likely that is?

MR. PATTON: Yeah, you know, I think Sundays are really, really tough. They've always been really tough because the volume on Sundays has just not been there. Sundays, on average, are about 20 percent of a regular delivery day, and the challenge is that when

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there.

FedEx opens the doors to their facilities, they're getting full-blown costs as if it was any other day.

They've got to run all the electricity, all the lights, all of the staff, everything, and they're doing it on a fifth of the volume.

We have that same challenge is that we're running routes and running less efficiently trying to deliver on Sunday to win customers that value that Sunday delivery, but it's not working. And, and from a UPS perspective as you compare to what are other people doing in the industry, you're seeing other players in the space that are also calling it quits on Sunday. So I think it's impossible for me to give you a percentage of saying what does it look like on, on Sunday deliveries.

I do know, just as of last week, we saw

FedEx Ground, out of the 660 terminals, have about 40

that were rolled back to six day deliveries. So those 40

were more rural locations so I don't want to set your

expectations that that's going to expand, but one of the

things that I articulate in the letter is to have a

courageous reassessment of Sundays altogether, because

they're just not working, especially on a year-round

perspective. Like maybe there's an argument that says

during peak season we're running seven days a week. So

like December, we got to run Sundays. And we probably

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have the volume to justify that, at least more so then, versus the other eleven months out of the year.

So I'm going to encourage that discussion, I'm going to support it with facts and data and financial figures, and I hope that's going to lead somewhere down that pathway.

ANNALEE: Right. Spencer, next question comes from Matthew O'Brien. He said his favorite T-shirt is from a place called the Regal Beagle. I did look it up, it's either a bar or a dog grooming and boarding facility and I'm not sure which one.

MR. PATTON: The Regal Beagle. I always appreciate it when someone values alliteration in how they name their business. Like when it just rolls off the tongue well. See, and I, again I know I talked about this ten minutes ago, but I'm just telling you, when you name your business it goes on the side of your truck, it goes on your shirt sleeve, and it goes on every pay stub. And importantly, every governmental organization that you talk to, like when you're calling for unemployment claims or you're calling for tax reasons, they have to be able to pronounce your business name. And I have made horrible errors of thinking that I was cute in naming a business something that was just miserably unpronounceable. And I'd get on the phone and I'd have

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1 to spell it to somebody and it was just embarrassing every time. So word to the wise, if you decide to be in business with FedEx Ground and form your own business entity, have it be short and sweet and pronounceable, all 5 right. That's, that, that is a nugget of advice that you didn't have to pay for and is very valuable. 7 ANNALEE: There may be a Regal Beagle Industries coming to, coming to a terminal near you soon, 8 9 so. MR. PATTON: Regal Beagle, I like it. 10 can even see the logo on that. Like it immediately pops 11 12 into my mind. 13 ANNALEE: Little dog ears, yeah. 14 Matthew's question, Spencer, is are the new contractors 15 or new contracts coming out, are you seeing that those have higher pay for, you know, stops, deliveries, are 16 17 contractors basically seeing that lift to combat 18 inflation in new contracts and it's just contractors that have older agreements that are behind? 19 20 MR. PATTON: You know, I, I think the new 21 contracts that I'm seeing are not having a substantial enough adjustment for the financial realities that we 2.2 have seen change over the last 12 months. You know, just 23 a couple months ago FedEx Ground publicly came out and 24 25 implored their contractors to renegotiate. Because

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that's actually a feature that we have, we can renegotiate and we can ask for changes to the agreement.

And historically, those renegotiation requests, when you properly document them, are granted.

But one of the things I mentioned in the video is that my renegotiation request that I put a ton of data and effort, I attached invoices, all of it to, were denied. And that was right after FedEx Ground implored their contractors to renegotiate and to make those requests. So those two things just don't, don't sit well with me in thinking about, you know, there's, there's publicly being said to do this and I'm seeing results that are different.

And so I think part of why this messaging is here is that I want to see these adjustments made and I really do think that FedEx Ground, upon seeing the data and the analysis, will see the, the validity of those adjustments, right. I mean it's, it's not a hard argument to win in that if you, you know, point out ten days ago that CPI came out at 9.1 percent. 9.1 percent. So to say that the costs of doing business 12 months ago and today is like, you know, kind of the same, like, you know, roughly unchanged. It's like no, we've seen all of these costs change.

And, and the good news is that is FedEx

Page 21

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1	Ground does have precedent for recognizing that. So I am
2	hopeful that this message, done in a way that is seeking
3	to find a common resolution, not an adversarial
4	resolution, and is supported with data, not emotion, is
5	going to get us some progress.
6	ANNALEE: Yep. Spencer, next question
7	comes from good old Dr. Dre, David Chronic, who said his
8	favorite T-shirt is an old 47 sports basic New York
9	Knicks T-shirt that just says New York on it. Classic.
10	MR. PATTON: You know, Mr. Chronic, I can
11	absolutely see you in that. Like I, I, I, that is a,
12	that's right on. I think that is perfect. That,
13	unfortunately the overwhelming majority of this webinar
14	has no idea what you look like so like there's, you know,
15	200 different ideas of what you look like as a New
16	Yorker, but that is going to fit perfectly.
17	ANNALEE: Yeah. Question, Spencer, that
18	got a couple people of course asking this but, you know,
19	what do you feel like the real incentive is right now,
20	you know, for FedEx to take action as in, you know, you
21	say in the letter kind of November 26th; what, what
22	happens if, if we don't see action?
23	MR. PATTON: Yeah. I think the mindset
24	is FedEx Ground has no network without its contractors.
25	You know, we are the whole network. And, and what has
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always allowed me to put my head down on the pillow at the end of the day is that FedEx Ground has to ensure the financial viability of being a contractor, right.

Because a lot of people ask me, well Spencer, what if FedEx just woke up one day and decided to cut everybody's pay by 40 percent, like could they do that and what would happen?

So the reality is with 6,000 of us, we have about, between 100 and 125 thousand trucks on the road every day. FedEx Ground does not have trucks on the They don't have drivers. So the network is entirely made up of contractors. So I think the incentive that they have to act is it is clear that the level of distress of contractors has significantly elevated so far this year. And, and we're seeing a number of contractors that are failing and are experiencing financial trouble, even amongst the backdrop of knowing that e-commerce five years from now is going to be massively bigger in our economy than where it is today. So like when you have a three and five-year outlook, you have a really positive top-line revenue growth outlook that anyone's going to be excited over. But the reality is that it still has to be financially viable along those steps.

FedEx has been very focused on trying to

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1	add to their margin figures, and that's one thing that I
2	talk about in the video is that their last quarterly
3	report saw a substantial expansion of the company's
4	margins. And so I think there's a lot of incentive to
5	act because there isn't a network without their
6	contractors. And FedEx Ground has no interest in going
7	out of business, right, I mean that is not their
8	objective. So it is 100 percent a balance, like any
9	business discussion, between FedEx Ground's obligation,
10	first and foremost, is to its shareholders is to make a
11	profit and return capital. That is any publicly traded
12	company's highest and best priority.
13	But we are the wheels that make that
14	happen, and the vehicle doesn't roll without the wheels.
15	So we've got to find a way to have a win/win dynamic that
16	has defined this business for decades. Is, it is, it has
17	very much been a win/win dynamic and we've just got to
18	get back to that.
19	ANNALEE: That's right. Spencer, next
20	question comes from Xander Wool who said his favorite
21	T-shirt is from a fundraiser he was a part of when Bud
22	Forester retired from Virginia Tech. So it's a like
23	campus, campus T-shirt there.
24	MR. PATTON: I love it. I love it.
25	ANNALEE: That's cool. And the question,

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Spencer, is so obviously nobody has a crystal ball, but how do you see kind of market conditions affecting purchase prices of routes? You know, obviously crypto, auto prices, you know, real estate, kind of speculations on price drops. Do you feel like the routes will be more resistant, you know, given this information, do you, do you experience, or do you anticipate any drops, what are your thoughts?

MR. PATTON: We saw in the fourth quarter of 2020 the high of the value of a FedEx route, okay.

That's, that's when we hit the market high. So there had been years and years and years worth of building value of the routes, that peaked in the fourth quarter of 2020.

Since then we've seen about a 15 percent pullback on the value of routes because of exactly the things that

Annalee just mentioned. There is more economic uncertainty, you have rising interest rates, you have the stock market that has declined meaningfully. All of these things are going to impact us too.

And that's something that I mentioned in the video and the letter is we as contractors are doing everything that we can to tighten our belt too. We are finding efficiency, we are announcing at our Expo, we are going to be talking about the collective pooling of our purchasing power and being able to save money that way.

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So we are really looking and turning over every stone for cost savings, but we've got to have top line revenue growth as well.

Again, my outlook over the long term is very positive for this space. E-commerce is going to grow and this business is a pure play on e-commerce. what I really think has happened is we have seen the fastest macro economic change in the last 40 years happen in nine months. It's just unprecedented. And the kind of size of the ship that has to turn here, because remember, FedEx Ground is a 60 billion dollar business collectively. Publicly traded companies are not known for their speed of maneuvering, right, is that it takes a while to turn a big ship. So it is time though to turn, okay. And that's the clear part of the message is that we've had time to see that this was not just a one-off blip that Russia invades Ukraine, crude oil spikes 110 and then drops back to 50. That's not the narrative. This cost dynamic is not going anywhere in the near future and it's time to adjust.

ANNALEE: That's right. Spencer, I've got a handful of kind of buyer questions here but, you know, I'm going to do this one. And it's actually anonymous but it is a good question and I got a couple people getting at this, but their T-shirt is an Aerosmith

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World Tour 2000 T-shirt. I think that's pretty cool.

MR. PATTON: You know they're cool. I

mean they're anonymous, that, like they're so cool they

won't even give their name, right. It's like that's, you

know that's a cool person.

ANNALEE: This could be Steven Tyler.

This could be Steven Tyler, I think there's a chance.

The question, Spencer, is so just for a prospective

investor, you know, with, with what you're talking about

investor, you know, with, with what you're talking about obviously with the performance of the routes themselves, like put it into perspective why you should still be bullish on the space. I know you just touched this on a,

touched on this a little bit but just address it

specifically for a buyer looking at the space.

MR. PATTON: Yes. So when you're looking at investments out there, right, you're trying to find what, you know, what is my appeal. So the appeal for FedEx routes, and I, I've talked about this for years and years, is a couple fold.

Number one, we are expecting top-line revenue growth over the next three to five years. I just talked about that several times so I won't beat that dead horse. But that is an appreciation of the equity value of your business. The equity value appreciation has a separate calculus from the operating income of the

Page 27

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business. There's times where the equity value is increasing and the operating income isn't doing much, there's times where the operating income is increasing and the equity value is catching up. Those things go back and forth. Right now our operating income needs to have an adjustment. So if you're looking in investments and you're saying you know what, I could buy in real estate or I could buy in the stock market or I could, you know, invest in all these different places, what I've always seen as so compelling in this space is FedEx Ground has shown that investing in routes has been a great way to be able to not get rich, right, but to make a solid earning for yourself and to build equity value. And, if you prove yourself as a worthy contractor, you'll likely be given opportunities to grow and you'll be able to grow in multiple terminals and now I'm across ten different states.

So you'll have those opportunities, but it has to maintain that operational income along the way. And, and we've just seen a dislocation of that to where does it affect every single person's routes? No, it probably doesn't affect every single person's routes, but it affects a meaningful percentage. So you've got to have a little bit of vision in being able to invest and recognize that hey, you're getting a discount, but I am

Page 28

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1 also advocating, and, and I expect that FedEx Ground should come with financial relief. And if we see that, you're going to see routes that are going to restore like that to values that we saw in the fourth quarter of 2020. 5 But we're going to have to see that operating income because the other pathway is available 7 And, and, and that's one that none of us want to go down from a operating income or equity value standpoint, 8 we do not want to see the network have to go through that 9 type of shock. 10 11 ANNALEE: Yep. Spencer, market update 12 question here from Akemi Nash who said they're rocking an 13 old Batman shirt that they borrowed from a friend over a 14 decade ago and never returned. That is such a epic move, 15 okay. That is incredible. 16 MR. PATTON: 17 ANNALEE: Oh my gosh. And this is like 18 in the archives. I hope that friend happens to be a FedEx contractor and they're watching like wow, I never 19 20 got that shirt back. So Akemi's question, Spencer, is 21 he's heard rumors of FedEx assuming, FedEx Ground assuming the Express volume. What do you think the 2.2 likelihood of that is? 23 2.4 MR. PATTON: Yeah. That, so that's been 25 publicly disclosed and was really highlighted just a Page 29

handful of weeks ago when FedEx did their annual investor meetings, is the publicly disclosed information is that Express is going to be significantly integrated into Ground. And that's important for us as ground contractors because our profitability is synonymous with stop density. That's really what pays the bills for us is when you go into a subdivision and there's 100 homes in a subdivision, you want to be delivering to a dense number of those homes. You're more profitable if you're delivering to 13 than you are 9. But if you go into a subdivision and you're just delivering to a couple you're not getting that density. So Express being rolled into Ground is a really favorable thing for us in that it improves our stop density, so that way when we go into a location there's a better chance that we're going to have a Ground box but we're also going to have an Express box. And by the way, Express boxes tend to be substantially smaller and lighter than Ground boxes.

and by the way, Express boxes tend to be substantially smaller and lighter than Ground boxes. So that's another piece that is favorable for us is that we don't want the big items. We want small, lightweight packages that fit on shelves and don't injure our drivers as much as possible. So that Express piece is something that FedEx has first announced about two years ago and has continued to emphasize, it's been an important part of our messaging.

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1	And it's, again, why I have a positive
2	three and five-year outlook is that the growth is here.
3	E-commerce growth and the integration of Express into
4	Ground, we've just got to fix this dislocation, right.
5	We've broken our arm here and, you know, we need a cast.
6	ANNALEE: Yeah. Spencer, I've got a
7	couple new buyer questions also coming in here. So, and
8	then I love this too, Mike Carter is actually our number
9	two for an old Batman T-shirt. So I thought that was
10	very appropriate that we actually have two votes, there's
11	two people out there
12	MR. PATTON: Batman's in the lead, yeah.
13	Okay.
14	ANNALEE: Batman T-shirt. Also it's
15	cute, he says he bought one and then bought his son a
16	matching one and they coordinate together, so that's very
17	cute. This is a stock purchase question, Spencer, but
18	if, if they are looking at potentially doing a stock
19	deal, what type of additional due diligence or
20	contingencies do you recommend? I know you're not an
21	attorney. And then also if they're looking for an
22	introduction to the attorneys that we typically
23	recommend, how does he go about getting that?
24	MR. PATTON: Yeah. So we have third
25	party attorneys that we refer people to all the time so
	Page 31

we'd be happy to make referrals out so that way you can be represented by counsel and make sure that they look at that. Because as Annalee properly disclosed we're not attorneys.

You know, you know from hearing my content, and I can tell by probably the phrasing your question, I strongly prefer an asset purchase agreement whenever possible. Stock purchase agreements generally do not serve the buyer or the seller. But especially they don't serve the buyer. And the reason why is that as a buyer, you are inheriting, when you purchase the stock, all known and unknown liabilities of that business. So if they have some old employment claim or some wage claim or some workers' compensation thing that rears its head, that's on you now when you have the stock of the business. When it's an asset purchase agreement you get a completely clean slate, so you do not carry forward any of that past baggage.

And on top of it from a tax reason, when you buy the stock of a business you inherit their assets in whatever depreciation state from a tax standpoint that they come in. So if you bought a truck for 100 thousand dollars and you depreciated it to zero, in a stock purchase agreement you get that truck at a zero value, meaning you have nothing to depreciate. But when you do

Page 32

2.2

an asset purchase agreement you get to reset that truck up to a level, up to a value that is fair market, and then you get to benefit from the depreciation of that truck, which saves you tax dollars.

So I'm going to strongly advocate for that asset purchase agreement, but in any case, if there's an extremely compelling reason why it needs to be one or the other, there's great outside counsel that will be able to help you navigate through that process. So just reach out to anybody on our team, we'll be able to, to get that referral made for you.

ANNALEE: That's right. Next question comes from Damian Hessler who's rocking an old Cincinnati Reds shirt and wants to know, first off thank you for the letter and the video today, Spencer. And then the question is, do you think that getting the letter in not only just FedEx's hands but also the board members is, is a path that you're kind of pursuing there, do you think that will have an impact?

MR. PATTON: Yeah, well listen, I think it's made a lot of news today. So I would expect that this is going to make the rounds of a lot of FedEx executives. You know, we've worked hard to try to make sure that this is a message that is circulated amongst contractors and circulated amongst FedEx Ground.

Page 33

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1	Again, there is not a threat in this
2	letter and, very intentionally. It wasn't as if the
3	letter said, you know, do this by November 26th or we're
4	parking the trucks, right. That is not in that letter.
5	So what I'm hopeful for is that we're going to see a, an
6	easy and clear resolution that, you know, easy is
7	probably the wrong word, but a clear resolution that
8	restores the financial viability of what we're asking
9	for.
10	So yeah, I think it will make it to the
11	board, I think it will make it to the executives there.
12	They clearly care about the FedEx Ground network, as do
13	we. We all care. So I think if we can come together in
14	that way we can restore this to being a win/win balance
15	which that's, that's really certainly what, what I think
16	everybody is, is after here.
17	ANNALEE: Yeah.
18	MR. PATTON: So Annalee, we've been
19	running questions for, you know, 40, 45 minutes so let's
20	do like a five-minute lightning round, we'll kind of skip
21	over the T-shirt stuff and just try to get through as
22	many questions as we can for, for today. Unless you have
23	like a super good T-shirt and I can tell by your
24	reaction.
25	ANNALEE: Yeah. I go to do one. I got

Page 34

1 to do one more and then we can lightning.

MR. PATTON: Okay. Okay.

ANNALEE: So this one is from Kara

Kearney who said she tends to wear, every peak season,

specifically a shirt that has a bar code on it that says,

"It's all fun and games until someone misses a scan."

MR. PATTON: Amazing. See, you came for the dad jokes and we, we, you know, I've got everybody on board for the dad jokes. Thank you for that. That filled my day. That's a perfect T-shirt one to end on right there.

ANNALEE: Had to. And it's also, it's an important kind of statement and question here. So she's in multiple terminals and has helped other contractors run contingency, and ultimately has been experiencing all the things that you talked about earlier today and, and in the statement, in the letter. And, and really the question here, so she said there's, for her, a particular region where she really does fear retaliation if she were to kind of participate, others where she's less concerned. But if, if the committee gets formed, you know, just what are, what are your thoughts and fears on the concept of retaliation? Any ideas on how at a local level they could protect themselves from retaliation if they, if they agree and want to be part of it?

Page 35

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MR. PATTON: Yeah. Listen I, you know, I
have reviewed the agreement extensively, as you can
imagine. There is nothing in the agreement that
prohibits the formation of a committee, nothing of any
sort of type in there. And at the end of the day, all I
can do as a leader is say that I will be the first out of
the trench, right. I will put myself out there first,
I've clearly done that. And as I said in the video, I
don't do that without some level of fear myself, right.
I have an enormous amount at stake here. I have more
FedEx routes than anybody else in the country, I've, you
know, have a lot to lose. And so I do not want to be
retaliated against FedEx, by, by, you know, I don't want
to be retaliated against from FedEx Ground.

So that's where I really believe in the formation of this committee to say that we are going to broaden out so that it's not just the Spencer Patton story or it's not just the XYZ contractor story. This is a larger national story, this is a bigger narrative.

And, and so I think if we can broaden that out and not have it be just the story of one, you know, contractor that, you know, the narrative could shift and say oh, well they're disgruntled or they have ulterior motives.

That, that's not the case. And I think the data and our efforts will prove that out. So you will see us work

Page 36

tirelessly to win that narrative and, and to show that we're not trying to be greedy here either, you know.

Asking for 50 cents a stop and 20 cents a mile on line haul is, is supported by the, the data and the facts and figures. And some of you that are watching here today may not have a context for whether 50 cents is a lot or a little, but there's great precedent for FedEx Ground paying in that ballpark type figures and it's a reasonable number that is meaningful for contractors but also not outlandish in the request.

ANNALEE: Yeah. Spencer, next question from Mike Walnick who is rocking a Hide and Seek Champion T-shirt with a photo of Sasquatch. Wants to know if we have any contacts for people that are looking to purchase vehicles. He said they've been upgrading their fleet so they've got like eight to ten trucks for sale. He said they're going to list on Hello truck marketplace, Facebook, mygroundbiz, but any other recommendations?

MR. PATTON: Yeah. We, we have a fleet manager here on staff that helps people with that. We have, as you can imagine, a lot of relationships with dealers across the country that are very, very hungry for used trucks, so I think you will have outstanding success listing in, in the Hello Truck marketplace that you just mentioned, in our Facebook group. There's, you know,

Page 37

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3,000 FedEx contractors in that group so that's going to be a target rich environment. We'll be happy to help you through that process too. So you mentioned all the right things there as, as you're looking to maximize the value.

And for those that are really thinking about your fleet strategy right now, there has never been a better time to sell used vehicles. This is the absolute peak that we will probably ever see in used vehicle values, so it's a great time to be talking fleet strategy, talking to us on Hello Truck Lease, buying new vehicles, whatever it is, it's a great time to do it and be trading in.

ANNALEE: Perfect. Spencer, next question comes from David Daniel whose favorite is an old Rocky boxing movie shirt, that's a classic, and wants to know, have you heard anything back from FedEx Ground yet regarding the post? I know it just was posted, but.

MR. PATTON: Yeah, not yet. Not yet.

So, you know, it's only been out there for, you know,
four hours, four and a half hours, so it's been a short
period of time. I've been on this webinar for almost an
hour so who knows, I may pick up my phone and, you know,
there could be any number of different things that await
me when I unlock my phone. But I, I haven't heard
anything yet. I certainly will update as, as I do.

Page 38

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ANNALEE: Absolutely. Spencer, I've got one Amazon question here just on Amazon financing which I, you know, I'm happy to speak to as well. But Vikram said, and also thank you for the letter, but said his best T-shirt's an Atlanta Peach Tree Road Race he got from running a few years ago. Don't run races anymore but he holds onto it for the good memory. And wants to know if, if we've seen any bank financing be viable for Amazon DSPs. But I'm actually happy to speak to that one if you want.

MR. PATTON: Yeah, yeah. You take that. Yeah, take that Annalee.

ANNALEE: Yeah. So, you know, as it stands right now so we do have a couple lenders that we're working with that are underwriting loans on some of the SBA deals, or on the Amazon deals. The thing that I would tell you is kind of a, the big part is Amazon does not want us to have basically financing contingencies in that, in that purchase agreement, so. And, and really it's kind of too uncertain I think in the lending space right now for that to be super viable. So we can set you up with a lender that can pursue, you know, an SBA loan on a deal, but there needs to be kind of a backup plan. There needs to be some sort of cash or cash and seller financing alternative so that the deal's not actually

Page 39

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1 contingent upon that financing, because it's just, it's a lengthy process, it's a lot of time and energy for all parties involved, and it's still so uncertain. So not to say that it's not possible but, 5 you know, you would really only want to proceed if you're able to come to terms with the seller on sort of a 7 contingency plan in the event that they're, that the SBA loan does not come through, so that's an important piece 9 there. MR. PATTON: Yeah. Annalee, let me wrap 10 it up with, with, with this today because I want to take 11 12 a moment to, to kind of conclude with this. First off, 13 let me say, for those of you that are here and my e-mail 14

and text messages, my Facebook, my Linked In, has just exploded over the last four and a half hours and I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the messages that you are sending my way. It is incredible.

We small business owners are the economy, 99 percent of every job in the United States is created by a small business owner, okay. And that is a true, accurate statistic that you can Google. percent of all jobs. We are the entire U.S. economy.

I have really appreciated this opportunity to use a platform that I've spent ten years building, but you have afforded me that platform and I

Page 40

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take that incredibly seriously. I have thought long and hard, I have taken phone calls every single day of 2022 from contractor after contractor after contractor. So know that I will never ask anybody to do anything that I am not willing to do myself. I feel like that's one of the first and most important principles of leadership and I will strive to execute on that and on your behalf.

Those of you that are looking to take action alongside of me here, again, my ask is two-fold.

Number one, please share our communications. There are about 660 FedEx Ground terminals across the United States and a lot of contractors that need to hear this message, but won't for one reason or another. So please take that opportunity to share this.

For those of you that are able to come to the Expo, we're trying to relieve every financial burden related to that by making it free and covering your food and covering your drinks and all of that. I know there's still a plane ticket or a drive involved for some of you, but we would really love to have you there.

For those of you that are service minded, please consider serving and nominating yourself for the committee. Or if you know someone that should be nominated we're going to be accepting nominations starting at the Expo. Again, you don't have to be at the

Page 41

2.2

1 Expo to be nominated, but we'd really love to have you This committee is going to shape the very future of our network and we would love to have those that are particularly influential or have particularly favorable and strong ideas for execute upon, we'd love to have you 5 6 be part of it. 7 But first and most importantly out of all of this I just want to say thank you. The support has 8 been overwhelming and has meant the world to me today in 9 10 what is clearly a scary day. And I think you all can 11 understand that mindset that there's nothing done without 12 some level of risk and it means a lot to me that you all support me through that and I will be right here 13 14 supporting you every step of the way. 15 So I appreciate everybody. Thank you for coming today. And as always I will see you all same 16 17 time, same place, next week. Take care everybody. 18 19 20 21 22 2.3 2.4 25 Page 42

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9	time and place hereinbefore stated and they were
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24	
25	
	Page 43

[10 - annalee]

1	368 9:11	absenteeism 6:4	agreements
	4	absolute 38:8	20:19 32:8
10 2:25		absolutely 13:13	akemi 29:12
10-01-2028	40 18:16,17 23:6	16:23 22:11	akemi's 29:20
43:17	26:8 34:19	39:1	alabama 9:22
100 23:9 24:8	45 16:21 34:19	accepting 41:24	10:3
30:7 32:22 110 26:17	460 9:11	accurate 40:21	alcoholic 16:7
110 20:17 12 12:2 20:23	47 22:8	act 14:15 23:13	alliteration
21:21	5	24:5	19:13
125 23:9	50 5:11,13 9:14	action 14:17,19	allow 15:8
13 30:10	26:18 37:3,6	15:16,21 16:20	allowed 23:1
15 30.10 15 25:14	500 9:18 10:18	22:20,22 41:9	alongside 41:9
13 23.14 17 10:10	6	add 7:21 24:1	alternative
19 43:12	6,000 3:23 6:18	additional 31:19	39:25
2	7:9 23:8	address 5:11	altogether 18:21
	60 26:11	15:24 27:13	amazing 12:21
20 1:8 5:15,18	600 9:24 10:4	adjust 26:20	13:15 35:7
17:24 37:3	65 10:15	adjustment 5:25	amazon 2:13
200 22:15	660 16:2 18:16	20:22 28:6	11:15 39:2,2,9
2000 27:1	41:11	adjustments	39:16,17
2016 10:13	7	21:15,18	amount 36:10
2020 5:24 6:5		adversarial 22:3	analysis 21:17
25:10,13 29:4	725 10:23	advice 20:5	andrea 1:10 43:5
2022 1:8 4:21	8	advocate 33:5	43:16
5:18 41:2 43:12	8349 1:10 43:16	advocating 7:14	annalee 8:4,18
225 2:25	9	29:1	8:25,25 9:2,5,6,7
25th 5:17	9 30:10	aerosmith 26:25	13:5,23 14:2,5,7
26748 43:16	9.1 21:20,20	affect 28:21,22	14:15 16:23
26th 22:21 34:3	99 40:19,21	afforded 40:25	17:16 19:7 20:7
275 2:25	-	ago 5:24 6:10	20:13 22:6,17
3	a	19:16 20:24	24:19,25 25:16
3,000 38:1	able 3:25 5:18	21:20,21 29:14	26:21 27:6
3,300 4:5	13:22 15:10	30:1,23 39:6	29:11,17 31:6,14
3.6 11:7	19:21 25:25	agree 35:25	32:3 33:12
30 4:1 6:19	28:12,15,24 33:9	agreement 21:2	34:17,18,25 35:3
11:16 14:24	33:10 40:6	32:7,16,24 33:1	35:12 37:11
16:21	41:15	33:6 36:2,3	38:13 39:1,12,13
		39:19	40:10

[announced - business]

announced	articulated 4:24	backup 39:23	billion 26:11
30:23	asked 13:24	baggage 32:18	bills 30:6
announcement	14:22	balance 24:8	birmingham
14:24	asking 5:10,11	34:14	9:23
announcing	5:15 22:18 34:8	ball 25:1	bit 7:25 8:1
25:23	37:3	ballpark 37:8	27:13 28:24
annual 4:2 14:25	asset 32:7,16	bank 39:8	blip 26:17
30:1	33:1,6	bar 19:10 35:5	blown 18:2
anonymous	assets 32:20	base 17:13	board 33:17
26:24 27:3	assigned 5:17	baseball 17:10	34:11 35:9
answer 8:5,14	associated 3:17	17:14	boarding 19:10
8:20,20 9:5	assumes 43:11	based 2:22 5:1	bone 12:13,14,18
answers 12:2	assuming 29:21	basic 22:8	12:23 13:6
anticipate 25:7	29:22	basically 4:24	boring 2:11 3:11
anybody 33:10	assurance 1:5	20:17 39:18	borrowed 29:13
36:11 41:4	atlanta 39:5	batman 29:13	bottom 8:2
anymore 39:6	attached 21:7	31:9,14	bought 31:15,15
anyone's 23:22	43:7	batman's 31:12	32:22
appeal 27:17,17	attorney 31:21	beagle 19:9,12	box 30:16,16
appreciate 13:16	attorneys 31:22	20:7,10	boxes 30:17,18
19:13 40:16	31:25 32:4	beat 27:22	boxing 38:15
42:15	auto 25:4	bedford 11:16	broaden 36:17
appreciated	availability 5:4	behalf 3:22,24	36:20
40:23	available 9:20	41:7	broken 31:5
appreciates	11:10 29:6	believe 36:15	bud 24:21
14:18	average 17:24	belt 25:22	build 28:13
appreciation	avid 13:7	benefit 33:3	building 25:12
6:17 27:23,24	await 38:23	best 2:18 16:17	40:25
appropriate	aware 16:4	24:12 39:5	bullish 27:12
31:10	b	better 7:8 30:15	bunch 13:12
approved 3:17	back 6:25 16:1	38:7	burden 41:16
archives 29:18	16:18 18:17	betting 17:17	business 2:18
area 9:23	24:18 26:18	big 4:8 13:19,20	4:15 6:7,12 7:11
argument 18:23	28:5 29:20	26:14 30:20	7:15 8:11 19:14
21:19	38:16	39:17	19:17,22,24 20:3
arm 31:5	backdrop 23:17	bigger 23:19	20:3 21:21 24:7
articulate 18:20	_	36:19	24:9,16 26:6,11
			27:24 28:1

[business - connection]

32:13,16,20	catching 28:4	classic 22:9	commerce 5:12
40:18,20	celebrate 16:9	38:15	5:14 23:18 26:5
businesses 7:9	16:11	clean 11:20	26:6 31:3
12:23,25 13:1	cent 5:11,15	32:17	commission
button 8:3,3,3	cents 5:13 37:3,3	clear 23:13	43:17
buy 16:6 28:7,8	37:6	26:15 34:6,7	committee 15:3
32:20	ceo 9:1	clearly 5:20	15:4,4,9,16,18
buyer 26:22	certainly 2:4	34:12 36:8	16:14,16,16
27:14 31:7 32:9	34:15 38:25	42:10	35:21 36:4,16
32:10,11	certificate 43:1	cleave 16:24	41:23 42:2
buying 38:10	certify 43:7	clever 12:24	common 22:3
	challenge 17:25	close 10:19	communications
c	18:6	closet 8:15,18	41:10
c.s.r. 43:5	challenges 4:24	16:25	companies 26:12
calculus 27:25	champion 37:12	coast 11:14	company 12:5
call 14:19 15:21	chance 27:7	code 35:5	12:22 13:3
16:20	30:15	collective 25:24	company's 24:3
called 4:19,23	change 20:23	collectively	24:12
19:9	21:24 26:8	26:12	compare 6:5
calling 18:12	changes 4:19	college 12:4	18:10
19:20,21	8:12 21:2	colorado 10:10	compelling 6:9
calls 41:2	changing 5:1	combat 20:17	28:10 33:7
camera 15:8	charge 16:6	combination	compensation
campus 24:23,23	chart 6:9,11	4:19	5:16 6:1,13,25
capital 24:11 cardinals 17:1	chat 7:3 8:3	come 2:6 4:4,20	32:14
	check 10:2 11:1	9:12 15:11 16:5	complete 43:8
cards 17:10	11:22	29:2 32:22	completely
care 34:12,13 42:17	chicago 9:10	34:13 40:6,8	32:17
carolina 10:17	chose 14:12	41:15	complexities 5:5
carry 32:17	chosen 8:22	comes 16:24	computer 43:10
carter 31:8	chronic 22:7,10	19:8 22:7 24:20	concept 35:23
carve 9:9	cincinnati 33:13	33:13 38:14	concern 4:23
case 7:15 11:21	circulated 33:24	comfortable	concerned 35:21
33:6 36:24	33:25	12:7	conclude 40:12
cash 39:24,24	claim 32:13,14	coming 9:3,4	conditions 6:2
cast 31:5	claims 19:20	16:16 20:8,8,15	25:2
casi J1.J	class 14:15	31:7 42:16	connection 3:18

[consider - direction]

consider 41:22	contracts 20:15	critical 14:24	dealers 37:22
consistent 11:20	20:18,21	crude 26:17	dealing 6:3
consultant 3:14	control 43:12	crypto 25:3	deals 39:16,16
3:16 9:1 12:8	cool 24:25 27:1,2	crystal 25:1	decade 29:14
contacts 37:14	27:3,5	csa 10:19	decades 24:16
content 3:13	coordinate 31:16	csr 1:10 43:16	december 18:25
32:6	copies 43:11	current 2:17	decide 20:2
context 7:16	corporate 3:23	4:14 8:9	decided 23:5
37:6	corporation 3:15	currently 10:12	declaration 6:15
contingencies	3:18	customers 18:8	declined 25:18
31:20 39:18	correct 43:7	cut 23:5	dedicated 11:7
contingency	cost 5:1 6:12	cute 19:23 31:15	defined 24:16
35:15 40:7	26:2,19	31:17	deliberate 14:17
contingent 40:1	costs 5:4 6:3	d	deliver 18:8
continued 30:24	18:2 21:21,24	dad 3:8 13:12,15	deliveries 5:14
continuity 10:8	counsel 32:2	13:22 35:8,9	18:14,17 20:16
11:3	33:8	damian 33:13	delivering 30:8
contract 5:25	count 3:10	dance 12:4	30:10,11
contracting 2:13	country 4:1	daniel 38:14	delivery 13:6
2:13	36:11 37:22	data 7:15 19:4	17:25 18:9
contractor 2:17	county 43:3,6,17	21:7,16 22:4	denied 21:8
9:15 11:3 12:11	couple 3:8 20:24	36:24 37:4	dense 10:19 30:8
12:12,21 15:24	22:18 26:24	david 22:7 38:14	density 30:6,12
23:3 28:14	27:19 30:11	day 4:16,17 7:17	30:14
29:19 36:18,21	31:7 39:14	7:24 8:6,12,13	denver 10:10
41:3,3,3	courageous	8:21 9:6 11:17	depreciate 32:25
contractors 2:24	18:21	11:17 12:14	depreciated
3:23 4:3,14,20	course 14:16	13:7 16:21	32:23
4:22 6:18,21,24	22:18	17:25 18:2,17	depreciation
7:6,9 8:10 12:22	cover 8:6,6 9:4,5	23:2,5,10 35:10	32:21 33:3
14:20 15:1,5,5,6	14:23	36:5 41:2 42:10	different 3:1
15:19 16:17	covered 16:8	days 4:2 14:24	4:24 8:8 21:13
20:14,17,18,25	covering 41:17	18:24 21:20	22:15 28:9,17
21:9 22:24	41:18	dead 27:22	38:23
23:12,14,16 24:6	covid 6:2	deal 31:19 39:23	diligence 31:19
25:21 30:5	cpi 21:20	deal's 39:25	direct 43:10
33:25 35:14	created 40:20		direction 43:12
37:9 38:1 41:12			

[disclaimer - extraordinary]

disclaimer 3:12	dsp 11:16,18,23	eleven 19:2	events 4:1
disclosed 29:25	dsps 39:9	eligible 9:25	everybody 2:3
30:2 32:3	dublin 14:9,13	10:25	16:4 34:16 35:8
discount 28:25	due 31:19	eliminated 17:18	42:15,17
discussion 1:5	dynamic 6:23	embarrassing	everybody's
19:4 24:9	24:15,17 26:19	20:1	23:5
discussions 5:18	dynamics 5:1	emotion 22:4	everyone's 5:25
disgruntled	6:4	emphasize 6:15	exactly 25:15
36:23	e	30:24	excited 23:22
dislocation	e 5:12,14 15:24	employee 3:21	exciting 4:6
28:20 31:4	23:18 26:5,6	employees 2:25	execute 41:7
disruption 6:7	31:3 40:13	employment	42:5
distress 23:14	earlier 35:16	32:13	executives 33:23
document 21:4	earning 28:13	encourage 15:13	34:11
dog 19:10 20:13	ears 20:13	19:3	expand 18:19
doing 5:23 18:4	east 9:23	endorsed 3:14	expansion 24:3
18:10 21:21	easy 34:6,6	energy 40:2	expect 11:12
25:21 28:2	economic 25:16	enormous 36:10	29:1 33:21
31:18	26:8	enormously 7:10	expectations
dollar 26:11	economy 10:20	ensure 23:2	18:19
dollars 32:23	23:19 40:18,22	entire 4:5 40:22	expecting 27:20
33:4	effectively 15:17	entirely 23:12	experience 25:7
doors 18:1	efficiency 25:23	entirety 7:4	experiencing
double 5:2	efficient 11:19	entity 20:4	23:17 35:15
doubled 6:8	efficiently 18:7	entrepreneur	expires 43:17
dr 22:7	effort 14:18	16:9	exploded 40:15
dre 22:7	15:20 21:7	environment	expo 4:2 12:8
drill 2:11	efforts 36:25	38:2	15:1,3,7,12,14
drink 16:7	eight 10:3,23	epic 29:14	15:22 16:6,6,16
drinks 41:18	11:6 37:16	equity 27:23,24	25:23 41:16,25
drive 41:19	either 19:10 37:2	28:1,4,13 29:8	42:1
driver 11:8	elected 15:6,16	errors 19:23	express 3:15,18
drivers 9:20	16:17,19	especially 3:12	5:20 29:22 30:3
23:11 30:21	election 16:14	18:22 32:9	30:12,16,17,22
drops 25:5,7	electricity 18:3	estate 25:4 28:8	31:3
26:18	elevated 5:25	event 4:7 7:19	extensively 36:2
dry 7:22	23:15	16:13 40:7	extraordinary
	23.13		6:2
	1	l .	

[extremely - going]

extremely 33:7	23:25 24:6,9	fit 22:16 30:21	
I	25:10 26:11	five 9:17 11:8	fundraiser 24:21 funny 12:10
	27:18 28:10	23:18,20 27:21	future 26:20
facebook 37:18		31:2 34:20	42:2
37:25 40:14	29:1,19,21,21		42.2
facilities 18:1	30:1,23 33:22,25	fix 31:4	g
facility 19:11	34:12 36:11,13	fleet 9:19 10:13	game 16:22 17:9
facts 19:4 37:4	36:14 37:7 38:1	10:14 37:15,19	games 17:14
failing 23:16	38:16 41:11	38:6,9	35:6
fair 33:2	fedex's 4:11	fluctuate 11:17	gate 14:5,9
fan 13:10,18	33:17	flynn's 13:24	gathering 15:2
17:13	feel 12:10 22:19	focused 23:25	generally 32:8
fans 13:7 17:10	25:5 41:5	fold 15:22 27:19	georgia 12:13
far 5:2 23:15	fifth 18:5	41:9	gesture 14:18
fast 11:14	figure 2:15,17	food 16:7 41:17	getting 4:7 18:2
fastest 26:8	4:13 8:9,10	foremost 24:10	26:25 28:25
favorable 30:13	figures 19:5 24:1	forester 24:22	30:12 31:23
30:19 42:4	37:5,8	forever 12:7	33:16
favorite 8:14,17	filar 1:10 43:5	form 15:3 16:13	give 8:19 12:2,9
13:9 14:8 16:25	43:16	16:13 20:3	12:12 13:15
19:8 22:8 24:20	filled 35:10	formation 15:20	18:13 27:4
38:14	financial 4:19	36:4,16	given 3:25 5:17
fear 35:19 36:9	6:24 7:11 11:20	formed 35:21	7:9 25:6 28:15
fears 35:22	19:5 20:22 23:3	forming 15:4	glad 14:22
feature 16:17	23:17 29:2 34:8	16:22	go 5:3,4,4 6:10
21:1	41:16	forth 28:5	7:3 9:2 11:5,13
featured 4:18	financially 23:23	forward 32:18	13:21,22 14:11
features 7:20	financing 11:10	found 3:1	28:4 29:7,9 30:7
federal 3:15,18	39:2,8,18,25	four 38:20,20	30:10,14 31:23
fedex 1:5 2:12,24	40:1	40:15	34:25
3:15,19,21,22,23	find 22:3 24:15	fourth 25:9,13	goes 19:17,18,18
4:20 5:19,22,24	27:16	29:4	going 3:6,7,7,8
6:16,16,18,20	finding 25:23	free 16:6 41:17	4:2,7,25 6:5,6,10
8:8 12:11,12	finished 17:1	friend 29:13,18	7:24 8:4,17,20
13:6 15:6 18:1	fire 9:8	fuel 5:2 6:8,9,10	9:2 12:12 13:17
18:16 20:3,24	first 12:8 24:10	10:20	13:19,25 14:1,3
21:8,16,25 22:20	30:23 33:14	full 4:6 18:2	14:10,25 15:3,5
22:24 23:2,5,10	36:6,7 40:12	fun 3:6 7:23 8:23	15:7,8,10,13,14
22.2 1 23.2,3,10	41:6 42:7	8:24 35:6	10.1,0,10,10,1

[going - importance]

	1011000		T
15:25 16:4,8,11	18:16 20:3,24	hard 12:1 21:18	hold 12:9
17:9 18:19 19:3	21:8,16 22:1,24	33:23 41:2	holding 8:15
19:4,5 22:5,16	23:2,10 24:6	harry 13:10,10	holds 39:7
23:18,22 24:6	26:11 28:11	13:11,13,14,17	holes 12:6
25:19,24 26:5,19	29:1,21 30:4,4	haul 5:15,16	home 16:18
26:23 29:3,3,5	30:13,16,18 31:4	11:5,6,14 37:4	homes 30:7,9
30:3,15,16 33:5	33:25 34:12	head 2:12 12:14	hope 19:5 29:18
33:22 34:5	36:14 37:7	12:23 13:6 23:1	hopeful 22:2
36:16 37:17	38:16 41:11	32:15	34:5
38:1 41:24 42:2	ground's 24:9	hear 7:3 8:18	hopefully 3:4
good 2:16 10:7	group 15:20	15:25 41:12	4:11
11:3,9,20,24	17:13 37:25	heard 29:21	horrible 12:25
13:22 14:4	38:1	38:16,24	13:1 19:23
21:25 22:7	grow 26:6 28:15	hearing 32:5	horse 27:23
26:24 34:23	28:16	heartbeat 17:7	hotel 4:5
39:7	growth 10:14	hello 37:17,24	hour 8:5 38:22
google 40:21	23:22 26:3	38:10	hours 38:20,20
gosh 29:17	27:21 31:2,3	help 2:14 3:25	40:15
gotten 5:7	guess 5:1	33:9 38:2	huge 13:10
governmental	guinness 14:8,13	helped 35:14	hungry 37:22
19:19	guys 10:3 11:16	helpful 4:12	husband 13:5
granted 21:4	11:25	helps 9:1 37:20	i
grateful 14:16	h	hereinbefore	idea 2:10 22:14
gratitude 6:16	half 4:3 8:5 15:1	43:9	ideas 22:15
great 7:13 9:14		hessler 33:13	14C45 22.13
	38.20.40.15	Hessiel 33.13	35.23 42.5
9:15,20 10:2	38:20 40:15 handful 26:22	hey 28:25	35:23 42:5 illinois 9:10 17
	handful 26:22		illinois 9:10,17
9:15,20 10:2	handful 26:22 30:1	hey 28:25	illinois 9:10,17 imagine 11:5
9:15,20 10:2 11:23 12:24	handful 26:22 30:1 hands 33:17	hey 28:25 hide 37:12	illinois 9:10,17 imagine 11:5 36:3 37:21
9:15,20 10:2 11:23 12:24 16:9,11 28:12	handful 26:22 30:1 hands 33:17 hang 12:5	hey 28:25 hide 37:12 high 9:19 10:14	illinois 9:10,17 imagine 11:5 36:3 37:21 immediately
9:15,20 10:2 11:23 12:24 16:9,11 28:12 33:8 37:7 38:9	handful 26:22 30:1 hands 33:17 hang 12:5 hanging 16:25	hey 28:25 hide 37:12 high 9:19 10:14 10:25 11:21	illinois 9:10,17 imagine 11:5 36:3 37:21 immediately 17:11 20:11
9:15,20 10:2 11:23 12:24 16:9,11 28:12 33:8 37:7 38:9 38:11	handful 26:22 30:1 hands 33:17 hang 12:5 hanging 16:25 happen 23:7	hey 28:25 hide 37:12 high 9:19 10:14 10:25 11:21 25:10,11	illinois 9:10,17 imagine 11:5 36:3 37:21 immediately 17:11 20:11 immense 6:16
9:15,20 10:2 11:23 12:24 16:9,11 28:12 33:8 37:7 38:9 38:11 greedy 37:2	handful 26:22 30:1 hands 33:17 hang 12:5 hanging 16:25 happen 23:7 24:14 26:8	hey 28:25 hide 37:12 high 9:19 10:14 10:25 11:21 25:10,11 higher 20:16	illinois 9:10,17 imagine 11:5 36:3 37:21 immediately 17:11 20:11 immense 6:16 impact 25:19
9:15,20 10:2 11:23 12:24 16:9,11 28:12 33:8 37:7 38:9 38:11 greedy 37:2 groan 3:8 grooming 19:10 ground 1:5 2:12	handful 26:22 30:1 hands 33:17 hang 12:5 hanging 16:25 happen 23:7 24:14 26:8 happened 26:7	hey 28:25 hide 37:12 high 9:19 10:14 10:25 11:21 25:10,11 higher 20:16 highest 24:12 highlight 7:20 highlighted	illinois 9:10,17 imagine 11:5 36:3 37:21 immediately 17:11 20:11 immense 6:16 impact 25:19 33:19
9:15,20 10:2 11:23 12:24 16:9,11 28:12 33:8 37:7 38:9 38:11 greedy 37:2 groan 3:8 grooming 19:10	handful 26:22 30:1 hands 33:17 hang 12:5 hanging 16:25 happen 23:7 24:14 26:8 happened 26:7 happens 22:22	hey 28:25 hide 37:12 high 9:19 10:14 10:25 11:21 25:10,11 higher 20:16 highest 24:12 highlight 7:20	illinois 9:10,17 imagine 11:5 36:3 37:21 immediately 17:11 20:11 immense 6:16 impact 25:19 33:19 implored 20:25
9:15,20 10:2 11:23 12:24 16:9,11 28:12 33:8 37:7 38:9 38:11 greedy 37:2 groan 3:8 grooming 19:10 ground 1:5 2:12	handful 26:22 30:1 hands 33:17 hang 12:5 hanging 16:25 happen 23:7 24:14 26:8 happened 26:7 happens 22:22 29:18	hey 28:25 hide 37:12 high 9:19 10:14 10:25 11:21 25:10,11 higher 20:16 highest 24:12 highlight 7:20 highlighted 29:25 historically 21:3	illinois 9:10,17 imagine 11:5 36:3 37:21 immediately 17:11 20:11 immense 6:16 impact 25:19 33:19 implored 20:25 21:9
9:15,20 10:2 11:23 12:24 16:9,11 28:12 33:8 37:7 38:9 38:11 greedy 37:2 groan 3:8 grooming 19:10 ground 1:5 2:12 2:24 3:16,19,21 3:23 4:21 5:12 5:13,19,20,22,24	handful 26:22 30:1 hands 33:17 hang 12:5 hanging 16:25 happen 23:7 24:14 26:8 happened 26:7 happens 22:22 29:18 happy 32:1 38:2	hey 28:25 hide 37:12 high 9:19 10:14 10:25 11:21 25:10,11 higher 20:16 highest 24:12 highlight 7:20 highlighted 29:25	illinois 9:10,17 imagine 11:5 36:3 37:21 immediately 17:11 20:11 immense 6:16 impact 25:19 33:19 implored 20:25 21:9 importance 11:1
9:15,20 10:2 11:23 12:24 16:9,11 28:12 33:8 37:7 38:9 38:11 greedy 37:2 groan 3:8 grooming 19:10 ground 1:5 2:12 2:24 3:16,19,21 3:23 4:21 5:12	handful 26:22 30:1 hands 33:17 hang 12:5 hanging 16:25 happen 23:7 24:14 26:8 happened 26:7 happens 22:22 29:18	hey 28:25 hide 37:12 high 9:19 10:14 10:25 11:21 25:10,11 higher 20:16 highest 24:12 highlight 7:20 highlighted 29:25 historically 21:3	illinois 9:10,17 imagine 11:5 36:3 37:21 immediately 17:11 20:11 immense 6:16 impact 25:19 33:19 implored 20:25 21:9

[important - level]

important 10:21	interested 7:1	july 1:8	40:5 41:4,18,23
13:24 14:22	interesting 2:4	justify 19:1	knowing 23:18
30:4,24 35:13	interestingly	k	knowledgeable
40:8 41:6	5:22		17:10
importantly	introduction	kara 35:3	known 26:12
6:14 19:19 42:7	31:22	kearney 35:4 kevin 16:24	32:12
impossible 18:13	invades 26:17	kevin's 17:16	knows 38:22
improves 30:14	inventory 9:3	key 7:4	1
incentive 22:19	11:25	kind 4:25 9:7	larger 36:19
23:13 24:4	invest 28:9,24	11:9,11 21:22	largest 2:23 7:6
income 27:25	investing 28:11	22:21 25:2,4	12:11
28:2,3,5,19 29:6	investment 2:16	26:9,22 33:18	las 4:4 11:6,12
29:8	4:13	34:20 35:13,20	laugh 3:7
increase 5:12,15	investments	39:17,20,23	lead 19:5 31:12
increasing 28:2	27:16 28:6	40:12	leader 36:6
28:3	investor 2:15	knicks 22:9	leadership 14:17
incredible 29:16	27:9 30:1	knock 3:13	41:6
40:17	invoices 21:7	know 7:23 8:14	learn 7:25 8:1
incredibly 41:1	involved 40:3	8:16 11:17,21	11:24
industries 20:8	41:19	12:2,19,20,21,23	lease 38:10
industry 4:25	item 15:16	13:14,18 17:6,9	left 6:11
18:11	items 30:20	17:11,12,14,18	legendary 14:14
inflation 20:18	j	17:21 18:15	lender 39:22
influence 16:18	james 13:23 14:4	19:15 20:16,20	lenders 39:14
16:20	14:7,9,13,21	20:23 21:11,19	lending 39:20
influential 42:4	james's 14:15	21:22,23 22:10	length 1:9
information	jason 12:13,18	22:14,18,20,20	lengthy 40:2
2:11 4:9,10,12 25:6 30:2	12:20,20 13:7	22:25 25:3,4,6	letter 1:5 4:18,19
inherit 32:20	jason's 12:19	26:23 27:2,5,9	5:9 6:14 7:2
inheriting 32:11	13:3	27:12,17 28:7,9	18:20 22:21
injure 30:21	job 7:13 40:19	31:5,20 32:5,5	25:21 33:15,16
integrated 30:3	jobs 40:22	33:14,23 34:3,6	34:2,3,4 35:17
integration 31:3	joke 13:13,22	34:19 35:8,22	39:4
intentionally	jokes 3:8 13:16	36:1,12,13,21,22	letters 4:21,23
34:2	13:18 35:8,9	37:2,13,25 38:16	4:23
interest 7:5,14	journey 8:8	38:17,19,19,22	level 23:14 33:2
24:6 25:17		39:3,8,13,22	35:24 36:9
2 25.17			

[level - moment]

42:12	look 10:21 13:19	managan 10.4	members 33:17
	14:4 18:14 19:9	manager 10:4 37:20	
liabilities 32:12			memory 39:7
lift 20:17	22:14,15 32:2	managers 11:18	mentioned 14:25
lighter 30:18	looking 10:1,6,9	maneuvering	21:5 25:16,20
lightning 34:20	11:12 16:10	26:13	37:25 38:3
35:1	26:1 27:14,15	margin 24:1	mess 3:2
lights 18:3	28:6 31:18,21	margins 5:6 24:4	message 7:4
lightweight	37:14 38:4 41:8	market 9:3 25:2	15:23 16:1,3
30:20	looks 10:24	25:11,18 28:8	22:2 26:15
likelihood 29:23	lose 36:12	29:11 33:2	33:24 41:12
line 5:15,16 11:5	lot 2:7 7:11	marketplace	messages 40:14
11:6,14 23:21	12:18 23:4 24:4	37:17,24	40:16
26:2 27:20 37:3	33:21,22 36:12	massachusetts	messaging 21:14
link 7:2	37:6,21 40:2	10:23	30:25
linked 40:14	41:12 42:12	massively 23:19	michigan 43:2,6
list 8:22 37:17	louis 17:1,6,8,10	matching 31:16	mid 5:25
listed 9:11,18,24	love 13:21 17:14	materialized	middle 5:23
10:4,11,18,23	24:24,24 31:8	17:19	mike 31:8 37:12
11:7	41:20 42:1,3,5	materially 4:10	mile 5:15 37:3
listen 33:20 36:1	loves 13:10	4:12	mileage 9:18
listing 37:24	low 9:18	matthew 19:8	miles 10:20
listings 9:4,9	lower 6:11	matthew's 20:14	million 10:11
literally 12:6	m	maximize 38:4	11:7
13:7	macomb 43:3,6	mean 14:13	mind 20:12
little 7:21,23,25	43:17	17:11 21:18	minded 41:21
8:1,19,23,24	macro 26:8	24:7 27:3	mindset 22:23
20:13 27:13		meaning 32:25	42:11
28:24 37:7	magnitude 6:6 mail 15:24 40:13	meaningful	mine 13:9
lives 7:11	main 5:10	28:23 37:9	minute 34:20
loan 39:22 40:8		meaningfully	minutes 19:16
loans 39:15	maintain 28:19	25:18	34:19
local 35:23	majority 10:13	means 3:1,20	miserably 19:24
location 30:15	22:13	6:12 42:12	misses 35:6
locations 18:18	making 41:17	meant 42:9	mistakes 3:3,5
logo 20:11	man 17:17	media 2:5	mode 4:6
long 8:16 15:15	management	meet 2:14	model 6:19
16:14 26:4 41:1	9:24 10:11 11:2	meetings 30:2	moment 40:12
7-	11:8	0	

[money - parking]

		T _	
money 25:25	network 5:20	number 15:22	operations 9:12
months 6:1 19:2	22:24,25 23:11	15:24 23:16	11:4 17:6,7
20:23,24 21:21	24:5 29:9 34:12	27:20 30:9 31:8	opportunities
26:9	42:3	37:9 38:23	6:17 9:22 28:15
motives 36:23	nevada 4:4 11:7	41:10	28:18
move 11:14	never 29:14,19	0	opportunity
29:14	38:6 41:4	o'brien 19:8	9:21 10:1,3,5,7
movie 38:15	new 2:8 6:3,20	objective 24:8	10:13,18 11:12
multiple 28:16	6:21 7:18 9:2,4	obligation 24:9	11:15 40:24
35:14	9:8 11:25 20:14	obviously 25:1,3	41:14
mygroundbiz	20:15,18,20 22:8	27:10	organization 2:7
37:18	22:9,15 31:7	odds 17:17	19:19
n	38:10	offend 17:11	oriented 14:17
name 2:22 12:22	newer 10:14	office 13:3	outlandish 37:10
12:22,25 15:23	news 4:16,17	oh 29:17 36:22	outlook 16:21
19:14,17,22 27:4	7:16 8:6 21:25	ohio 11:16	23:21,22 26:4
named 13:1	33:21	oil 26:17	31:2
names 12:24	nice 9:19 10:14	okay 8:24 16:11	outside 33:8
13:1,2	10:14 11:12	25:10 26:15	outstanding
naming 19:23	nine 10:17 26:9	29:15 31:13	37:23
narrative 26:18	nominate 15:9	35:2,2 40:20	overwhelming
36:19,22 37:1	15:10,12	old 16:25 22:7,8	22:13 42:9
nash 29:12	nominated 41:24	29:13 31:9	owner 40:20
nashville 2:23	42:1	32:13 33:13	owners 40:18
national 36:19	nominating	38:14	ownership 10:5
navigate 33:9	41:22	older 20:19	p
near 20:8 26:19	nominations	open 7:20 15:14	p&d 9:9,10,11
need 5:6 6:13,24	41:24	opener 14:10	9:17,23 10:3,10
12:21 14:23	non 4:10	opens 18:1	10:18,22,23
31:5 41:12	nonalcoholic	operated 10:12	package 5:12
needs 5:21 28:5	16:7	operating 27:25	packages 5:13
33:7 39:23,24	north 9:10 10:17	28:2,3,5 29:6,8	30:21
negotiations	notary 43:5,17	operation 11:19	paint 17:3
5:19	notes 43:8	13:6	painting 17:2
neither 13:2	november 5:17	operational	paris 4:5
nerd 13:20,20	22:21 34:3	28:19	parking 34:4
	nugget 20:5		

[part - public]

part 3:9 9:9 people 7:12 14:22,23 21:14 12:25 13:18,1 24:21 26:15 15:8 16:15 30:24 35:25 17:11 18:10 39:17 42:6 22:18 23:4 participate 26:25 31:11,2 35:20 37:14,20 particular 35:18	11:2,19 19:9 42:17 43:9 9:13,13 25: places 28:9 plan 14:6 16:22 39:23 40:7 plane 41:19 platform 3:25 price 4:11 9 9:13,13 25: priced 10:1 prices 5:2,3 6:9,10 25:3 principles 4 prior 4:21,2	9:12 5 5 6:8 ,4 41:6
24:21 26:15 30:24 35:25 39:17 42:6 participate 35:20 particular 35:18 15:8 16:15 17:11 18:10 22:18 23:4 26:25 31:11,2 37:14,20 percent 9:14	11:2,19 19:9 42:17 43:9 9:13,13 25: places 28:9 plan 14:6 16:22 39:23 40:7 plane 41:19 platform 3:25 price 4:11 9 9:13,13 25: priced 10:1 prices 5:2,3 6:9,10 25:3 principles 4 prior 4:21,2	5 5 6:8 4 41:6
30:24 35:25 17:11 18:10 39:17 42:6 22:18 23:4 participate 26:25 31:11,2 35:20 37:14,20 particular 35:18	42:17 43:9 places 28:9 plan 14:6 16:22 39:23 40:7 plane 41:19 platform 3:25 9:13,13 25: priced 10:1 prices 5:2,3 6:9,10 25:3 principles 4 prior 4:21,2	5 5 6:8 4 41:6
39:17 42:6 22:18 23:4 26:25 31:11,2 35:20 37:14,20 particular 35:18 percent 9:14	places 28:9 plan 14:6 16:22 39:23 40:7 plane 41:19 platform 3:25 priced 10:1 prices 5:2,3 6:9,10 25:3 principles 4 prior 4:21,2	5 6:8 ,4 11:6
participate 26:25 31:11,2 35:20 37:14,20 particular 35:18 percent 9:14	plan 14:6 16:22 prices 5:2,3 39:23 40:7 6:9,10 25:3 plane 41:19 principles 4 platform 3:25 prior 4:21,2	6:8 ,4 41:6
35:20 37:14,20 particular 35:18 percent 9:14	39:23 40:7 6:9,10 25:3 plane 41:19 principles 4 prior 4:21,2	,4 11:6
particular 35:18 percent 9:14	plane 41:19 principles 4 prior 4:21,2	11:6
-	platform 3:25 prior 4:21,2	
4. 1 1 10 17 17 04	-	23
particularly 10:15 17:24	7:10 40:24,25 priority 24:	
13:16 42:4,4 21:20,20 23:6	-	.12
parties 6:22 40:3 24:8 25:14	play 6:4,23 26:6 privileged 3	3:24
party 31:25 40:19,22	players 18:11 probably 18	8:25
path 33:18 percentage	please 15:22 28:22 32:6	34:7
pathway 19:6 18:13 28:23	16:1,3 41:10,13 38:8	
29:6 perfect 22:12	41:22 proceed 40:	:5
patton 2:3,22 35:10 38:13	plot 6:8 process 33:	9
12:17 13:8 14:4 perfectly 22:1	6 plus 6:19 38:3 40:2	
14:12,21 17:5,21 performance	point 21:19 profit 24:11	L
19:12 20:10,20 27:10	pooling 25:24 profitability	
22:10,23 24:24 period 6:1 15:	15 pops 20:11 30:5	
25:9 27:2,15 15:15 38:21	populate 8:4 profitable 2	
29:16,24 31:12 person 7:19 2	-	0:9
31:24 33:20 person's 28:2	-	
34:18 35:2,7 28:22	possible 16:5 progressed	
36:1,17 37:19 perspective 6:	-	5:4
38:18 39:11 7:15 18:10,23	post 38:17 pronounce	19:22
40:10 27:11	posted 38:17 pronounceal	ole
pay 19:18 20:6 phone 15:23	potentially 9:25 20:4	
20:16 23:6 19:25 38:22,2		:4
paying 37:8 41:2	potter 13:10,11 32:3	
pays 30:6 photo 37:13	13:11,13,14,18 prospective	2:15
peach 39:5 phrasing 32:6	-	
peak 18:24 35:4 pick 38:22	practices 2:18 protect 35:2	
38:8 picked 14:2	precedent 5:23 prove 28:14	ŀ
peaked 25:13 picks 14:5	22:1 37:7 36:25	
peers 15:6 piece 30:19,22		
pendulum 6:22 40:8	press 2:6 4:17 public 4:10	5:11
6:24	43:5,17	

[publicly - return]

		00.17	
publicly 20:24	questions 7:23	rears 32:15	release 4:17
21:12 24:11	8:4,5,20,22	reason 15:12	released 4:17
26:12 29:25	14:19 26:22	32:10,19 33:7	releases 2:6
30:2	31:7 34:19,22	41:13	relief 29:2
pullback 25:14	quickly 11:6,13	reasonable 37:9	relieve 41:16
purchase 9:12	quincy 9:17,21	reasons 16:10	remember 26:11
25:3 31:17 32:7	quits 18:12	19:21	remote 10:5
32:8,11,16,24	r	reassessment	remotely 10:12
33:1,6 37:14	rabid 17:9	18:21	renegotiate
39:19	race 39:5	recognize 15:23	20:25 21:2,9
purchasing	races 39:6	28:25	renegotiation
25:25	randomly 2:9	recognizing 22:1	21:3,6
pure 26:6	range 9:14	recommend	report 24:3
pursue 39:22	rapid 9:8	31:20,23	represented
pursuing 33:18	rates 25:17	recommendati	12:18 13:3 32:2
put 17:17 21:6	reach 33:10	37:18	representing
23:1 27:11 36:7	reaction 34:24	recommended	7:13
putting 15:19	read 3:12	3:15	request 14:20
q	reading 7:2	record 11:23	21:6 37:10
q&a 7:20,22,25	ready 4:7	15:13	requests 21:3,10
8:2,3 13:9	real 22:19 25:4	records 11:20	reset 33:1
quality 11:24	28:7	red 17:3	resistant 25:6
quarter 25:9,13	realities 20:22	reds 33:14	resolution 22:3,4
29:4	reality 23:8,23	refer 31:25	34:6,7
quarterly 24:2	really 9:13,19	referral 33:11	respectively 9:11
quarterly 24.2 question 7:24	10:1,14,15,19	referrals 32:1	responsibility
8:12,13,21 9:5	11:2,9,9,11,13	regal 19:9,12	43:11
13:24 14:15,22	11:19,20,23 12:1	20:7,10	restore 29:3
16:24 17:16	12:10 14:18,23	regarding 38:17	34:14
19:7 20:14 22:6	16:17 17:19,22	region 35:19	restores 34:8
22:17 24:20,25	17:22,23 21:16	regular 2:10	results 21:13
26:24 27:8	23:21 26:1,7	17:25	retaliated 36:13
29:12,20 31:17	29:25 30:6,13	related 41:17	36:14
32:7 33:12,16	34:15 35:17,19	relationship	retaliation 35:19
35:13,18 37:11	36:15 38:5	4:20	35:23,24
38:14 39:2	39:19 40:5,23	relationships	retired 24:22
30.17 37.2	41:20 42:1	37:21	return 24:11
	71.20 72.1		

[returned - significant]

returned 29:14	routes 7:7 9:10	gogondly 16:5	shake 17:4
revenue 9:14	9:18,23 10:4,11	secondly 16:5 see 6:6,10,13,24	shape 42:2
10:16 23:21	10:18,23 11:17	7:7 9:2 10:8	shape 42.2 share 4:9 15:22
26:2 27:21	18:7 25:3,5,13	19:15 20:11	41:10,14
review 9:4			· ·
	25:15 27:10,18	21:15,17 22:11 22:22 25:2	shareholders
reviewed 36:2 rich 28:12 38:2	28:11,21,22 29:3 36:11		24:10 shelves 30:21
		26:16 29:2,3,5,9	
right 6:11 7:16	rumors 29:21	34:5 35:7 36:25	shift 36:22
8:16 9:7 13:8,9	run 4:1 9:1 18:3	38:8 42:16	ship 26:10,14
14:5,7 19:7 20:5	18:25 35:15	seeing 6:7,23	shirt 8:14,16,17
21:8,18 22:12,19	39:6	17:14 18:11	12:8,14,15 13:6
23:3 24:7,19	running 18:7,7	20:15,17,21	13:9,21 14:8,9
26:13,21 27:4,16	18:24 34:19	21:12,16 23:15	14:13 16:25
28:5,12 31:4	39:6	seek 37:12	17:1,3 19:8,18
33:12 34:4	runs 11:6	seeking 22:2	22:8,9 24:21,23
35:11 36:7,9	rural 18:18	seen 2:6 5:2,2,3	26:25 27:1
38:3,6 39:14,21	russia 26:17	5:3 12:17,24,25	29:13,20 31:9,14
40:19 42:13	S	13:3 20:23	33:14 34:21,23
rising 25:17	sale 37:16	21:23 25:14	35:5,10 37:13
risk 42:12	sasquatch 37:13	26:7 28:10,20	38:15
road 2:25 23:10	save 25:25	39:8	shirt's 39:5
23:11 39:5	saves 33:4	sell 38:7	shirts 12:1,3,5
rocking 29:12	savings 26:2	seller 11:10 32:9	13:13
33:13 37:12	saw 5:24 18:15	39:24 40:6	shock 29:10
rocky 38:15	24:3 25:9 29:4	sending 40:17	short 20:4 38:20
roll 24:14	saying 18:13	separate 27:25	shout 12:10,13
rolled 18:17	28:7	september 43:12	12:16
30:12	says 18:23 22:9	seriously 7:10	show 6:9 16:8
rolls 19:14	31:15 35:5	41:1	37:1
roof 4:4 15:2	sba 9:25 10:1,25	serve 7:8 15:9	showing 15:18
rooms 4:6	39:16,22 40:7	16:15 32:9,10	shown 28:11
roughly 11:16	scan 35:6	service 11:23	side 9:9 11:18
21:23	scary 42:10	41:21	19:17
round 18:22	screen 8:2	serving 41:22	signature 15:17
34:20	screw 3:2	set 15:8 18:18	43:16
rounds 33:22	season 18:24	39:21	signed 2:10
route 3:14,16 9:1	35:4	seven 9:23 11:19	significant 5:7
9:11 12:8 25:10	JJ.T	18:24	

[significantly - t]

significantly	speculations	28:17 40:19	substantially
23:14 30:3	25:4	41:11	30:18
single 7:19 28:21	speed 26:13	statistic 40:21	success 37:23
28:22 41:2	spell 20:1	stem 10:20	sunday 18:8,8,12
sit 21:11	spencer 2:22	stenographic	18:14
six 6:1 9:10	14:16 16:23	43:8	sundays 17:18
18:17	17:16 19:7	step 42:14	17:22,23,24
size 26:10	20:14 22:6,17	steps 8:8 23:24	18:21,25
skip 34:20	23:4 24:19 25:1	steven 27:6,7	super 14:22
slate 32:17	26:21 27:8	steward 7:8	34:23 39:21
sleeve 19:18	29:11,20 31:6,17	stock 4:11 25:18	supervision
slice 9:11	33:15 36:17	28:8 31:17,18	43:10
small 7:9 30:20	37:11 38:13	32:8,12,15,20,23	supervisor 11:9
40:18,20	39:1	stone 26:1	support 5:21
smaller 30:18	spent 40:24	stop 5:11 30:6	7:15 9:15 15:17
softest 12:15	sphere 16:18,20	30:14 37:3	19:4 42:8,13
solid 14:10 28:13	spikes 26:17	stops 5:13,14	supported 22:4
solidarity 15:18	sponsored 3:16	20:16	37:4
solos 11:8,8	sports 22:8	story 8:19 36:18	supporting
somebody 20:1	st 14:9 17:1,6,8	36:18,19,21	42:14
son 31:15	17:10	strategy 38:6,10	sure 7:2,13 16:3
soon 20:8	staff 18:4 37:20	strive 41:7	19:11 32:2
sort 36:5 39:24	staffing 11:9	strong 11:23	33:24
40:6	stake 7:12 36:10	14:10 42:5	surprised 13:11
space 5:5 8:9	standpoint 29:8	strongly 32:7	sweet 20:4
18:11 26:5	32:21	33:5	swing 6:25
27:12,14 28:10	stands 39:14	structure 10:8	swung 6:22
39:20	start 13:23 14:1	11:10	synonymous
spare 9:12,19,20	14:3	structured 10:7	30:5
9:25 10:4,19,24	starting 41:25	stub 19:18	t
11:8,11,19	state 32:21 43:2	studios 13:12	t 8:14,17 12:1,3
speak 3:21,24	43:6	stuff 13:14 34:21	12:5,14,15 13:21
5:8 39:3,9	stated 43:9	stumbling 2:9	14:8,9,13 16:25
speaking 3:22	statement 35:13	subdivision 30:7	17:1 19:8 22:8,9
specific 14:19	35:17	30:8,11	24:21,23 26:25
specifically	states 2:24 3:1	submitted 8:23	27:1 31:9,14
27:14 35:5	4:4 6:19 7:7,12	substantial	34:21,23 35:10
	15:2,25 16:3	20:21 24:3	

[t - twist]

37:13 39:5	terminals 16:2	32:22	tough 16:10
take 7:5,10 9:6	16:18 18:16	thousands 15:18	17:22,23
15:11 16:1,3	28:16 35:14	15:19	
22:20 39:11,12	41:11	threat 34:1	tougher 5:6 tour 27:1
40:11 41:1,8,13	terms 40:6	three 11:7,18	town 17:8
42:17	terrible 13:14	12:3 17:18	track 11:23
taken 41:2 43:8	territory 9:18	23:20 27:21	trade 4:11
takes 26:13	10:14	31:2	traded 24:11
talk 2:7 19:20	text 40:14	ticket 41:19	26:12
24:2	thank 33:14 35:9	tighten 25:22	trading 38:12
talked 19:15	39:4 42:8,15	time 4:6 7:14	transcribed 1:10
27:18,22 35:16	thing 3:11 24:1	12:8 16:9,12	43:10
talking 25:24	30:13 32:14	17:8,8 20:2	transcript 43:8
27:9 38:9,10	39:16	26:14,16,20	transition 9:15
target 38:2	things 3:2 5:5,10	31:25 38:7,9,11	tree 39:5
tax 19:21 32:19	18:20 21:5,10	38:21 40:2	tremendous 7:5
32:21 33:4	25:15,19 28:4	42:17 43:9	trench 36:7
teach 2:12,12,13	35:16 38:4,23	timeline 5:17	trip 13:11
3:3,25	think 14:14	times 6:21 27:22	trouble 23:17
team 33:10	17:21 18:12	28:1,3	truck 19:17
tech 24:22	20:20 21:14,16	tirelessly 37:1	32:22,24 33:1,4
tell 8:19 17:5	22:12,23 23:12	today 2:5,5,7,19	37:17,24 38:10
32:6 34:23	24:4 26:7 27:1,7	3:6,7,12,22 4:2,9	trucking 12:14
39:17 40:16	29:22 33:16,18	4:17 8:5 14:24	12:23 13:6
telling 17:13	33:20 34:10,11	14:25 16:1	trucks 2:25 5:4
19:16	34:13,15 36:20	21:22 23:20	11:11 23:9,10
ten 9:8,10 15:5,5	36:24 37:23	33:15,21 34:22	34:4 37:16,23
16:15 19:16	39:20 42:10	35:16 37:5	true 40:21 43:7
21:19 28:16	thinking 19:23	40:11 42:9,16	try 2:14,19
37:16 40:24	21:11 38:5	today's 2:3 3:13	33:23 34:21
tend 30:17	third 31:24	10:20	trying 2:15,17
tends 35:4	thought 17:1	ton 21:6	4:13 8:8,10 18:7
tennessee 2:23	31:9 41:1	tongue 19:15	23:25 27:16
tenured 9:14	thoughtful 14:17	top 16:15 23:21	37:2 41:16
11:2	thoughts 17:20	26:2 27:20	turn 26:10,14,14
term 26:4	25:8 35:22	32:19	turning 26:1
terminal 10:20	thousand 9:18	touched 27:12	twist 7:21
16:2 20:8	9:24 10:18 23:9	27:13	

[two - white]

two 4:21,23 5:10	40:19 41:11	viable 23:24	10:7 16:11 22:2
5:24 9:9,22,24	universal 13:12	39:8,21	24:15 25:25
10:24 14:5	unknown 32:12	video 4:18,18	28:12,19 30:14
15:22 21:10	unlock 38:24	5:9,20 6:14 7:2	30:17 32:1
30:23 31:9,10,11	unprecedented	15:11,13 21:6	34:14 40:17
41:9	26:9	24:2 25:21	42:14
tyler 27:6,7	unpronouncea	33:15 36:8	ways 3:2,3
type 10:8 29:10	19:25	vikram 39:3	we've 5:1,2,3,3
31:19 36:5 37:8	update 29:11	virginia 24:22	5:16,17 10:10,23
typically 31:22	38:25	vision 28:24	11:6 21:23
u	upgrading 37:15	volume 17:19,23	24:15,17 25:14
u.s. 40:22	upper 6:11	18:5 19:1 29:22	26:2,16 28:20
ukraine 26:17	ups 18:9	vote 15:16	31:4,5 33:23
ulterior 36:23	use 2:18 40:24	votes 16:15	34:18 39:8
ultimately 6:13	v	31:10	wear 12:4,7,7,13
16:19 35:15	validity 21:17	voting 15:15	35:4
unassigned 11:8	valuable 20:6	\mathbf{w}	wearing 17:2
uncertain 39:20	value 9:19 18:8	wage 5:3 32:14	wears 13:5 14:8
40:3	25:10,12,15	waiting 11:13	webinar 2:4,4,9
uncertainty	27:23,24 28:1,4	walnick 37:12	2:11,21 3:9
25:17	28:13 29:8	want 7:4,12 8:14	12:19 22:13
unchanged	32:24 33:2 38:4	8:18 10:21 11:1	38:21
21:23	values 19:13	11:14,22 12:2,9	wednesday 2:4
undersigned	29:4 38:9	13:25,25 18:18	2:20
43:11	van 16:24	21:15 29:7,9	week 3:10 8:13
understand	vast 10:13	30:8,20,20 35:25	9:3,9 11:16,17
42:11	vegas 4:4 11:6	36:12,13 39:10	11:18,25 15:15
underwriting	11:12	39:18 40:5,11	16:14 18:15,24
39:15	vehicle 5:3 9:19	42:8	42:17
unemployment	10:5 24:14 38:9	wants 7:7 33:14	weeks 30:1
19:20	vehicles 9:13,25	37:13 38:15	welcome 2:3
unfortunately	10:19,24 11:19	39:7	8:25 west 11:14
22:13	37:15 38:7,11	war 6:15	west 11:14 western 10:17
union 15:4	versus 19:2	watching 7:1	whatsoever 3:18
united 2:24 4:3	vested 7:5	29:19 37:5	
6:19 7:6,12 15:2	viability 23:3	way 3:4 5:3,4,4	wheels 24:13,14 white 17:3
15:25 16:2	34:8	6:25 7:3 8:15	willte 17.3

[wife - zoom]

wife 13:10	40:10
willing 41:5	year 4:21 5:2,7
wilmington	6:9 16:10 18:22
10:22	19:2 23:15,20
win 18:8 21:19	31:2
24:15,15,17,17	years 3:2 5:24
34:14,14 37:1	6:20 12:24
wise 7:11 20:2	17:18 23:18
woke 23:5	25:12,12,12 26:8
wool 24:20	27:18,19,21
word 20:2 34:7	30:23 39:6
work 7:8 12:11	40:24
36:25	yep 22:6 29:11
worked 33:23	york 22:8,9
workers 32:14	yorker 22:16
working 18:9,22	Z
39:15	zero 32:23,24
works 8:2	zoom 7:19,22
world 5:16 27:1	20011 7.17,22
42:9	
worth 25:12	
worthy 28:14	
wow 29:19	
wrap 40:10	
write 4:22	
wrong 34:7	
X	
xander 24:20	
xyz 36:18	
y	
yeah 14:21 16:23	
17:21 20:13	
22:17,23 29:24	
31:6,12,24 33:20	
34:10,17,25 36:1	
37:11,19 38:18	
39:11,11,12,13	

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	A Follow-up to Our Communications with FedEx Ground
6	/
7	
8	August 3, 2022
9	Length - 7:36
10	Transcribed by Andrea Filar, CSR-8349
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13	
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18	
19	
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22	
23	
24	
25	
	Page 1

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MR. PATTON: It has been 14 days since the release of my initial video and letter expressing genuine concern about the health of FedEx Ground's network. That story generated nationwide media coverage from both the media, as well as industry analysts such as Bloomberg, Deutsche Bank, and UBS.

Just one week later, John Smith, the CEO of FedEx Ground, released an open letter to some 6,000 FedEx Ground contractors in response. His letter, in my opinion, was completely tone deaf and really revealed how acutely FedEx Ground is out of touch with the economic health of their independent contractors who are essential to the FedEx Ground organization.

His letter also reflects, in my opinion, disregard for FedEx Ground customers who will suffer a loss of services if FedEx Ground drives its independent

Page 2

contractors out of business. FedEx Ground is currently using their power to bully us and their customers.

The letter also features several thinly veiled contractual threats against his contractors, something the media picked up on right away. For 18-wheeler contractors who have absolutely no contractual ability to request a renegotiation at all, John Smith's letter entirely ignored your challenges.

And because many of you have asked me,

FedEx Ground additionally sent a cease and desist letter

to my attention too full of additional legal threats.

You know what all of that tells me? I've got their

attention. You are seeing a David versus Goliath story

play right in front of your eyes in full Technicolor. We

are small businesses of 10 to 25 employees versus a 60

billion dollar business.

At our Expo on August 20th and 21st we are going to have more than half of all contractors in the United States come together under one roof to discuss exactly these concerns.

To the media, come meet our Davids. Come see the people in this industry that are struggling out there trying to make these businesses work. Literally essential workers that are ensuring that the U.S. consumers' packages get delivered. We need your help to

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tell our story.

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To Wall Street and industry analysts, come learn from my peers. Sure, I'll be there to teach you, and I'm happy to meet with you one-on-one if you'd like, but I'd like you to hear it from them. Learn their individual stories. Remember that across the United States some small business owners create 99 percent of all jobs. So if you want a true read into the U.S. economy, come hear it from my peers and come learn about why the FedEx Ground network is in significant peril.

To the large shareholders of FedEx, come to our Expo. One thing I've received a lot of feedback on from my letter was pointing out that FedEx expanded their margins by more than 30 percent by pushing fuel surcharges on the U.S. consumer but not passing through those charges to their contractors, the very ones consuming the fuel.

You can expect to receive video updates from me every 7 to 14 days. In an effort to help you track this story, we're creating a new social media hashtag, which is #purplefriday. We actually came up with this in two different ways. First, FedEx Ground has a Purple Promise that they ensure to their customers via their contractor network. And November 25th of 2022 is Black Friday, a huge e-commerce day. So we married those

Page 4

two together and came up with #purplefriday.

As mentioned earlier, FedEx Ground did send me a cease and desist letter that falsely accuses me of violating the antitrust laws and other misconduct. To clear up FedEx Ground's confusion, I am not calling for any uniform price increase nor uniform prices for every contractor. That would make no sense because every contractor has its own unique set of circumstances. In fact, some contractors have financial needs that far outstrip a mere 20 to 50 cents.

As already detailed in my prior video, I have personally requested multiple contractual renegotiations from my own businesses with FedEx Ground, all of which have been denied. For many other contractors just like me, their stories of rejected renegotiation requests are the same.

Also contrary to FedEx Ground's allegations, nothing in my letter or videos called for any group boycott of delivery services. I know what decision I will be financially forced to make for my own business on November 25th of 2022, but every contractor is going to have to make their own individual decision about what is best for his or her own business.

I am calling for FedEx Ground to recognize that its independent contractors are in

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financial distress. In an effort to avoid disaster, I am now extending a personal invitation to John Smith to present at our annual Expo on August 20th and 21st and talk about his plan. With more than half of all contractors in the nation scheduled to attend, I have to imagine that FedEx Ground would want to be present.

In the meantime, as introduced in my prior video, we are moving forward with the formation of a trade association that will be called the Trade Association for Logistics Professionals. A trade association is not a union, nor is it an effort to collectively bargain. Importantly, the Trade Association in no way, shape, or form violates our operating agreements with FedEx Ground. I've had the best legal minds carefully construct it with an eye towards contractual compliance.

The purpose of this Trade Association will be to exercise our constitutionally given First Amendment rights to voice our concerns as an industry, petition for change, and if necessary, participate in legal challenges against FedEx Ground around highly debatable topics such as our current classification as contractors, FedEx's rejection of our entitlement to franchise protection, and driver safety.

By the way, I am informed that there is a

Page 6

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1	three-prong test for franchise classification, and we
2	have a very compelling case on all three prongs,
3	especially in light of FedEx Ground's recent introduction
4	of Schedule L. A shift in that classification would be a
5	game changer for us.
6	We will open self-nominations for the
7	Trade Association leadership committee in about 10 days,
8	and we will move forward with inviting all 6,000
9	contractors to vote on who will serve on that committee.
10	Stay tuned for more details via #purplefriday, and I'll
11	see you at the Expo.
12	"Join us at contractor Expo:
13	routeconsultantexpo.com."
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	Page 7

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1	CERTIFICATE
2	STATE OF MICHIGAN
3	COUNTY OF MACOMB
4	
5	I, Andrea Filar, C.S.R. and Notary Public
6	in and for the County of Macomb, State of Michigan, do
7	hereby certify that the attached is a true, correct, and
8	complete transcript of my stenographic notes taken at the
9	time and place hereinbefore stated and they were
10	transcribed upon a computer under my direct supervision.
11	The undersigned assumes no responsibility for copies not
12	made under my direction or control. September 19, 2022
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14	
15	Andrea-filar Scheer
16	Charles posts / 10. sec
	Andrea Filar, CSR - 8349
17	Notary Public, Macomb County
	My Commission Expires: 10-01-2028
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	Page 8

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[10 - customers]

1	acutely 2:20	business 3:1,16	compliance 6:16
	additional 3:11	4:7 5:21,23	computer 8:10
10 3:15 7:7	additionally	businesses 3:15	concern 2:12
10-01-2028 8:17	3:10	3:23 5:13	concerns 3:20
14 2:10 4:19	agreements 6:14		6:19
18 3:6	allegations 5:18	c	confusion 5:5
19 8:12	amazon 2:5,9	c.s.r. 8:5	connection 2:8
2	amendment 6:19	called 5:18 6:9	constitutionally
20 5:10	analysts 2:14 4:2	calling 5:5,24	6:18
2022 1:8 4:24	andrea 1:10 8:5	carefully 6:15	construct 6:15
5:21 8:12	8:16	case 7:2	consumer 4:15
20th 3:17 6:3		cease 3:10 5:3	
21st 3:17 6:3	annual 6:3	cents 5:10	consumers 3:25
25 3:15	antitrust 5:4	ceo 2:16	consuming 4:17
25th 4:24 5:21	approved 2:7	certificate 8:1	contractor 4:24
26748 8:16	asked 3:9	certify 8:7	5:7,8,21 7:12
	associated 2:7	challenges 3:8	contractors 2:6
3	association 2:3,6	6:21	2:18,21 3:1,4,6
3 1:8	6:9,10,11,12,17	change 6:20	3:18 4:16 5:9,15
30 4:14	7:7	changer 7:5	5:25 6:5,23 7:9
5	assumes 8:11	charges 4:16	contractual 3:4
50 5:10	attached 8:7	circumstances	3:6 5:12 6:16
6	attend 6:5	5:8	contrary 5:17
-	attention 3:11	classification	control 8:12
6,000 2:17 7:8	3:13	6:22 7:1,4	copies 8:11
60 3:15	august 1:8 3:17	clear 5:5	corporation 2:5
7	6:3	collectively 6:12	2:9
7 4:19	avoid 6:1	come 3:19,21,21	correct 8:7
8	b	4:3,9,9,11	county 8:3,6,17
_	bank 2:15	commerce 4:25	coverage 2:13
8349 1:10 8:16	bargain 6:12	commission 8:17	create 4:7
9	best 5:23 6:14	committee 7:7,9	creating 4:20
99 4:7	billion 3:16	communications	csr 1:10 8:16
a	black 4:25	1:5	current 6:22
	bloomberg 2:15	compelling 7:2	currently 3:1
ability 3:7	boycott 5:19	compening 7.2	customers 2:24
absolutely 3:6	bully 3:2	completely 2:19	3:2 4:23
accuses 5:3			
		I.	

[david - letter]

d	ensuring 3:24	follow 1:5	i
	entirely 3:8	forced 5:20	
david 3:13	entitlement 6:23	form 6:13	ignored 3:8
davids 3:21	especially 7:3	formation 6:8	imagine 6:6
day 4:25	essential 2:21	forward 6:8 7:8	importantly
days 2:10 4:19	3:24	franchise 6:24	6:12
7:7	exactly 3:20	7:1	increase 5:6
deaf 2:19	exercise 6:18	friday 4:25	independent
debatable 6:22	expanded 4:13	front 3:14	2:21,25 5:25
decision 5:20,22	expect 4:18	fuel 4:14,17	individual 4:6
delivered 3:25	expires 8:17	full 3:11,14	5:22
delivery 5:19	expo 3:17 4:12		industry 2:14
denied 5:14	6:3 7:11,12	<u>g</u>	3:22 4:2 6:19
desist 3:10 5:3	express 2:5,8	game 7:5	informed 6:25
detailed 5:11	expressing 2:11	generated 2:13	initial 2:11
details 7:10	extending 6:2	genuine 2:12	introduced 6:7
deutsche 2:15	eye 6:15	given 6:18	introduction 7:3
different 4:22	eyes 3:14	going 3:18 5:22	invitation 6:2
direct 8:10		goliath 3:13	inviting 7:8
direction 8:12	f	ground 1:5 2:5,9	j
disaster 6:1	fact 5:9	2:17,18,20,22,24	jobs 4:8
discuss 3:19	falsely 5:3	2:25 3:1,10 4:10	john 2:16 3:7 6:2
disregard 2:24	far 5:9	4:22 5:2,13,24	join 7:12
distress 6:1	features 3:3	6:6,14,21	k
dollar 3:16	federal 2:5,8	ground's 2:12	
driver 6:24	fedex 1:5 2:5,9	5:5,17 7:3	know 3:12 5:19
drives 2:25	2:12,17,18,20,22	group 5:19	l
e	2:24,25 3:1,10	h	l 7:4
e 4:25	4:10,11,13,22	half 3:18 6:4	large 4:11
earlier 5:2	5:2,5,13,17,24	happy 4:4	laws 5:4
economic 2:20	6:6,14,21 7:3	hashtag 4:21	leadership 7:7
economy 4:9	fedex's 6:23	health 2:12,21	learn 4:3,5,9
effort 4:19 6:1	feedback 4:12	hear 4:5,9	legal 3:11 6:14
6:11	filar 1:10 8:5,16	help 3:25 4:19	6:21
employees 3:15	financial 5:9 6:1	hereinbefore 8:9	length 1:9
endorsed 2:4	financially 5:20	highly 6:21	letter 2:11,17,18
ensure 4:23	first 4:22 6:18	huge 4:25	2:23 3:3,8,10
		6	4:13 5:3,18

[light - suffer]

light 7:3	_	protection 6:24	
literally 3:23	0	public 8:5,17	S
•	ones 4:16	purple 4:23	safety 6:24
logistics 2:3,6 6:10	open 2:17 7:6		schedule 7:4
	operating 6:13	purplefriday	scheduled 6:5
loss 2:25	opinion 2:19,23	4:21 5:1 7:10	see 3:22 7:11
lot 4:12	organization	purpose 6:17	seeing 3:13
m	2:22	pushing 4:14	self 7:6
macomb 8:3,6	outstrip 5:10	r	send 5:3
8:17	owners 4:7	read 4:8	sense 5:7
margins 4:14	p	really 2:19	sent 3:10
married 4:25	packages 3:25	receive 4:18	september 8:12
media 2:13,14	participate 6:20	received 4:12	serve 7:9
3:5,21 4:20	participate 0.20 passing 4:15	recognize 5:25	services 2:25
meet 3:21 4:4	patton 2:10	recommended	5:19
mentioned 5:2	peers 4:3,9	2:4	set 5:8
mere 5:10	people 3:22	reflects 2:23	shape 6:13
michigan 8:2,6	percent 4:7,14	rejected 5:15	shareholders
minds 6:15	peril 4:10	rejection 6:23	4:11
misconduct 5:4	personal 6:2	release 2:11	shift 7:4
move 7:8	personal 0.2 personally 5:12	released 2:17	signature 8:16
moving 6:8	petition 6:20	remember 4:6	significant 4:10
multiple 5:12	picked 3:5	renegotiation	small 3:15 4:7
n	place 8:9	3:7 5:16	smith 2:16 6:2
	plan 6:4	renegotiations	smith's 3:7
nation 6:5 nationwide 2:13	plan 0.4 play 3:14	5:13	social 4:20
	_ ·	request 3:7	sponsored 2:7
necessary 6:20	pointing 4:13	requested 5:12	state 8:2,6
need 3:25	power 3:2	requests 5:16	stated 8:9
needs 5:9	present 6:3,6	response 2:18	states 3:19 4:7
network 2:13	price 5:6	responsibility	stay 7:10
4:10,24	prices 5:6	8:11	stenographic 8:8
new 4:20	prior 5:11 6:8	revealed 2:19	stories 4:6 5:15
nominations 7:6	professionals	right 3:5,14	story 2:13 3:13
notary 8:5,17	2:4 6:10	rights 6:19	4:1,20
notes 8:8	promise 4:23	roof 3:19	street 4:2
november 4:24	prong 7:1	routeconsultan	struggling 3:22
5:21	prongs 7:2	7:13	suffer 2:24

[supervision - workers]

gram grandada - 0.10	
supervision 8:10	unique 5:8
surcharges 4:15	united 3:19 4:6
sure 4:3	updates 4:18
t	V
taken 8:8	veiled 3:4
talk 6:4	versus 3:13,15
teach 4:3	video 2:11 4:18
technicolor 3:14	5:11 6:8
tell 4:1	videos 5:18
tells 3:12	violates 6:13
test 7:1	violating 5:4
thing 4:12	voice 6:19
thinly 3:3	vote 7:9
threats 3:4,11	W
three 7:1,2	wall 4:2
time 8:9	want 4:8 6:6
tone 2:19	way 6:13,25
topics 6:22	ways 4:22
touch 2:20	week 2:16
track 4:20	whatsoever 2:8
trade 2:3,6 6:9,9	wheeler 3:6
6:10,12,17 7:7	work 3:23
transcribed 1:10	workers 3:24
8:10	,, 0111015 5.2
transcript 8:8	
true 4:8 8:7	
trying 3:23	
tuned 7:10	
two 4:22 5:1	
u	
u.s. 3:24 4:8,15	
ubs 2:15	
undersigned	
8:11	
uniform 5:6,6	
union 6:11	

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5	2022 Expo Update & TALP Committee Nominations I	nfo
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8	August 10, 2022	
9	Length - 46:49	
10	Transcribed by Andrea Filar, CSR-8349	
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MR. PATTON: Welcome everybody. Welcome to our Wednesday webinar. We are doing our last webinar before we have our Expo August 20th and 21st in Las

Vegas, Nevada. Most of you by now have heard about our

Expo. For those of you that haven't, we are bringing more than half of all contractors in the United States together under one roof at the Paris Hotel. We have sold out all 3,300 rooms of the hotel. We're now booking in the Bally's Hotel that is connected to it. It is going to be an amazing event. It is thousands and thousands and thousands of people there.

Obviously we have a lot to talk about.

If you have seen any of my materials, videos, letters, everything that has come out over the last three weeks, our organization and FedEx Ground has been trading press releases and letters and all of these different things that I'm going to speak some to today and certainly speak extensively to at the Expo. So for my current contractors that are here, would love to have you there.

We are going to have 11 Wall Street analysts that are covering FedEx Ground's stock price. We are going to have two of FedEx Ground's largest shareholders in the United States attending the Expo. We're going to have

Page 2

five media outlets there. It's going to be an event and I'm excited for it. It's going to be a good day for contractors and very educational.

I've got to do the only boring thing, so for those of you that haven't joined a webinar before, this is your first time here, welcome. My name is Spencer Patton. This is going to be a fun webinar, you're going to laugh a little bit, we're going to tell you some jokes, it's going to be all part of it, but I've got to do the disclaimer real quick so let me knock that out.

Route Consultant is not endorsed by and is not recommended by Federal Express Corporation and FedEx Ground. Route Consultant is not sponsored by, is not approved by, is not associated with, and has no connection whatsoever with Federal Express Corporation or FedEx Ground.

All that means is that I am not an employee of FedEx Ground. The opinions that I express to you today are not that of FedEx Ground, they are the opinions of myself and sometimes some 6,000 other FedEx Ground contractors just like me. There are 6,000 contractors across the United States, all of us small business owners. The information I share today will not be materially non-public information that you can trade

Page 3

FedEx's stock price upon, but hopefully it will be materially helpful information for you as you're considering FedEx routes as an investment, or for my current contractors here, trying to figure out how to make your business more profitable and use the best practices that are available out there, we're here to be able to teach you.

For those again that are new here, my name is Spencer Patton. I'm the contractor, have about 225 routes, 275 trucks on the road across 10 different states. So all that means is that I am just more crazy than most of the other contractors due to all of the routes that I have running across. We're based in Nashville, Tennessee.

Today we announced via press release just a couple hours ago the official formation of the Trade Association for Logistics Professionals. This is something that we announced a week ago, but we officially opened nominations for a ten contractor committee to come together and serve as a board in this Trade Association. This Trade Association was designed by really smart and advanced attorneys to ensure that the Trade Association is in compliance with every single aspect of our operating agreement with FedEx Ground. We're going to be able to exercise our First Amendment rights to be able to

Page 4

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come together and talk about our businesses and trying to figure out ways that we are able to, in compliance with the law, be able to ensure that we're doing the best that we can as small business owners that are literally the heartbeat of the U.S. economy.

So I want to walk you through just a little bit of the Trade Association. I'm going to be doing this for about an hour and 15 minutes ten days from now when I'm talking in one of my keynotes about the Trade Association and some of the functions of it. But I want to just give a little bit of an overview in this moment so that way those that are considering nominating themselves for it can understand what they're signing up for.

Association has several different responsibilities and roles that we've outlined for it. And if you go to our web site you'll be able to see some of those different roles, but the key governance of the Trade Association is of ten contractors. So these ten contractors are going to self-nominate, and we just opened up the link, we'll post it in the chat if we haven't already, of where you can go to nominate yourself. And we're going to encourage you to record a two or three minute video.

Of the ten contractors that serve on this

Page 5

2.2

board, our goal is to have seven that are pickup and delivery, and to have three that either exclusively line haul, the 18-wheeler side of the business, or they're the majority line haul in terms of their mixture of operations. We want to make sure that we have great representation from pickup and delivery and we have great representation on the line haul side. If you look at the 6,000 FedEx contractors out there, about 80 percent are pickup and delivery and about 20 percent are line haul, so that's why we're trying to mirror that on the board of having it either be eight and two or seven and three towards pickup and delivery and, and line haul there.

So we're going to have an open democratic process to be able to elect these ten board members. So we will open those votes September 12th, so you have between now and September 12th to nominate yourself, and then we're going to be able to hold voting for a week. And then we'll announce the winners of that kind of election at that time.

So the self-nomination is a time where you want to record a short video that we're going to make available for those that are considering voting for you and other people on the board, and really you're free to talk about whatever you think you're going to be contributing to this Trade Association. We have had a

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flood of people, since we've announced the Trade

Association, express interest in nominating themselves to serve on that board.

And what's really amazing is everybody brings all sorts of unique backgrounds. We've had people that have been contractors for literally 30 years, this is what they've given more than half of their lives to in this space. We have some people that bring a really deep financial background and they're able to really be the number crunchers and the nerds of the board, and I can say that because I am a nerd too. There's other people that have a real corporate background that really understand the inner workings of multibillion dollar businesses and feel like that they would be able to add value that way.

All sorts of different things that we're excited to be able to assemble this together because this Trade Association is going to be able to help 6,000 contractors that sometimes struggle to express any type of unified opinion, right. No company, no matter how big or organized they are, can individually receive and process 6,000 voices from small business owners. That's just not possible to be able to do. So being able to collectively assemble that into a Trade Association allows us to be able to communicate in a way that can

Page 7

2.2

actually be helpful, because that's the goal here. The Trade Association has no benefit from trying to hurt FedEx Ground. We want to see FedEx Ground do well, we want to see contractors do well. And so there's a lot of complexity that goes into that.

But that Trade Association is one that we are going to be talking extensively about all the roles that it's going to be play. I'm going to share at the Expo some of its early initiatives that I think would be good for the Trade Association, but I will be running to be elected to the board just like everybody else. Just because it was my idea, does not mean that I get to put myself on the board. I, I will be voted on just like everybody else and share some of the ideas that I think would be effective on that Trade Association.

So just wanted to go over that with you, let you officially know that the self-nominations are open. At the Expo we are going to have a video crew, the one that does all of the filming for my content, we will be set up at the Expo. So if you are attending the Expo and you want us to record your video, it would be done really professionally and done in a way that I think you'll be proud. And we're going to do that just for anybody that wants to record their video.

If you're not able to make it to the Expo

Page 8

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or you just can't wait, the self-nomination form built into the web page is an ability for you to activate your camera and record your nomination right there. So if you can't make it to the Expo or you just want to submit it right away you'll be able to do that, otherwise if you come to the Expo we'll make sure it's done really professionally. And you can notify us via the self-nomination form, there's a button to click, that you'd like to record at the Expo, and so that's how you'll do your nomination.

If you don't feel called to serve on that board, then certainly you're invited to vote and to talk to other people that you think may be a good fit for the board and have them come and do a self-nomination.

So that is TALP, the Trade Association for Logistics Professionals and our overview. So what I want to do now is introduce Annalee. Annalee runs Route Consultant, she is responsible for all that goes on in the Route Consultant world. She has some new inventory, some new listings that she's going to update us on, and then I just want to do Q&A. We're obviously in some unusual times and I think it's best served that I answer your questions and speak to what you want to learn about and we're going to load in as many questions as we can.

For those of you that are kind of

Page 9

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1 longstanding attendees of our webinar, you know that we always do a question of the day. You can't just stroll in here and ask questions to Annalee and I. Instead, we have you answer a question before you ask a question. So at the Q&A button on the bottom of your screen, not the chat button but the Q&A button, we want you to answer our 7 question of what has been your favorite event in your lifetime? It could be a sporting event, it could be a 9 concert, anything that is an event to you, and why. So it could be anywhere, abroad, any event that you've had, 10 we'd love to know. I'll tell you mine, Annalee will tell 11 12 you hers. But Annalee, why don't you take it away and 13 then we'll go into Q&A after that. 14 ANNALEE: Okay. I didn't pull my answer 15 together this time ahead so you have to go first this 16

That's the only difference. I always go first but you have to go first this time. So I'm going to read the inventory.

Okay. I sprung the question MR. PATTON: of the day on you there.

ANNALEE: You did. I'm like oh my gosh, there's so many things I want to say. I am going to -except for now I literally thought of it and I know you're going to steal my thunder so that's stupid but okay, we're going to do the inventory.

Page 10

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1 I have seven new opportunities for you 2. guys this week. Portland, Oregon on the P&D side, eight P&D routes for you, listed at 450. Has a manager. 3 also think this one may be SBA eligible, which again I 4 know a lot of times is a big driver for folks. 6 longstanding tenured operator, so great transition support as well. May be willing to do some seller financing with a motivated buyer who's able to move 8 9 quickly, so great opportunity in Portland for our west 10 coasters. 11 In Fairfield, Ohio I've got nine P&D 12 routes listed at 425. Super profitable operation, low 13 mileage territory. Two managers on staff doing the 14 day-to-day. Low mileage again, you know, helps maintain those fuel costs and pieces on that as well. It's only 15 16 38 percent of revenue on that one but you will need to 17 source fleet, so it might be a good candidate for something like Hello Truck Lease considering the mileage 18 19 and territory. 20 Johnson City, Tennessee we've got nine 21 P&D routes listed at 900 thousand. That opportunity has 2.2 management in place, comes with spare vehicles, spare

drivers, and again a profitable operation on that one as well.

In Savannah, Georgia we've got eleven P&D

Page 11

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routes listed at 1.3 million. Two managers in place, spare trucks. Also looks like Savannah might be a, might be SBA eligible if you want to be in that southern market and potentially have some SBA for that. High growth, like really affluent delivery area too, so some of the different challenges that you get based on delivery area, really nice perks to that one.

Lakeland, Florida, we've got ten P&D routes listed at 595. Manager in place for that one as well. Really handling 100 percent of the operations of the business so that's a great kind of hey, I really want some support getting started or maybe looking to run something remote, Lakeland would be a really good one to look at for them. Also some assumable truck debt for that one as well if you're trying to do creative financing and keep that out of a traditional lending methods.

In North Cincinnati we've got nine P&D routes listed at 75 thousand, so this one is an opportunity to really have an extremely low entry point into the space. Definitely something where they're looking for a motivated quick mover. Two managers on that, but if Cinci's your area you might want to check that out quickly, I imagine that will go really fast.

And then one for Amazon this week. We

Page 12

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have a DSP operation, does approximately 22 routes on a regular day but obviously that fluctuates, in Louisville, Kentucky listed at 142. I got four managers in place for that one, six spare vehicles, established business, great territory. Clean, really consistent financial records, so lots of, lots of really strong avenues to that one.

So that's what I have for you guys this week.

So, okay Spencer, what's your event?

MR. PATTON: All right, so mine, this is

actually a Vegas theme, it's borrowing from the Vegas side since our Expo is out there, but it's actually true. So there is a show in Vegas, the Michael Jackson One, okay. So I don't really care whether you're a Michael Jackson fan or not, you will love this show. It is the only show in Vegas that I have seen multiple times and it is half concert but half just like costume crazy type experience. And at the end they do a hologram of Michael Jackson that, I'm telling you, is the most real thing you've ever seen that it literally he moonwalks across the stage, it's pretty fantastic. So for those of you coming to Vegas if you have a chance to be able to catch the Michael Jackson One show, it is one of my absolute favorites. So I think it qualifies for me as an event in and of itself, it is awesome. So that's mine.

ANNALEE: Okay, that's totally not what I

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1 thought you were going to say so you didn't steal my thunder. 3 MR. PATTON: Good. ANNALEE: But Michael Jackson One is a 5 really great show. So I am going to say, I was thinking more along the lines of kind of like conference like what 7 we're doing this week, or next week, and so actually Spencer introduced me to the Tony Robbins events. And so now you're totally thinking oh, she got a good one 9 because you would have --10 11 MR. PATTON: That's good. 12 ANNALEE: -- (inaudible) thinking events. 13 But it's been a couple years now, I went to one of the 14 Tony Robbins events. And if you can't tell from my 15 personality, which most of you guys probably know at this point, I love a little high energy and just so much 16 17 positivity and those events, it's like walking into 18 Disneyland, everybody's so excited everywhere you go and it's just an amazing energy and just such a fun 19 20 experience to go to. So that's definitely my favorite 21 event that I've ever been to. 22 And also, for the record, if you're going 23 to be with us next week in Vegas I give all of you permission, anybody on my team that you see that's not 24 25 out there giving like Tony Robbins level hallway energy,

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Page 14

1 you can walk right up to them and say Annalee said you better be Tony Robbins level energy. We're all really excited here so you guys can, can go call them on it combing the halls in Paris next week, so. MR. PATTON: That's outstanding. 5 I love it, I love it. Okay, well let's get into our Q&A, 7 Annalee. That was a great answer and I would have stolen 8 that from you had -- that's very true. 9 ANNALEE: Thank you. Yep. 10 MR. PATTON: Good work. 11 ANNALEE: (Inaudible) do it. Okay. 12 Spencer, so first question comes from Richard Delaney who 13 said the best event he's ever been to was the 2010 Final 14 Four basketball tournament. I bet that was a pretty, a 15 pretty epic event there. And the question is, so 16 insight, Spencer, into like if we start adding additional 17 kind of business delivery like into the, the routes, like 18 what, what does the future of cubic needs for delivery vehicles look like, do you see needing larger vehicles as 19 20 the space progresses, do you see contractors moving to 21 smaller, you know, small parcel delivery vans, kind of can you give an outlook what you're anticipating there? 2.2 2.3 MR. PATTON: Yeah. So this is an important thing to understand about FedEx Ground's 24 25 network in general is that where does FedEx Ground make

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Page 15

the most money? So if you say what type of package do they make the most money on, they make it on oversized packages, what are called incompatible packages. FedEx Ground just yesterday released all new surcharges that are going to be put through for peak season, and actually starting well before peak season, and for certain oversize packages they are charging an additional 40 to 80 dollars for oversize packages.

So the reason why is that if you're going to have a network that carries oversize packages, you've got to have your entire network engineered for that. The belts have to be heavier, the chutes, like the width of the chutes that the packages slide down have to be wider. When you are dealing with an oversize package, like, you know, a set of four tires, lawn chair, trampoline, mattresses, those things don't stack neatly together. They, if you think about putting that into the back of the trailer, you can't nicely stack them on top of each other, it's kind of like package soup on the inside and there's more damage that can happen too which means that FedEx Ground is going to have more claims.

So what all that means though is that FedEx Ground makes their most money, their highest margin, on oversize boxes. So where are they going to focus on their growth? In the oversize boxes, right,

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that's where they want to go towards. So what you've heard us talk about for years in our fleet strategy is I want to see you operate the largest vehicle that you can safely operate on your route. So for some of you, very few of you, but some of you have not yet overlapped Ground and home delivery for your territory. just a few of you left in the United States, and maybe the individual asking the question is in this scenario. When you add business delivery, that is where a lot of the bulk comes from. There's still large boxes that go to residences, of course, but the business delivery is where you see a lot of the heavy, oversized type boxes go for. So definitely operating large trucks and being mindful that where FedEx Ground's network is going in the future is towards these oversized and incompatible packages.

on, this is what a lot of times people say well Spencer, how do you feel about Amazon as a competitor, or how do you feel about UPS as a competitor to FedEx? And the answer is that UPS and Amazon, while competitors, are, are really focusing on a different type of package. They focus on shoebox size packages that are lighter weight, whereas FedEx focuses on the big uglies as I like to call this. Like just the packages that if you looked into the

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back of a truck you would not want to have to deliver that one, that's the one FedEx Ground focuses on. So yes, there's an overlap between the businesses, but they're more different than they are the same in thinking about the types of boxes that their network is built upon.

ANNALEE: And, you know, you're somewhat touching on this so I'm going to go ahead and go with this question from Bill Goss, Spencer, who's kind of said staying on the Vegas theme, best even he went to was the Beatles Love show in Vegas, that is also a great show.

MR. PATTON: Love it.

ANNALEE: So, so can you further elaborate a little on kind of the impending transition with FedEx with folding in of Express and kind of terminal reductions and the, you know, the tightening of the network there? What do you think the impact of that is going to be as you're talking about these different volume types?

MR. PATTON: So FedEx just a couple weeks ago announced their network 2.0. And what that means is that FedEx Express has always operated as an entirely separate network from FedEx Ground. And, and that has frustrated Wall Street analysts, it's frustrated investors for many, many years, because if you look at

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1 UPS there's no such distinction, but on the FedEx side we actually have entirely separate terminals for Express and Ground. And, and so it results in a lot of duplicative -- duplicating, how about that? Duplicating efforts. Duplicative? I don't think that's a word. 5 6 ANNALEE: Not duplicative. 7 MR. PATTON: So we're going to go with duplicating efforts. It sounds good though but it 8 doesn't come off the tongue very, very well. So we're 9 just going to -- this is not like it's a live webinar, 10 right? Oh, it is a live webinar, okay. All right, it is 11 12 a live webinar. ANNALEE: We can edit that out. 13 14 MR. PATTON: So we're duplicating the 15 terminals is what we're going to say there, and, and that 16 causes waste, right. So you have an Express truck pull 17 up and you have a Ground truck pull up at the same 18 building, and it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that okay, this is not very efficient. 19 20 So what we're seeing and what FedEx 21 announced is that the Express network is going to be substantially, not entirely, but substantially integrated 2.2 2.3 into the Ground network. And that's a big win for Ground contractors. It's something that I've talked about for 24

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two years that FedEx has been announcing this and they've

been reaffirming it and Raj, the new CEO of FedEx, corporately affirmed this to say that this will continue.

So if I was an Express driver I would not be happy about this, right, because they are closing terminals and they're eliminating routes, but Ground is going to see additional volume flow into the network.

And, and so when you think about, you know, three years out, five years out, that's a really great tail wind that we have supporting us.

Mow clearly, those of you that have seen my video and letter, we have immediate concerns right now that is calling for FedEx Ground to restore the financial viability of the routes in this moment, but it all depends on which lens you're looking at. Are you looking in the immediate lens, are you looking in the next three to five years, and, and those outlooks are very different. I, I have always been and remain very optimistic about the network over a three and five year stand, standpoint, but in the immediate term, I, I see really significant challenges that have to be addressed. And that's, that's what all of my letters and videos talk about.

ANNALEE: That's right. Okay, Spencer, so I have an unclaimed question and then two answers that I don't know which one it goes but I'm reading them both,

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1	especially because one of them is so epic. So this one,
2	I don't know if this is your question or not, but Chris
3	Lanier says that he hosted a party for 400 people on
4	Alcatraz Island in the former prison.
5	MR. PATTON: What?
6	ANNALEE: I want to be (inaudible).
7	MR. PATTON: That is amazing, Chris.
8	That is amazing. I don't even, can we even take other
9	people's answers at this point, Annalee? I don't think
10	so.
11	ANNALEE: Right. They're out.
12	MR. PATTON: Yeah. That's incredible,
13	Chris. I don't even, like did they come in costume,
14	where, was it like, I mean how
15	ANNALEE: I know, was it like a murder
16	mystery, was it like so many questions.
17	MR. PATTON: You can do a booze cruise
18	over to the island and then like there, is it a ghost
19	story? I mean I, I have a lot of questions Chris and I
20	need answers. So, you know, you can post in the chat,
21	everyone wants to know here. Everyone wants to know.
22	ANNALEE: What if it was like a carnival
23	and there were like clowns? I mean I literally can't, I
24	just can't even fathom.
25	MR. PATTON: Were there clowns? Oh my
	Page 21

1 gosh. Can you imagine going into the Alcatraz prison and there was freaking clowns driving out everywhere? man. ANNALEE: That's the worst, that's the worst. So I don't know if this is his question or not. 5 I'm also going to give it, because it might be from 7 Harsha who said He Was the O in Vegas for sure also, 8 another great show. So many great Vegas shows. Yay, I can't wait to be in Vegas, this is going to be awesome. 9 But so the question here, the unclaimed 10 question, is I'm in the process of buying line haul 11 12 routes and I've followed Route Consultant for months now, 13 but with everything that's happening right now, letter of 14 response, you know, from FedEx, all the pieces, Spencer, 15 do you think it's still a good time to get into FedEx? MR. PATTON: Yeah. So this is a great 16 17 question. As you can imagine we're getting asked it 18 again and again and again and saying all right, Spencer, you've taken a very public stance in talking about where 19 the network and sounded a significant alarm, so for those 20 21 that are looking to buy into the space how should I think about that? So there's a couple things that I, I, I 2.2 think it's critical that you understand. 23

The first piece is to know that FedEx

Ground has no network without their contractors. That is

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something that a lot of people, when they're new to the space, don't fully grasp. So FedEx Ground is 100 percent a contractor-led network. So what has always allowed me to put my head on the pillow at the end of the night for the decade that I've been doing this is that I know FedEx Ground cannot run their contractors out of business.

Because if they do so, they kill themselves at the same time, right, because the entire network collapses. So I get asked that a lot in the past of what stops FedEx from like waking up one day and cutting everybody's pay by 40 percent? Is because it would literally destroy their entire network and FedEx is not in the business of going out of business.

So the, the part that you have to remember is FedEx has no future without its contractor network. So this will get resolved one way or another. What I've been trying to be vocal about is let's not have this get resolved as a result of some massive contractor failure because FedEx Ground has not addressed the financial needs of contractors as a result of fuel prices doubling, wage costs going up, vehicle costs going up.

FedEx actually has precedent for addressing that in the past. So in 2020, in April of 2020 during COVID, FedEx Ground came out and did a 25 cent per stop increase for six months. And that was done

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to address all of the dislocations that were going on during COVID. And so that may be one of the ways that FedEx Ground could, could address this situation.

There's other tools that they could use as well.

But I think the first part that you have to remember is that whether it's the easy way or the hard way, this is going to get resolved one way or another.

And I think as long as your timeline is looking out three to five years, it's incredibly robust and optimistic about where e-commerce is going. FedEx Ground in their Investor Day just a couple weeks ago gave a really compelling future for where e-commerce is headed and FedEx Ground is a pure play on that growth. But I've also been very clear to say that this next three to eighteen months could be tough. I hope that FedEx Ground takes steps to not make it tough, but it's possible.

That's one of the ranges of outcomes.

So when you're thinking about your acquisitions, make sure that you understand where you're at on the map, right. It's just like, just like looking at a map on the wall, you are here. And there are some various outcomes that can change very rapidly. And if we see FedEx Ground do what I think is the right thing and come out and adjust the financial compensation for contractors, then I think you could see a real

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restoration to the value of routes.

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So it's, it's interesting. We're clearly seeing routes that are about a 20 percent discount from what we saw in the fourth quarter of 2020. So the fourth quarter of 2020 was the high water mark of the value of routes and we've seen about a 20 percent decline from there. So for those of you that are business minded that are looking opportunistically, this is a moment of time to take a look at whether you're buying at a good discount, whether that's attractive. I just want you to know what lens you're looking at to be able to look into the future.

ANNALEE: That's right. Spencer, next question. So while we're kind of on the topics and everything going on, answer what you can on this at this stage. But Daniel Sultan Birnbaum said that he had the opportunity to participate in an international water polo competition representing his country Venezuela.

MR. PATTON: Wow. We have like, we've gone from 0 to 60 just immediately. I mean like I, I'm kind of embarrassed by my Michael Jackson One comment now, Annalee. I feel like I have to kind of justify whether that was even an event or not and I feel like there was maybe a couple, a couple like skeptical eyes that were there. But I mean that counts as an event,

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1 international water polo. ANNALEE: Well you weren't going to beat Alcatraz or Venezuela water polo, so we didn't, you know, you didn't have a shot, so. MR. PATTON: 5 Wow. 6 ANNALEE: Daniel's question, Spencer, is, 7 you know, can you elaborate at all at this stage on kind of the franchisee conversation that you've opened up a little bit in terms of what your thoughts are with that, 9 what the direction you can see there is? 10 11 MR. PATTON: Yeah. So there have been 12 longstanding debates in this industry about classifications of who we are. So FedEx Ground's model 13 14 is built upon us being contractors. FedEx Ground has 15 dealt with extensive litigation in the past, some of which is still ongoing now, about whether we are 16 17 employees. That is litigation and a discussion that can 18 be reopened, and there is a lot of discussion on both sides there about whether we are actually classified as 19 20 employees. And obviously employee classification carries 21 a whole host of benefits that being a contractor does 22 not. 2.3 There's another angle that is talking about franchisee classification. This is one that there 24 25 hasn't been nearly as much discussion as you would have

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Page 26

thought historically, and there is a three-prong test for what makes someone a franchisee.

The first prong is that you have to have the ability and authorization to use the trademark of the franchisor. So we clearly use the trademark, right.

It's on our trucks, it's on our branding, you know, we're using the trademark.

Number two, the franchisor has to exercise substantial control over the franchisee's business. And that part is also a very compelling case. FedEx Ground controls who we hire, who we put on the road, what trucks we drive, how we deliver the boxes, where we deliver the boxes. They control the training programs that we have, the technology that we can use, there's a certain number of vendor we can choose from. On and on and on and on. Our dispatch times, when we get back to the terminal, lots of control over our business. So that second prong is, is there.

The third prong is that there has to be a fee that is charged to the franchisee. And this is where I've had some of the smartest legal minds in the franchisee space that have examined seven different fees that we are charged as contractors or franchisees that would qualify us in that standard. But interestingly, there's more than 15 states in the United States that

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that third prong, that fee prong, is not a provision.

You only have to meet the first two in order to be

classified as franchisee.

So franchisees enjoy a lot of protections that a contractor does not. So if you're a franchisee you have much more extensive abilities to organize, communicate together, be able to collectively bargain. There are state and federal protections from regulators to franchisees. Different contractual treatment of franchisees. Franchisors have to make disclosures, so they have to make financial disclosures about the health of their franchisees and the historical performance of the franchisees. It would be a, a sea change of a relationship between FedEx Ground and, and now their current contractors but potentially franchisees.

So I think the, the messaging is that everything is on the table here. I am very hopeful, and I'm speaking on behalf of my own business, is that we will see FedEx Ground adjust and make changes. I think the network demands it given all the changes to the cost structure, and we're seeing it from the number of contractors that are struggling. So there's a lot of options on the table that we can pursue. We've set the November 25th of 2022 timeline for that period of time, we've attached a social media hashtag of Purple Friday to

Page 28

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that, and that's a way that the media is able to track what we're talking about as we still have three months and a couple weeks between now and Black Friday, Purple Friday.

ANNALEE: Well obviously I was going to read this one, but Renee Benuela said that the best event he ever attended was the Route Consultant Expo.

MR. PATTON: Oh. Easy way, way to get your question answered though, right. I mean it's like we, you know what, everybody appreciates a good brown nose every now and then. It's like there, that's, I'm just going to, that's a great way to get your question answered.

ANNALEE: I loved it. Renee's question, Spencer, so we're getting more into the nitty gritty operationally here. So in a situation as a contractor, know, know we've dealt with this before, but if there's another contractor in the building that's actually like kind of poaching drivers after they make it through training and, you know, has a little bit of a toxic culture maybe brewing and it's creating contention in the terminal, have you ever seen this, dealt with this, do you have recommendations for a contractor that's, you know, dealing with that as a frustration and trying to fight that, you know, what are your thoughts there?

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MR. PATTON: Yeah. I mean a baseball bat to the kneecap has always been an effective -- I'm just kidding. You know, this is part of it.

ANNALEE: I'm going to have a lot of editing to do this week, Spencer.

MR. PATTON: Yeah, yeah. It's very duplicative that way to do editing like that, that's right. Yeah. So this is tough, right, because there's 6,000 FedEx contractors that are all entrepreneurs, and all of us have different ethics and standards for how we run our business. I'm in some terminals where the, the 5 to 20 contractors work together incredibly well and, and they really make each other's businesses stronger. And then I have other operations where there's a contractor in the terminal that will slit your throat and they will have no problem taking your drivers and, and really making that challenging.

The truth is, there's nothing legally that you can do about it. It is a, a manner of trying to make some business understanding with that contractor to say listen, if you are poaching my drivers you are literally causing the wages of everyone in the terminal to go up unnecessarily. Because I'm going to try to keep the driver, which means I'm going to pay them more, then your own drivers are going to ask for more money and your

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driver cost, and we're basically going to have a, you know, a race to the bottom profitability wise as the whole terminal has knock-on effects from that poaching. So there's nothing other than having a really stern conversation.

And, and I have seen some contractors that, you know, they really throw down the gauntlet and say if you steal one of my drivers I will steal two of yours, or three of yours, and I don't care what it takes in order for me to pay them, I, I will do that. Clearly that, there's a lot of different ways to skin that cat and some people just kind of turn the other cheek and, and just say listen, I'll find a way to make my business still work. But I wish I could, could have you, you know, a silver bullet there but I, I just say there are a number of different ways to handle it and it's something that contractors in nearly every terminal from time to time have to, to battle with.

ANNALEE: Yeah, absolutely. Spencer, next one comes from David Daniel who said the coolest event he's ever been to was the, so this is Vegas like an MMA UFC type pride fighting championship that came to the U.S. And said -- I bet that was so intense and --

MR. PATTON: Yeah. You know, MMA is tough because like there's an element of me where I enjoy

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1 MMA for about 10 or 15 seconds, and then after a while I'm just like, and I, you know, I feel like my face is just like so contorted by the end of it that after the fight I feel like I absorbed some of the blows, right. I'm just like I was like oh, gosh. So I, you know, MMA is, is tough. And being live there in person, wow. 7 ANNALEE: Yeah. MR. PATTON: That would really be intense 8 because then you can't flip the channel for a second. 9 ANNALEE: David's question, Spencer, is 10 what are your thoughts on the new Schedule K for this 11 12 year, kind of adding together total stops for the whole week for surge? Also for the record he said Michael 13 14 Jackson One was amazing in Vegas and can't wait to see 15 We will see you soon, David. 16 MR. PATTON: There you go. Yeah, David, 17 I, so Schedule K, this is brand new stuff coming out 18 where FedEx Ground is making some shifts. Those of you not familiar with Schedule K, I'll first address that. 19 During peak season, FedEx Ground tries to engineer 20 21 financial incentives for their contractors to ramp up to do all of the peak delivery that we have to do, which 2.2 means hiring a lot of people, getting a bunch of rental 23 vehicles, and there's a lot of cost to that. 24 Ground tries to offer some financial incentives to either 25

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offset those costs or in some way go against those costs.

And so FedEx Ground made a substantial change to Schedule K last year which was very painful financially for contractors. This year's change, I'll tell you the truth, I haven't had the chance to really run the numbers on it because it's so new of how the change is being made, but for those of you, this will go over some of your heads here and I apologize for that because it's just, I want to speak to my current contractors on that.

Is that, you know, when you have your threshold rather than it being set to every day, the entire week, that obviously takes away a lot of your protections. Because now no matter what volume comes in on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, you know that you're not going to have hit your weekly threshold under any scenario. And chances are you're not going to hit your scenario even if, if you look at all seven days combined because the thresholds have been set so high.

So my early read on it is I'm not a fan of it and I don't like the change. But I'm going to certainly do my research and do my due diligence and you'll hear something more formally from me on that.

For those of you that don't know what I was just talking about with thresholds and all the rest,

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1 no worries, we can teach you all that stuff later at the appropriate time but I wanted to be able to speak to that question for the contractors that are here. ANNALEE: Yeah. Spence, I also know that we're going to run out of time here soon so you want to 5 do a lightning round? 7 MR. PATTON: Yeah, let's do -- yeah, we'll do a five-minute lightning round, I'll stop 8 reacting to these amazing events. Has Chris answered our 9 question by the way? I, like --10 11 ANNALEE: No, I'm hoping. 12 MR. PATTON: -- Chris, we need the answer 13 to the question, what happened on Alcatraz? I'm dead 14 serious, Chris. I will find you. You had to give us 15 your information to do this I'm sure. So I will, I will, 16 I'm going to activate your camera on here if you do not 17 answer this question, okay. 18 ANNALEE: What happened on Alcatraz, that's the hashtag for today's webinar. 19 20 MR. PATTON: I do like that, yes. 21 ANNALEE: It is good, yes. All right, 22 let's see. So next question, Spencer, old Dr. Chronic, David Chronic, said 2001 World Series, Game Four, Yankee 23 Stadium just after 9/11. Derek Jeter walked off with a 24 25 home run in the 10th inning to tie the World Series at Page 34

1 two games apiece, that's epic. MR. PATTON: Amazing. ANNALEE: The question, yep, is Spencer, can you give kind of an update, are, for current contractors opportunities where businesses are being kind of posted or awarded, you know, do you still see those 7 opportunities existing for current contractors in a space that are looking to expand that way? 8 MR. PATTON: Just to make sure I have 9 that question right, Annalee, because I was, so you're 10 11 saying are we still seeing lists of open CSAs? 12 ANNALEE: Yes. MR. PATTON: Yeah, okay. So, so those 13 14 not familiar, as contractors fail, FedEx Ground will take 15 back possession of the delivery territory and they'll post it on a website called buildagroundbiz. And, and 16 17 they send out a public e-mail to say hey, we have this 18 new territory that is not serviced, and clearly every territory in the United States needs to be serviced and 19 so they're seeking a contractor to take over that 20 21 territory. 22 But, you know, a lot of people get 23 attracted to that because it's free, but what they quickly realize, and what we see all the time, is that 24 25 they get a free territory and you know the old saying, Page 35

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you get what you pay for. You come in and you have no drivers, you have no trucks, you have no route planning at all, no familiarity with the delivery territory, and usually if it's open and free, the delivery territory is not that good.

So if you are looking at an open CSA, I would give you a lot of caution on that. I have seen so many people light a lot of money on fire chasing something that was free. What I tell people all the time is that if you're looking to buy into the FedEx space, make your first business pay a fair price for an outstanding business. Do not pay an outstanding price, meaning like free, for a fair or below average business. Buy a healthy business to start and then make your second, third, and fourth one a dumpster fire, right. You can knock yourself out, make it a big turnaround, but don't do it that way.

What I also have pointed out in my video and letters is that part of the evidence for what's going on in the network right now is the sheer volume of open CSAs that is getting posted on buildagroundbiz is that it is markedly higher than what we've seen in the past, and this is just more evidence of the kind of distress that I'm pointing to in the network right now.

ANNALEE: Yeah. For the record, Chris

Page 36

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Lanier said it was a party for a software company sales meeting. Everyone had to take a boat over, there was a lot of booze, it was really fun. There was a former guard and a prisoner there to answer questions about what it was like.

MR. PATTON: Wow. Wow. Chris, hey,
thank you. I could not have concluded this webinar
without that answer. It would, it would have bothered me
on a, on a level that I can't totally express to you, so
thank you for asking and answering that question. And
that is incredible, you win the question of the day
Chris, so thank you for that.

ANNALEE: Absolutely. Now another valid contender though, Jared Gray. This is like one of the best questions I think we've ever done honestly. Jared Gray ended up, from a buddy of his who was a bouncer, showing up to a 1:00 in the morning, less than 500 people, unexpected private show with Prince in a club in Atlanta.

MR. PATTON: Wow. Wow. I feel like bouncers just must have the absolute best stories on planet Earth. Like I feel like I have good stories as a contractor because, you know, drivers just do the craziest things and customers, I mean I've, I delivered in a, in a truck for two years myself and I can tell you

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Τ	I have seen people come to the door to accept a delivery
2	in, in clothing or no clothing that it's just some of the
3	most scarring stuff that you can imagine in your life,
4	right. I mean it's, it's like that same thing, like
5	somebody is like oh, I wonder like what a nude beach is
6	like. People that are on the nude beach are not the
7	people that you're wanting to see. And it's the same
8	with them coming to the door, I mean you're just going
9	about your day, right. You're just trying to get the
LO	boxes delivered and they're just assaulting your eyeballs
L1	or, or any other, I mean it's just oh, it's like please,
L 2	you know, help me. So yeah. Sorry, I mean I just needed
L3	to get that out. I know this is a lightning round but
L 4	this is as much therapy for me today, Annalee, as
15	anything.
L 6	ANNALEE: This is our worst lightning
L 7	round ever but these questions and answers are so good.
L 8	MR. PATTON: It is, it is bad, yeah.
L 9	Okay, we'll do this question and we'll call it the day.
20	I will show myself the door after, after this one.
21	ANNALEE: I know, I should, I should give
22	you the hook today.
23	MR. PATTON: Yeah.
24	ANNALEE: All right, so Jared's question
25	is, is a question on cap-ex, Spencer, we should do just a
	Page 38

checkup on where we stand for this metric wise. So given, you know, all the target ranges we typically recommend, what does somebody coming into the space, you know, for the first time need to allocate for cap-ex right now?

MR. PATTON: Yeah, so Jared, things have changed. So we have metrics that say traditionally fuel might be 8 to 12 percent of your annual revenue. That's historically. We've seen fuel increase anywhere from 16 to 24 percent of someone's annual revenue, so it's, it's come markedly higher. So there are different metrics and ranges that some of which have changed more than others.

Cap-ex is an interesting one because this is part of what we're trying to solve for in the collective accumulation of purchasing power of contractors. And I'll maybe leave you with this teaser that at the Expo in my keynote one of the major announcements that I'm going to be making is that for ever, for the 30 years of this network being around, contractors have never had the opportunity to accumulate their purchasing power, and for the first time I will be revealing multiple deals that we have signed with multibillion dollar businesses that are going to lead to immediate savings for contractors that every contractor in the United States will have access to. And this is

Page 39

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for all the things that we spend money on every single day.

So you think about what those things are, might be vehicles, might be fuel, might be things that we spend a lot of money on and we've been doing it at retail prices. I mean literally those of you that are not contractors here watching the webinar can go and buy fuel at the same price as what a FedEx Ground contractor can. And that is nuts, that's crazy, because we buy a lot of fuel. So there's going to be some really powerful pieces that, specific to the cap-ex side, we're going to have things that are going to make a real difference for the contractors and it will be a first of its kind thing. So really excited to reveal that at the Expo.

Thank you all for hanging in there with us today, we've had a lot of fun. I promised to make you laugh a little bit, we probably made you groan some too, that is just part of it. But we're happy that you had a good time, thank you all for playing full out.

Chris, thank you for making me not turn on your camera here. I'm glad I have some of you questioning whether I actually have the power to turn on your camera here on Zoom, and we're just going to say that I do, all right. We're going to roll with that story.

Page 40

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1	So all of you, hope to see you out in
2	Vegas. If nothing else I'll see you all in a webinar in
3	the near future. Talk to you all very soon. See you
4	everybody.
5	ANNALEE: Bye everyone.
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	Page 41
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	Page 42

[& - annalee]

&	24 39:10	able 4:7,25,25	affirmed 20:2
	25 23:24	5:2,3,18 6:14,17	affluent 12:5
& 1:5	25th 28:24	7:9,14,17,18,23	ago 4:16,18
0	26748 42:16	7:23,25 8:25 9:5	18:21 24:11
0 25:20	275 4:10	11:8 13:21	agreement 4:24
1	3	25:11 28:7 29:1	ahead 10:15
1.3 12:1	3,300 2:10	34:2	18:8
10 1:8 4:10 32:1	30 7:6 39:19	abroad 10:10	alarm 22:20
10-01-2028	38 11:16	absolute 13:22	alcatraz 21:4
42:17		37:21	22:1 26:3 34:13
100 12:10 23:2	4	absolutely 31:19	34:18
10th 34:25	40 16:7 23:10	37:13	allocate 39:4
11 2:22	400 21:3	absorbed 32:4	allowed 23:3
12 39:8	425 11:12	accept 38:1	allows 7:25
12th 6:15,16	450 11:3	access 39:25	amazing 2:12
142 13:3	5	accumulate	7:4 14:19 21:7,8
15 5:8 27:25	5 30:11	39:20	32:14 34:9 35:2
32:1	500 37:17	accumulation	amazon 12:25
16 39:9	595 12:9	39:15	17:19,21
18 6:3	6	acquisitions	amendment 4:25
19 42:12		24:19	analysts 2:22
1:00 37:17	6,000 3:21,22 6:8	activate 9:2	18:24
2	7:18,22 30:9 60 25:20	34:16	andrea 1:10 42:5
2.0. 18:21		add 7:14 17:9	42:16
20 6:9 25:3,6	7	adding 15:16	angle 26:23
30:12	75 12:19	32:12	annalee 9:17,17
2001 34:23	8	additional 15:16	10:3,11,12,14,21
2010 15:13	8 39:8	16:7 20:6	13:25 14:4,12
2020 23:23,24	80 6:8 16:8	address 24:1,3	15:1,7,9,11 18:7
25:4,5	8349 1:10 42:16	32:19	18:13 19:6,13
2022 1:5,8 28:24	9	addressed 20:20	20:23 21:6,9,11
42:12	-	23:19	21:15,22 22:4
20th 2:5	9/11 34:24	addressing	25:13,22 26:2,6
21st 2:5	900 11:21	23:23	29:5,14 30:4
21 30 2.3 22 13:1	a	adjust 24:24	31:19 32:7,10
225 4:10	abilities 28:6	28:19	34:4,11,18,21
1.10	ability 9:2 27:4	advanced 4:22	35:3,10,12 36:25
			37:13 38:14,16

[annalee - business]

38:21,24 41:5	aspect 4:23	backgrounds 7:5	boat 37:2
announce 6:18	assaulting 38:10	bad 38:18	booking 2:10
announced 4:15	assemble 7:17	bally's 2:11	booze 21:17 37:3
4:18 7:1 18:21	7:24	bargain 28:7	boring 3:4
19:21	associated 3:15	baseball 30:1	borrowing 13:10
announcements	association 4:17	based 4:13 12:6	bothered 37:8
39:18	4:20,21,22 5:7	basically 31:1	bottom 10:5
announcing	5:10,16,19 6:25	basketball 15:14	31:2
19:25	7:2,18,24 8:2,6	bat 30:1	bouncer 37:16
annual 39:8,10	8:10,15 9:15	battle 31:18	bouncers 37:21
answer 9:22	assumable 12:14	beach 38:5,6	boxes 16:24,25
10:4,6,14 15:7	assumes 42:11	beat 26:2	17:10,12 18:5
17:21 25:15	atlanta 37:19	beatles 18:11	27:12,13 38:10
34:12,17 37:4,8	attached 28:25	behalf 28:18	brand 32:17
answered 29:9	42:7	belts 16:12	branding 27:6
29:13 34:9	attended 29:7	benefit 8:2	brewing 29:21
answering 37:10	attendees 10:1	benefits 26:21	bring 7:8
answers 20:24	attending 2:25	benuela 29:6	bringing 2:7
21:9,20 38:17	8:20	best 4:5 5:3 9:22	brings 7:5
anticipating	attorneys 4:22	15:13 18:10	brown 29:10
15:22	attracted 35:23	29:6 37:15,21	buddy 37:16
anybody 8:24	attractive 25:10	bet 15:14 31:23	buildagroundbiz
14:24	august 1:8 2:5	better 15:2	35:16 36:21
apiece 35:1	authorization	big 7:20 11:5	building 19:18
apologize 33:8	27:4	17:24 19:23	29:18
appreciates	available 4:6	36:16	built 9:1 18:5
29:10	6:22	bill 18:9	26:14
appropriate	avenues 13:6	birnbaum 25:16	bulk 17:10
34:2	average 36:13	bit 3:8 5:7,11	bullet 31:15
approved 3:15	awarded 35:6	26:9 29:20	bunch 32:23
approximately	awesome 13:24	40:17	business 3:24
13:1	22:9	black 29:3	4:5 5:4 6:3 7:22
april 23:23	b	blows 32:4	12:11 13:4
area 12:5,6,23	back 16:17 18:1	board 4:20 6:1	15:17 17:9,11
asked 22:17 23:9	27:17 35:15	6:10,14,23 7:3	23:6,12,13 25:7
asking 17:8	background 7:9	7:10 8:11,13	27:10,17 28:18
37:10	7:12	9:12,14	30:11,20 31:13
			36:11,12,13,14

[businesses - consultant]

businesses 5:1	certainly 2:19	cinci's 12:23	comment 25:21
7:14 18:3 30:13	9:12 33:22	cincinnati 12:18	commerce 24:10
35:5 39:23	certificate 42:1	city 11:20	24:12
button 9:8 10:5	certify 42:7	claims 16:21	commission
10:6,6	chair 16:15	classification	42:17
buy 22:21 36:10	challenges 12:6	26:20,24	committee 1:5
36:14 40:7,9	20:20	classifications	4:19
buyer 11:8	challenging	26:13	communicate
buying 22:11	30:17	classified 26:19	7:25 28:7
25:9	championship	28:3	company 7:20
bye 41:5	31:22	clean 13:5	37:1
c	chance 13:21	clear 24:14	compelling
	33:5	clearly 20:10	24:12 27:10
c.s.r. 42:5	chances 33:17	25:2 27:5 31:10	compensation
call 15:3 17:24	change 24:22	35:18	24:24
38:19	28:13 33:3,4,7	click 9:8	competition
called 9:11 16:3	33:21	closing 20:4	25:18
35:16	changed 39:7,12	clothing 38:2,2	competitor
calling 20:12	changes 28:19	clowns 21:23,25	17:19,20
camera 9:3	28:20	22:2	competitors
34:16 40:21,23 candidate 11:17	channel 32:9	club 37:18	17:21
candidate 11.17 cap 38:25 39:4	charged 27:20	coasters 11:10	complete 42:8
39:13 40:11	27:23	collapses 23:8	complexity 8:5
care 13:13 31:9	charging 16:7	collective 39:15	compliance 4:23
carnival 21:22	chasing 36:8	collectively 7:24	5:2
carries 16:10	chat 5:22 10:6	28:7	computer 42:10
26:20	21:20	combined 33:19	concerns 20:11
case 27:10	check 12:23	combing 15:4	concert 10:9
cat 31:11	checkup 39:1	come 2:16 4:19	13:16
catch 13:21	cheek 31:12	5:1 9:6,14 19:9	concluded 37:7
causes 19:16	choose 27:15	21:13 24:24	conference 14:6
causing 30:22	chris 21:2,7,13	36:1 38:1 39:11	connected 2:11
caution 36:7	21:19 34:9,12,14	comes 11:22	connection 3:16
cent 23:25	36:25 37:6,12	15:12 17:10	considering 4:3
ceo 20:1	40:20	31:20 33:14	5:12 6:22 11:18
certain 16:6	chronic 34:22,23	coming 13:21	consistent 13:5
27:15	chutes 16:12,13	32:17 38:8 39:3	consultant 3:12
			3:14 9:18,19

[consultant - doing]

22:12 29:7	corporately 20:2	customers 37:24	17:9,11 32:22
contender 37:14	corporation 3:13	cutting 23:10	35:15 36:3,4
content 8:19	3:16	d	38:1
contention 29:21	correct 42:7		demands 28:20
continue 20:2	cost 28:20 31:1	damage 16:20	democratic 6:13
contorted 32:3	32:24	daniel 25:16	depends 20:14
contractor 4:9	costs 11:15	31:20	derek 34:24
4:19 23:3,15,18	23:21,21 33:1,1	daniel's 26:6	designed 4:21
26:21 28:5	costume 13:16	david 31:20	destroy 23:11
29:16,18,23	21:13	32:15,16 34:23	difference 10:16
30:14,20 35:20	country 25:18	david's 32:10	40:12
37:23 39:24	counts 25:25	day 3:2 10:2,20	different 2:18
40:8	county 42:3,6,17	11:14,14 13:2	4:10 5:16,18
contractors 2:8	couple 4:16	23:10 24:11	7:16 12:6 17:22
2:21 3:3,22,23	14:13 18:20	33:12 37:11 38:9,19 40:2	18:4,18 20:17
4:4,12 5:20,20	22:22 24:11	days 5:8 33:18	27:22 28:9
5:25 6:8 7:6,19	25:24,24 29:3	dead 34:13	30:10 31:11,16
8:4 15:20 19:24	course 17:11	dealing 16:14	39:11
22:25 23:6,20	covering 2:23	29:24	diligence 33:22
24:25 26:14	covid 23:24 24:2	deals 39:22	direct 42:10
27:23 28:15,22	craziest 37:24	dealt 26:15	direction 26:10
30:9,12 31:6,17	crazy 4:11 13:16	29:17,22	42:12
32:21 33:4,10	40:9	debates 26:12	disclaimer 3:10
34:3 35:5,7,14	creating 29:21	debates 20.12 debt 12:14	disclosures
39:16,20,24 40:7	creative 12:15	decade 23:5	28:10,11
40:13	crew 8:18	decline 25:6	discount 25:3,10
contractual 28:9	critical 22:23	deep 7:8	discussion 26:17
contributing	cruise 21:17	definitely 12:21	26:18,25
6:25	crunchers 7:10	14:20 17:13	dislocations 24:1
control 27:9,13	csa 36:6	delaney 15:12	disneyland
27:17 42:12	csas 35:11 36:21	deliver 18:1	14:18
controls 27:11	csr 1:10 42:16	27:12,13	dispatch 27:16
conversation	cubic 15:18	delivered 37:24	distinction 19:1
26:8 31:5	culture 29:21	38:10	distress 36:23
coolest 31:20	current 2:20 4:4	delivery 6:2,6,9	doing 2:4 5:3,8
copies 42:11	28:15 33:9 35:4	6:12 12:5,6	11:13 14:7 23:5
corporate 7:12	35:7	15:17,18,21 17:6	40:5
		10.17,10,2117.0	
		l .	

[dollar - fedex]

dollar 7:13	eighteen 24:15	especially 21:1	express 3:13,16
39:23	either 6:2,11	established 13:4	3:19 7:2,19
dollars 16:8	32:25	ethics 30:10	18:15,22 19:2,16
door 38:1,8,20	elaborate 18:14	event 2:12 3:1	19:21 20:3 37:9
doubling 23:21	26:7	10:7,8,9,10 13:8	extensive 26:15
dr 34:22	elect 6:14	13:23 14:21	28:6
drive 27:12	elected 8:11	15:13,15 25:23	extensively 2:20
driver 11:5 20:3	election 6:19	25:25 29:6	8:7
30:24 31:1	element 31:25	31:21	extremely 12:20
drivers 11:23	eleven 11:25	events 14:8,12	eyeballs 38:10
29:19 30:16,21	eligible 11:4	14:14,17 34:9	eyes 25:24
30:25 31:8 36:2	12:3	everybody 2:3	f
37:23	eliminating 20:5	7:4 8:11,14	face 32:2
driving 22:2	embarrassed	29:10 41:4	fail 35:14
dsp 13:1	25:21	everybody's	failure 23:19
due 4:12 33:22	employee 3:19	14:18 23:10	fair 36:11,13
dumpster 36:15	26:20	evidence 36:19	fairfield 11:11
duplicating 19:4	employees 26:17	36:23	familiar 32:19
19:4,8,14	26:20	ex 38:25 39:4,13	35:14
duplicative 19:3	encourage 5:24	40:11	familiarity 36:3
19:5,6 30:7	ended 37:16	examined 27:22	fan 13:14 33:20
e	endorsed 3:12	excited 3:2 7:17	fantastic 13:20
e 24:10,12 35:17	energy 14:16,19	14:18 15:3	fast 12:24
early 8:9 33:20	14:25 15:2	40:14	fathom 21:24
earth 37:22	engineer 32:20	exclusively 6:2	favorite 10:7
easy 24:6 29:8	engineered	exercise 4:25	14:20
economy 5:5	16:11	27:9	favorites 13:23
edit 19:13	enjoy 28:4 31:25 ensure 4:22 5:3	existing 35:7	federal 3:13,16
editing 30:5,7	ensure 4:22 5:3 entire 16:11 23:8	expand 35:8 experience 13:17	28:8
educational 3:3	23:12 33:13	14:20	fedex 2:17,23,24
effective 8:15	entirely 18:22	expires 42:17	3:14,17,19,20,21
30:2	19:2,22	expires 42.17 expo 1:5 2:5,7,20	4:3,24 6:8 8:3,3
effects 31:3	entrepreneurs	2:25 8:9,18,20	15:24,25 16:3,21
efficient 19:19	30:9	8:20,25 9:4,6,9	16:23 17:14,20
efforts 19:4,8	entry 12:20	13:11 29:7	17:24 18:2,15,20
eight 6:11 11:2	epic 15:15 21:1	39:17 40:14	18:22,23 19:1,20
	35:1	JJ.11 TU.1T	19:25 20:1,12
	33.1		

[fedex - good]

22:14,15,24 23:2	39:4,21 40:13	freaking 22:2	giving 14:25
23:5,9,12,15,19	fit 9:13	free 6:23 35:23	glad 40:21
23:22,24 24:3,10	five 3:1 20:8,16	35:25 36:4,9,13	go 5:17,23 8:16
24:13,15,23	20:18 24:9 34:8	friday 28:25	10:13,15,16,17
26:13,14 27:11	fleet 11:17 17:2	29:3,4	12:24 14:18,20
28:14,19 30:9	flip 32:9	frustrated 18:24	15:3 17:1,10,12
32:18,20,24 33:2	flood 7:1	18:24	18:8,8 19:7
35:14 36:10	florida 12:8	frustration	30:23 32:16
40:8	flow 20:6	29:24	33:1,7 40:7
fedex's 4:1	fluctuates 13:2	fuel 11:15 23:20	goal 6:1 8:1
fee 27:20 28:1	focus 16:25	39:7,9 40:4,7,10	goes 8:5 9:18
feel 7:14 9:11	17:23	full 40:19	20:25
17:19,20 25:22	focuses 17:24	fully 23:2	going 2:11,19,22
25:23 32:2,4	18:2	fun 3:7 14:19	2:23,25 3:1,2,7,8
37:20,22	focusing 17:22	37:3 40:16	3:8,9 4:24 5:7
fees 27:22	folding 18:15	functions 5:10	5:20,23 6:13,17
fight 29:25 32:4	folks 11:5	further 18:13	6:21,24 7:18 8:7
fighting 31:22	followed 22:12	future 15:18	8:8,8,18,23 9:20
figure 4:4 5:2	foremost 5:15	17:15 23:15	9:24 10:17,22,24
19:19	form 9:1,8	24:12 25:12	10:25 14:1,5,22
filar 1:10 42:5	formally 33:23	41:3	16:5,9,21,24
42:16	formation 4:16	g	17:14,17 18:8,18
filming 8:19	former 21:4 37:3	game 34:23	19:7,10,15,21
final 15:13	four 13:3 15:14	games 35:1	20:6 22:1,6,9
financial 7:9	16:15 34:23	gauntlet 31:7	23:12,21,21 24:1
13:5 20:12	fourth 25:4,4	general 15:25	24:7,10 25:15
23:20 24:24	36:15	georgia 11:25	26:2 29:5,12
28:11 32:21,25	franchisee 26:8	getting 12:12	30:4,23,24,25
financially 33:4	26:24 27:2,20,22	22:17 29:15	31:1 33:16,17,21
financing 11:8	28:3,5	32:23 36:21	34:5,16 36:19
12:16	franchisee's 27:9	ghost 21:18	38:8 39:18,23
find 31:13 34:14	franchisees	give 5:11 14:23	40:10,11,12,23
fire 36:8,15	27:23 28:4,9,10	15:22 22:6	40:24
first 3:6 4:25	28:12,13,15	34:14 35:4 36:7	good 3:2 8:10
5:15 10:15,16,17	franchisor 27:5	38:21	9:13 11:17
15:12 22:24	27:8	given 7:7 28:20	12:13 14:3,9,11
24:5 27:3 28:2	franchisors	39:2	15:10 19:8
32:19 36:11	28:10		22:15 25:9

[good - international]

		I	I
29:10 34:21	h	high 12:4 14:16	impending 18:14
36:5 37:22	half 2:8 7:7	25:5 33:19	important 15:24
38:17 40:19	13:16,16	higher 36:22	inaudible 14:12
gosh 10:21 22:1	halls 15:4	39:11	15:11 21:6
32:5	hallway 14:25	highest 16:23	incentives 32:21
goss 18:9	handle 31:16	hire 27:11	32:25
governance 5:19	handling 12:10	hiring 32:23	incompatible
grasp 23:2	hanging 40:15	historical 28:12	16:3 17:15
gray 37:14,16		historically 27:1	increase 23:25
great 6:5,6 11:6	happen 16:20	39:9	39:9
11:9 12:11 13:4	happened 34:13	hit 33:16,18	incredible 21:12
14:5 15:7 18:11	34:18	hold 6:17	37:11
20:8 22:8,8,16	happening 22:13	hologram 13:17	incredibly 24:9
29:12	happy 20:4	home 17:6 34:25	30:12
gritty 29:15	40:18	honestly 37:15	individual 17:8
groan 40:17	hard 24:6	hook 38:22	individually
ground 2:17	harsha 22:7	hope 24:15 41:1	7:21
3:14,17,19,20,22	hashtag 28:25	hopeful 28:17	industry 26:12
4:24 8:3,3 15:25	34:19	hopefully 4:1	info 1:5
16:4,21,23 17:6	haul 6:3,4,7,9,12	hoping 34:11	information
18:2,23 19:3,17	22:11	host 26:21	3:24,25 4:2
19:23,23 20:5,12	head 23:4	hosted 21:3	34:15
22:25 23:2,6,19	headed 24:12	hotel 2:9,10,11	initiatives 8:9
23:24 24:3,10,13	heads 33:8	hour 5:8	inner 7:13
24:15,23 26:14	health 28:11	hours 4:16	inning 34:25
27:11 28:14,19	healthy 36:14	hurt 8:2	inside 16:19
32:18,20,25 33:2	hear 33:23		insight 15:16
35:14 40:8	heard 2:6 17:2	i	integrated 19:22
ground's 2:23,24	heartbeat 5:5	idea 8:12	intense 31:23
15:24 17:14	heavier 16:12	ideas 8:14	32:8
26:13	heavy 17:12	imagine 12:24	interest 7:2
	hello 11:18	22:1,17 38:3	
growth 12:4	help 7:18 38:12	immediate 20:11	interesting 25:2
16:25 24:13	helpful 4:2 8:1	20:15,19 39:24	39:13
guard 37:4	helps 11:14	immediately	interestingly
guys 11:2 13:7	hereinbefore	25:20	27:24
14:15 15:3	42:9	impact 18:17	international
	hey 12:11 35:17		25:17 26:1
	37:6		

[introduce - low]

introduce 9:17	32:12 35:4,5	left 17:7	40:17
introduced 14:8	36:23 40:13	legal 27:21	live 19:10,11,12
inventory 9:19	kneecap 30:2	legally 30:18	32:6
10:18,25	knock 3:10 31:3	lending 12:16	lives 7:7
investment 4:3	36:16	length 1:9	load 9:24
investment 4.3	know 8:17 10:1	lens 20:14,15	logistics 4:17
investors 18:25	10:11,23 11:5,14	25:11	9:16
invited 9:12	14:15 15:21	letter 20:11	long 11:5 24:8
island 21:4,18	16:15 18:7,16	22:13	longstanding
	20:7,25 21:2,15	letters 2:15,18	10:1 11:6 26:12
j	21:20,21,21 22:5	20:21 36:19	look 6:7 12:14
jackson 13:12,14	22:14,24 23:5	level 14:25 15:2	15:19 18:25
13:18,22 14:4	•	37:9	
25:21 32:14	25:11 26:3,7 27:6 29:10,17,17	life 38:3	25:9,11 33:18 looked 17:25
jared 37:14,15	29:20,24,25 30:3	lifetime 10:8	
39:6	, ,		looking 12:12,22
jared's 38:24	31:2,7,15,24	light 36:8	20:14,14,15
jeter 34:24	32:2,5 33:11,15	lighter 17:23	22:21 24:8,20
johnson 11:20	33:24 34:4 35:6	lightning 34:6,8	25:8,11 35:8
joined 3:5	35:22,25 37:23	38:13,16	36:6,10
jokes 3:9	38:12,13,21 39:2	line 6:2,4,7,9,12	looks 12:2
justify 25:22	39:4	22:11	lot 2:14 8:4 11:5
k	l	lines 14:6	17:9,12,18 19:3
k 32:11,17,19	lakeland 12:8,13	link 5:21	21:19 23:1,9
33:3	lanier 21:3 37:1	listed 11:3,12,21	26:18 28:4,22
	large 17:10,13	12:1,9,19 13:3	30:4 31:11
keep 12:16 30:23	larger 15:19	listen 30:21	32:23,24 33:13
kentucky 13:3 key 5:19	largest 2:24 17:3	31:13	35:22 36:7,8
LEAN 3'19		Lightings ()(2)()	1 27.2 40.5 0.12
•	las 2:5	listings 9:20	37:3 40:5,9,16
keynote 39:17		lists 35:11	lots 13:6,6 27:17
keynote 39:17 keynotes 5:9	laugh 3:8 40:17	lists 35:11 literally 5:47:6	lots 13:6,6 27:17 louisville 13:2
keynote 39:17 keynotes 5:9 kidding 30:3		lists 35:11 literally 5:47:6 10:23 13:19	lots 13:6,6 27:17 louisville 13:2 love 2:21 10:11
keynote 39:17 keynotes 5:9 kidding 30:3 kill 23:7	laugh 3:8 40:17 law 5:3	lists 35:11 literally 5:47:6 10:23 13:19 21:23 23:11	lots 13:6,6 27:17 louisville 13:2 love 2:21 10:11 13:14 14:16
keynote 39:17 keynotes 5:9 kidding 30:3 kill 23:7 kind 6:18 9:25	laugh 3:8 40:17 law 5:3 lawn 16:15	lists 35:11 literally 5:4 7:6 10:23 13:19 21:23 23:11 30:22 40:6	lots 13:6,6 27:17 louisville 13:2 love 2:21 10:11 13:14 14:16 15:5,6 18:11,12
keynote 39:17 keynotes 5:9 kidding 30:3 kill 23:7 kind 6:18 9:25 12:11 14:6	laugh 3:8 40:17 law 5:3 lawn 16:15 lead 39:23 learn 9:23	lists 35:11 literally 5:47:6 10:23 13:19 21:23 23:11 30:22 40:6 litigation 26:15	lots 13:6,6 27:17 louisville 13:2 love 2:21 10:11 13:14 14:16 15:5,6 18:11,12 loved 29:14
keynote 39:17 keynotes 5:9 kidding 30:3 kill 23:7 kind 6:18 9:25 12:11 14:6 15:17,21 16:19	laugh 3:8 40:17 law 5:3 lawn 16:15 lead 39:23 learn 9:23 lease 11:18	lists 35:11 literally 5:47:6 10:23 13:19 21:23 23:11 30:22 40:6 litigation 26:15 26:17	lots 13:6,6 27:17 louisville 13:2 love 2:21 10:11 13:14 14:16 15:5,6 18:11,12 loved 29:14 low 11:12,14
keynote 39:17 keynotes 5:9 kidding 30:3 kill 23:7 kind 6:18 9:25 12:11 14:6 15:17,21 16:19 18:9,14,15 25:14	laugh 3:8 40:17 law 5:3 lawn 16:15 lead 39:23 learn 9:23 lease 11:18 leave 39:16	lists 35:11 literally 5:4 7:6 10:23 13:19 21:23 23:11 30:22 40:6 litigation 26:15 26:17 little 3:8 5:7,11	lots 13:6,6 27:17 louisville 13:2 love 2:21 10:11 13:14 14:16 15:5,6 18:11,12 loved 29:14
keynote 39:17 keynotes 5:9 kidding 30:3 kill 23:7 kind 6:18 9:25 12:11 14:6 15:17,21 16:19 18:9,14,15 25:14 25:21,22 26:7	laugh 3:8 40:17 law 5:3 lawn 16:15 lead 39:23 learn 9:23 lease 11:18	lists 35:11 literally 5:47:6 10:23 13:19 21:23 23:11 30:22 40:6 litigation 26:15 26:17	lots 13:6,6 27:17 louisville 13:2 love 2:21 10:11 13:14 14:16 15:5,6 18:11,12 loved 29:14 low 11:12,14
keynote 39:17 keynotes 5:9 kidding 30:3 kill 23:7 kind 6:18 9:25 12:11 14:6 15:17,21 16:19 18:9,14,15 25:14	laugh 3:8 40:17 law 5:3 lawn 16:15 lead 39:23 learn 9:23 lease 11:18 leave 39:16	lists 35:11 literally 5:4 7:6 10:23 13:19 21:23 23:11 30:22 40:6 litigation 26:15 26:17 little 3:8 5:7,11	lots 13:6,6 27:17 louisville 13:2 love 2:21 10:11 13:14 14:16 15:5,6 18:11,12 loved 29:14 low 11:12,14

[macomb - nuts]

m	means 3:18 4:11	months 22:12	23:12,16 28:20
m	16:20,22 18:21	23:25 24:15	36:20,24 39:19
macomb 42:3,6	30:24 32:23	29:2	nevada 2:6
42:17	media 3:1 28:25	moonwalks	never 39:20
mail 35:17	29:1	13:19	new 4:8 9:19,20
maintain 11:14	meet 28:2	morning 37:17	11:1 16:4 20:1
major 39:17	meeting 37:2	motivated 11:8	23:1 32:11,17
majority 6:4	members 6:14	12:22	33:6 35:18
making 30:17	messaging 28:16	move 11:8	nice 12:7
32:18 39:18	methods 12:17	mover 12:22	nice 12.7 nicely 16:18
40:20	metric 39:1		night 23:4
man 22:3		moving 15:20	
management	metrics 39:7,11 michael 13:12	multibillion 7:13 39:23	nine 11:11,20 12:18
11:22			
manager 11:3	13:13,17,22 14:4	multiple 13:15	nitty 29:15
12:9	25:21 32:13	39:22	nominate 5:21
managers 11:13	michigan 42:2,6	murder 21:15	5:23 6:16
12:1,22 13:3	mileage 11:13,14	mystery 21:16	nominating 5:12
manner 30:19	11:18	n	7:2
map 24:20,21	million 12:1	name 3:6 4:9	nomination 6:20
margin 16:24	minded 25:7	nashville 4:14	9:1,3,8,10,14
mark 25:5	mindful 17:14	near 41:3	nominations 1:5
markedly 36:22	minds 27:21	nearly 26:25	4:19 8:17
39:11	mine 10:11 13:9	31:17	non 3:25
market 12:3	13:24	neatly 16:16	north 12:18
massive 23:18	minute 5:24 34:8	need 11:16 21:20	nose 29:11
materially 3:25	minutes 5:8	34:12 39:4	notary 42:5,17
4:2	mirror 6:10	needed 38:12	notes 42:8
materials 2:15	mixture 6:4	needing 15:19	notify 9:7
matter 7:20	mma 31:22,24	needs 15:18	november 28:24
33:14	32:1,5	23:20 35:19	nude 38:5,6
mattresses 16:16	model 26:13	nerd 7:11	number 7:10
mean 8:12 21:14	moment 5:12	nerds 7:10	27:8,15 28:21
21:19,23 25:20	20:13 25:8	network 15:25	31:16
25:25 29:9 30:1	monday 33:15	16:10,11 17:14	numbers 33:6
37:24 38:4,8,11	money 16:1,2,23	18:5,17,21,23	nuts 40:9
38:12 40:6	30:25 36:8 40:1	19:21,23 20:6,18	
meaning 36:13	40:5	22:20,25 23:3,8	

[o - pointing]

	operator 11:6	.	17:18 21:3 23:1
0	opinion 7:20	p	31:12 32:23
o 22:7	opinions 3:19,21	p&d 11:2,3,11	35:22 36:8,9
obviously 2:14	_	11:21,25 12:8,18	37:18 38:1,6,7
9:21 13:2 26:20	opportunistica	package 16:1,14	, ,
29:5 33:13	25:8	16:19 17:22	people's 21:9
offer 32:25	opportunities	packages 16:3,3	percent 6:8,9
official 4:16	11:1 35:5,7	16:7,8,10,13	11:16 12:10
officially 4:18	opportunity	17:16,23,25	23:2,11 25:3,6
8:17	11:9,21 12:20	page 9:2	39:8,10
offset 33:1	25:17 39:20	painful 33:3	performance
oh 10:21 14:9	optimistic 20:18	parcel 15:21	28:12
19:11 21:25	24:9	paris 2:9 15:4	period 28:24
22:2 29:8 32:5	options 28:23	part 3:9 23:14	perks 12:7
38:5,11	order 28:2 31:10	24:5 27:10 30:3	permission
ohio 11:11	oregon 11:2	36:19 39:14	14:24
okay 10:14,19,25	organization	40:18	person 32:6
13:8,13,25 15:6	2:17	participate	personality
15:11 19:11,19	organize 28:6	25:17	14:15
20:23 34:17	organized 7:21	party 21:3 37:1	pickup 6:1,6,9
35:13 38:19	outcomes 24:17	patty 21.3 37.1 patton 2:3 3:7	6:12
old 34:22 35:25	24:22	4:9 10:19 13:9	piece 22:24
ongoing 26:16	outlets 3:1	14:3,11 15:5,10	pieces 11:15
open 6:13,15	outlined 5:17	15:23 18:12,20	22:14 40:10
8:18 35:11 36:4	outlook 15:22	19:7,14 21:5,7	pillow 23:4
36:6,20	outlooks 20:16	21:12,17,25	place 11:22 12:1
· ·	outstanding 15:5	22:16 25:19	12:9 13:3 42:9
opened 4:19	36:12,12		planet 37:22
5:21 26:8	overlap 18:3	26:5,11 29:8	planning 36:2
operate 17:3,4	overlapped 17:5	30:1,6 31:24	play 8:8 24:13
operated 18:22	oversize 16:7,8	32:8,16 34:7,12	playing 40:19
operating 4:24	16:10,14,24,25	34:20 35:2,9,13	please 38:11
17:13	oversized 16:2	37:6,20 38:18,23	poaching 29:19
operation 11:12	17:12,15	39:6	30:21 31:3
11:23 13:1	overview 5:11	pay 23:10 30:24	point 12:20
operationally	9:16	31:10 36:1,11,12	14:16 21:9
29:16	owners 3:24 5:4	peak 16:5,6	pointed 36:18
operations 6:5	7:22	32:20,22	pointing 36:24
12:10 30:14	1.44	people 2:13 6:23	pointing 50.24
		7:1,5,8,11 9:13	

[polo - representing]

nolo 25,17 26,1	nuafaggianala	15.15 17.0 10.0	12.6 12 14.5
polo 25:17 26:1	professionals	15:15 17:8 18:9	13:6,13 14:5
26:3	4:17 9:16	20:24 21:2 22:5	15:2 17:22 20:8
portland 11:2,9	profitability	22:10,11,17	20:20 24:11
positivity 14:17	31:2	25:14 26:6 29:9	30:13,16 31:4,7
possession 35:15	profitable 4:5	29:12,14 32:10	32:8 33:5 37:3
possible 7:23	11:12,23	34:3,10,13,17,22	40:10,14
24:16	programs 27:14	35:3,10 37:10,11	reason 16:9
post 5:22 21:20	progresses 15:20	38:19,24,25	receive 7:21
35:16	promised 40:16	questioning	recommend 39:3
posted 35:6	prong 27:1,3,18	40:22	recommendati
36:21	27:19 28:1,1	questions 9:23	29:23
potentially 12:4	protections 28:4	9:24 10:3 21:16	recommended
28:15	28:8 33:14	21:19 37:4,15	3:13
power 39:15,21	proud 8:23	38:17	record 5:24 6:21
40:22	provision 28:1	quick 3:10 12:22	8:21,24 9:3,9
powerful 40:10	public 3:25	quickly 11:9	14:22 32:13
practices 4:6	22:19 35:17	12:24 35:24	36:25
precedent 23:22	42:5,17	r	records 13:5
press 2:17 4:15	pull 10:14 19:16	_	reductions 18:16
pretty 13:20	19:17	race 31:2	regular 13:2
15:14,15	purchasing	raj 20:1	regulators 28:8
price 2:23 4:1	39:15,21	ramp 32:21	relationship
36:11,12 40:8	pure 24:13	ranges 24:17	28:14
prices 23:20	purple 28:25	39:2,12	release 4:15
40:6	29:3	rapidly 24:22	released 16:4
pride 31:22	pursue 28:23	reacting 34:9	releases 2:18
prince 37:18	put 8:12 16:5	read 10:17 29:6	remain 20:17
prison 21:4 22:1	23:4 27:11	33:20	remember 23:15
prisoner 37:4	putting 16:17	reading 20:25	24:6
private 37:18		reaffirming 20:1	remote 12:13
probably 14:15	q	real 3:10 7:12	renee 29:6
40:17	q&a 9:21 10:5,6	13:18 24:25	renee's 29:14
problem 30:16	10:13 15:6	40:12	rental 32:23
process 6:14	qualifies 13:23	realize 35:24	reopened 26:18
7:22 22:11	qualify 27:24	really 4:21 6:23	representation
professionally	quarter 25:4,5	7:4,8,9,12 8:22	6:6,7
8:22 9:7	question 10:2,4	9:6 12:5,7,10,11	representing
0.22).1	10:4,7,19 15:12	12:13,20,24 13:5	25:18
			23.10

[research - situation]

research 33:22	rocket 19:18	schedule 32:11	served 9:22
residences 17:11	roles 5:17,19 8:7	32:17,19 33:3	serviced 35:18
resolved 23:16	roll 40:24	scientist 19:18	35:19
23:18 24:7	roof 2:9	screen 10:5	set 8:20 16:15
response 22:14	rooms 2:10	sea 28:13	28:23 33:12,19
responsibilities	round 34:6,8	season 16:5,6	seven 6:1,11
5:16	38:13,17	32:20	11:1 27:22
responsibility	route 3:12,14	second 27:18	33:18
42:11	9:17,19 17:4	32:9 36:15	share 3:24 8:8
responsible 9:18	22:12 29:7 36:2	seconds 32:1	8:14
rest 33:25	routes 4:3,10,13	see 5:18 8:3,4	shareholders
restoration 25:1	11:3,12,21 12:1	14:24 15:19,20	2:24
restore 20:12	12:9,19 13:1	17:3,12 20:6,19	sheer 36:20
result 23:18,20	15:17 20:5,13	24:23,25 26:10	shifts 32:18
results 19:3	22:12 25:1,3,6	28:19 32:14,15	shoebox 17:23
retail 40:5	run 12:12 23:6	34:22 35:6,24	short 6:21
reveal 40:14	30:11 33:6 34:5	38:7 41:1,2,3	shot 26:4
revealing 39:22	34:25	seeing 19:20	show 13:12,14
revenue 11:16	running 4:13	25:3 28:21	13:15,22 14:5
39:8,10	8:10	35:11	18:11,11 22:8
richard 15:12	runs 9:17	seeking 35:20	37:18 38:20
right 7:20 9:3,5	S	seen 2:15 13:15	showing 37:17
13:9 15:1 16:25	safely 17:4	13:19 20:10	shows 22:8
19:11,11,16 20:4	sales 37:1	25:6 29:22 31:6	side 6:3,7 11:2
20:11,23 21:11	saturday 33:15	36:7,22 38:1	13:11 19:1
22:13,18 23:8	savannah 11:25	39:9	40:11
24:20,23 25:13	12:2	self 5:21 6:20	sides 26:19
27:5 29:9 30:8,8	savings 39:24	8:17 9:1,8,14	signature 42:16
32:4 34:21	saw 25:4	seller 11:7	signed 39:22
35:10 36:15,20	saying 22:18	send 35:17	significant 20:20
36:24 38:4,9,24	35:11,25	separate 18:23	22:20
39:5 40:24	says 21:3	19:2	signing 5:13
rights 4:25	sba 11:4 12:3,4	september 6:15	silver 31:15
road 4:10 27:12	scarring 38:3	6:16 42:12	single 4:23 40:1
robbins 14:8,14	scenario 17:8	series 34:23,25	site 5:18
14:25 15:2	33:17,18	serious 34:14	situation 24:3
robust 24:9		serve 4:20 5:25	29:16
		7:3 9:11	

[six - tenured]

six 13:4 23:25	specific 40:11	stanagraphic	35:9
size 17:23	spence 34:4	stenographic 42:8	surge 32:13
skeptical 25:24	spencer 3:7 4:9	steps 24:16	
skin 31:11	13:8 14:8 15:12	steps 24.10 stern 31:4	t
	15:16 17:18	stern 31.4 stock 2:23 4:1	table 28:17,23
slide 16:13			tail 20:8
slit 30:15	18:9 20:23	stolen 15:7	take 10:12 19:18
small 3:23 5:4	22:14,18 25:13	stop 23:25 34:8	21:8 25:9 35:14
7:22 15:21	26:6 29:15 30:5	stops 23:9 32:12	35:20 37:2
smaller 15:21	31:19 32:10	stories 37:21,22	taken 22:19 42:8
smart 4:21	34:22 35:3	story 21:19	takes 24:16 31:9
smartest 27:21	38:25	40:25	33:13
social 28:25	spend 40:1,5	strategy 17:2	talk 2:14 5:1
software 37:1	sponsored 3:14	street 2:22 18:24	6:24 9:12 17:2
sold 2:9	sporting 10:8	stroll 10:2	20:21 41:3
solve 39:14	sprung 10:19	strong 13:6	talked 19:24
somebody 38:5	stack 16:16,18	stronger 30:13	talking 5:9 8:7
39:3	stadium 34:24	structure 28:21	18:18 22:19
someone's 39:10	staff 11:13	struggle 7:19	26:23 29:2
somewhat 18:7	stage 13:20	struggling 28:22	33:25
soon 32:15 34:5	25:16 26:7	stuff 32:17 34:1	talp 1:5 9:15
41:3	stance 22:19	38:3	target 39:2
sorry 38:12	stand 20:19 39:1	stupid 10:24	teach 4:7 34:1
sorts 7:5,16	standard 27:24	submit 9:4	team 14:24
sounded 22:20	standards 30:10	substantial 27:9	teaser 39:16
sounds 19:8	standpoint 20:19	33:2	technology
soup 16:19	start 15:16 36:14	substantially	27:14
source 11:17	started 12:12	19:22,22	tell 3:8 10:11,11
southern 12:3	starting 16:6	sultan 25:16	14:14 33:5 36:9
space 7:8 12:21	state 28:8 42:2,6	sunday 33:15	37:25
15:20 22:21	stated 42:9	super 11:12	telling 13:18
23:2 27:22 35:7	states 2:8,25	supervision	ten 4:19 5:8,20
36:10 39:3	3:23 4:11 17:7	42:10	5:20,25 6:14
spare 11:22,22	27:25,25 35:19	support 11:7	12:8
12:2 13:4	39:25	12:12	tennessee 4:14
speak 2:19,19	staying 18:10	supporting 20:9	11:20
9:23 33:9 34:2	steal 10:24 14:1	surcharges 16:4	tenured 11:6
speaking 28:18	31:8,8	sure 6:5 9:6 22:7	ciluicu 11.0
		24:19 34:15	

[term - typically]

term 20:19	24:18	tires 16:15	transcribed 1:10
terminal 18:16	third 27:19 28:1	today 2:19 3:20	42:10
27:17 29:22	36:15	3:24 4:15 38:14	transcript 42:8
30:15,22 31:3,17	thought 10:23	38:22 40:16	transition 11:6
terminals 19:2	14:1 27:1	today's 34:19	18:14
19:15 20:5	thoughts 26:9	tongue 19:9	treatment 28:9
30:11	29:25 32:11	tony 14:8,14,25	tries 32:20,25
terms 6:4 26:9	thousand 11:21	15:2	truck 11:18
territory 11:13	12:19	tools 24:4	12:14 18:1
11:19 13:5 17:6	thousands 2:12	top 16:18	19:16,17 37:25
35:15,18,19,21	2:12,13	topics 25:14	trucks 4:10 12:2
35:25 36:3,4	three 2:16 5:24	total 32:12	17:13 27:6,12
test 27:1	6:2,11 20:7,15	totally 13:25	36:2
thank 15:9 37:7	20:18 24:8,14	14:9 37:9	true 13:11 15:8
37:10,12 40:15	27:1 29:2 31:9	touching 18:8	42:7
40:19,20	threshold 33:12	tough 24:15,16	truth 30:18 33:5
theme 13:10	33:16	30:8 31:25 32:6	try 30:23
18:10	thresholds 33:19	tournament	trying 4:4 5:1
therapy 38:14	33:25	15:14	6:10 8:2 12:15
thing 3:4 13:18	throat 30:15	toxic 29:20	23:17 29:24
15:24 17:17	throw 31:7	track 29:1	30:19 38:9
24:23 38:4	thunder 10:24	trade 3:25 4:16	39:14
40:13	14:2	4:20,21,22 5:7	tuesday 33:15
things 2:18 7:16	tie 34:25	5:10,15,19 6:25	turn 31:12 40:20
10:22 16:16	tightening 18:16	7:1,18,24 8:2,6	40:22
22:22 37:24	time 3:6 6:19,20	8:10,15 9:15	turnaround
39:6 40:1,3,4,12	10:15,16,17	trademark 27:4	36:16
think 6:24 8:9,14	22:15 23:8 25:8	27:5,7	two 2:24 5:24
8:22 9:13,22	28:24 31:17,18	trading 2:17	6:11 11:13 12:1
11:4 13:23	34:2,5 35:24	traditional	12:22 19:25
16:17 18:17	36:9 39:4,21	12:16	20:24 27:8 28:2
19:5 20:7 21:9	40:19 42:9	traditionally	31:8 35:1 37:25
22:15,21,23 24:5	timeline 24:8	39:7	type 7:19 13:16
24:8,23,25 28:16	28:24	trailer 16:18	16:1 17:12,22
28:19 37:15	times 9:22 11:5	training 27:13	31:22
40:3	13:15 17:18	29:20	types 18:5,19
thinking 14:5,9	27:16	trampoline	typically 39:2
14:12 18:4		16:15	

[u.s. - worries]

	vegas 2:6 13:10	walking 14:17	37:7 40:7 41:2
u	13:10,12,15,21	walking 14.17 wall 2:22 18:24	website 35:16
u.s. 5:5 31:23	14:23 18:10,11	24:21	
ufc 31:22	·		wednesday 2:4
uglies 17:24	22:7,8,9 31:21	want 5:6,11 6:5	33:15
unclaimed 20:24	32:14 41:2	6:21 8:3,4,21	week 4:18 6:17
22:10	vehicle 17:3	9:4,17,21,23	11:2 12:25 13:7
undersigned	23:21	10:6,22 12:3,11	14:7,7,23 15:4
42:11	vehicles 11:22	12:23 17:1,3	30:5 32:13
understand 5:13	13:4 15:19,19	18:1 21:6 25:10	33:13
7:13 15:24	32:24 40:4	33:9 34:5	weekly 33:16
22:23 24:19	vendor 27:15	wanted 8:16	weeks 2:16
understanding	venezuela 25:18	34:2	18:20 24:11
30:20	26:3	wanting 38:7	29:3
unexpected	viability 20:13	wants 8:24 21:21	weight 17:23
37:18	video 5:24 6:21	21:21	welcome 2:3,3
unified 7:20	8:18,21,24 20:11	waste 19:16	3:6
unique 7:5	36:18	watching 40:7	went 14:13
united 2:8,25	videos 2:15	water 25:5,17	18:10
3:23 17:7 27:25	20:21	26:1,3	west 11:9
35:19 39:25	vocal 23:17	way 5:12 7:15,25	whatsoever 3:16
unnecessarily	voices 7:22	8:22 23:16 24:6	wheeler 6:3
30:23	volume 18:19	24:7,7 29:1,8,8	wider 16:13
unusual 9:22	20:6 33:14	29:12 30:7	width 16:12
	36:20	31:13 33:1	willing 11:7
update 1:5 9:20 35:4	vote 9:12	34:10 35:8	win 19:23 37:11
	voted 8:13	36:17	wind 20:8
ups 17:20,21	votes 6:15	ways 5:2 24:2	winners 6:18
19:1	voting 6:17,22	31:11,16	wise 31:2 39:1
use 4:5 24:4 27:4	W	we've 5:17 7:1,5	wish 31:14
27:5,14		11:20,25 12:8,18	wonder 38:5
usually 36:4	wage 23:21	25:6,19 28:23,25	word 19:5
v	wages 30:22	29:17 36:22	work 15:10
valid 37:13	wait 9:1 22:9	37:15 39:9 40:5	30:12 31:14
value 7:15 25:1	32:14	40:16	workings 7:13
25:5	waking 23:10	web 5:18 9:2	world 9:19 34:23
vans 15:21	walk 5:6 15:1	webinar 2:4,4	34:25
various 24:22	walked 34:24	3:5,7 10:1 19:10	worries 34:1
		19:11,12 34:19	WUITICS J4.1
		17.11,12 34.17	

[worst - zoom]

worst 22:4,5 38:16 wow 25:19 26:5 32:6 37:6,6,20 37:20 y **yankee** 34:23 yay 22:8 **yeah** 15:23 21:12 22:16 26:11 30:1,6,6,8 31:19 31:24 32:7,16 34:4,7,7 35:13 36:25 38:12,18 38:23 39:6 year 20:18 32:12 33:3 **year's** 33:4 **years** 7:6 14:13 17:2 18:25 19:25 20:7,8,16 24:9 37:25 39:19 **yep** 15:9 35:3 yesterday 16:4 Z **zoom** 40:23

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MR. PATTON: Welcome everybody to our Wednesday webinar, excited to have you here. This has been a week. For those of you that are joining us for the very first time on the webinar, welcome, we're thrilled to be able to have you. My name is Spencer Patton. I am the owner of Route Consultant. I'm also one of the largest contractors in the United States to FedEx Ground. I have 225 employees, 275 trucks on the road across 10 different states. I'm based here in Nashville, Tennessee.

The idea behind these webinars, we've been doing them for years, is not to be a boring webinar that drills content into your head, that's just not who we're about. We're going to entertain you. We're going to hear, you're going to hear some dad jokes today. And everybody, each week you're going to come away with something that's going to make you laugh or we have failed in our job.

So we're going to teach you a lot about FedEx Ground, we're going to teach you from time to time about Amazon, we're going to have all sorts of different content, but always we have open Q&A. So more than half of our session will be tailored for you to be able to ask

Page 2

questions and make sure that you get the most out of this webinar experience. You have me here today, you have Annalee who runs Route Consultant, and whatever questions you've got, whether it's in this webinar or anything else, then we will do our best to answer those for you.

For those of you that are here for the first time, the way to ask questions, if you look at the bottom of your Zoom screen, or for those of you mobile you pull up the menu, there's a Q&A section. That's where we want you to ask the questions. Not in the chat box, but in the Q&A section. And we also have this rule here, it's time-honored tradition that you can't just come into this webinar and ask us questions like you own the place in here. You first have to answer a question about yourself.

So the question of the week changes each week. So the question that you've got to answer is that Annalee is newly pregnant. We've announced that a couple months ago and we are thrilled for Annalee and she's needing a little bit of help with a baby name. So she has a little girl on the way and so the question of the day is what is the name, what should be the name of Annalee's daughter that is going to be born to her, so we're going to have fun with that today. All suggestions are welcome. I expect you all to have fun with this one

Page 3

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and I know I'm going to, so I'll make a recommendation for Annalee. But we'll get to that in a minute.

So you have to answer that question first and then type your question down below. The better that you suggest the name, the more likely you are to get your question answered today, so we're going to have some fun with that.

I got to do the only boring thing though today which is to read a quick disclaimer into the record, so allow me to bore you with that. Route Consultant is not endorsed by and is not recommended by Federal Express Corporation and FedEx Ground. Route Consultant is not sponsored by, is not approved by, is not associated with, and has no connection whatsoever with Federal Express Corporation or FedEx Ground.

employee of FedEx Ground. The opinions that I express to you today are not the opinions of FedEx Ground but the opinions of myself and some 6,000 other FedEx Ground contractors that are just like me across the United States. The information I share with you today will not be materially non-public information that you can trade FedEx's stock price upon, but hopefully it will be materially helpful information for you, whether you are a prospective investor trying to understand what this whole

Page 4

2.2

FedEx industry is about, or if you're a current contractor here and trying to figure out how to make your business more profitable or looking for updates on all the things that have been transpiring over the last 40 days, you've come to the right place for that, all right.

So let's go into today's content. Really it's going to be some updates on what we had happen last weekend. And just about an hour before the webinar we've seen the first FedEx Ground response via a press release essentially that went out to contractors, and so I'm going to read an excerpt from that, that way you can hear some of the language there and I'm going to give you some of my feedback on that response. So I'll get to that in just one second.

The Expo this last weekend was absolutely sensational. We had more than 60 percent of the entire network attend our event out in Las Vegas. We sold out the entire Paris Hotel, all 3,300 rooms. We sold the Bally's Hotel that is next door to the Paris Hotel. It was incredible. We had, in a four-week span of time, we doubled our RSVPs. That shows how passionate the network is about what is going on. We had a two and a half day event, we had about 100 sponsors that were there. Every player in the FedEx Ground ecosystem was there. About five percent of our attendees were Amazon DSPs, and we're

Page 5

2.2

seeing more overlap with that is that we're seeing FedEx Ground contractors that are also providing services to Amazon, so there was some interesting overlap there. We had Amazon line haul contractors, we had FedEx line haul contractors. All sorts of groups were, were there and present.

We will post in the chat my keynote presentations. The day one keynote is the one that speaks to the current state of affairs. I speak about my own business and the challenges that I've experienced there. We talk about Purple Friday and the relation to November 25th of 2022. The message that I make sure comes clear through there is there is no one that is more appreciative to FedEx Ground than myself. That was what I started my keynote presentation with is that any permutation of my message that says I am trying to hurt FedEx Ground through my initiatives is completely false.

I know FedEx Ground, who is undoubtedly on this webinar, is not viewing me as doing something favorable for the network here, and I can appreciate why they may feel that way. But I assure you, I am doing this for the good of both FedEx Ground and their contractors. The network is in dire need of financial attention and I provide a lot of data about that in my own business. And so for those of you that haven't had

Page 6

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the opportunity to see that day one keynote, I really encourage you to take a look at that, so that way you can get updated on what has happened over this last weekend and what will be transpiring over the next three months and one day between now and Purple Friday, November 25th of 2022. So get you all caught up on that.

As I mentioned, about an hour ago Paul Melander of FedEx Ground released a statement that emphasized a direct address to the transportation service providers, that's another way of saying the line haul contractors, the 18-wheelers that are responsible for moving trailers across the network. So here's a couple lines from this. It says, "Both service providers and FedEx Ground are operating in a challenging economic environment, or climate. FedEx Ground responses to feedback from TSPs," transportation service providers, "to address issues and concerns throughout the network are provided in the recently posted general and peak settlement information to mygroundbiz.com."

"Some key highlights for the upcoming year are," and it lists four bullet points. The first bullet point of his address says, "For the second year in a row, fuel supplement rates will remain unchanged from the previous agreement." For the second year in a row, fuel supplement rates will remain unchanged from the

Page 7

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previous agreement. It goes on to list several other bullet points of things that they're highlighting from their announcement.

I could not believe the announcement when I saw it. To say that if you look at FedEx Ground's supplements that they are charging as a surcharge to the customer, and you look over the last two years, would you expect that FedEx Ground's fuel surcharges are higher, lower, or the same over the last two years of time? So we know factually that fuel rates have gone up and FedEx Ground has very publicly increased those fuel surcharges over the last two years. What I highlighted from the June 23rd earnings report where FedEx released and highlighted in their report saying that FedEx expanded their margins by some 30 percent by passing through fuel surcharges to the U.S. consumer, but then failing to pass through those surcharges to the contractors, the very ones consuming the fuel. And that was something that has lit this whole thing on fire to begin with is that FedEx has been arbitraging what they're charging the U.S. consumer and what they're giving to contractors.

And so that's been a huge part of the message from the beginning. So to see from an hour ago the first bullet point of the, of the announcement is saying that for the second year in a row, fuel supplement

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rates will remain unchanged from the previous agreement for their contractors is just a continuation of the tone deafness that I've called out for the second time here.

Is that to, to examine our fuel expense and say let's compare it now to what it was two years ago and to highlight that in a release of saying that there is going to be an unchanged number there, is something that, again, is why I have recognized in my own business the importance of Purple Friday.

Is that at the end of the day we have to see an alignment between the incentives of FedEx Ground and their contractors. And as long as FedEx is pushing through surcharges to the end consumer but not passing through those to contractors, we're misaligned in our incentives. And that's a really frustrating environment to be in.

So I felt like it was particularly relevant to go ahead and bring that up here, because it came up just before the webinar started. And fuel is a huge deal. I mean we're seeing crude oil prices that are right back to \$100 a barrel. We've seen a surge over the last handful of weeks. Diesel prices have been particularly affected, and we know that our entire line haul network runs on diesel. There's no such thing as unleaded fuel in the 18-wheeler category. So

Page 9

transportation service providers, line haul contractors, have been particularly affected by the change in fuel prices. And so that is why I see an even more urgent need for added supplements into that network.

FedEx Ground is outsourcing some 30 percent of their line haul network to external providers, which is something that hasn't been seen in a long time in the network. It's part of what was historically created opportunity, that for contractors that are able to successfully recruit drivers, they're able to be able to take over more line haul runs and participate in the network; that's how I built my business over the years and something that I've taught on for years and years and years. But what has dislocated in this moment is the rapid change of fuel prices without the change of the supplements keeping up with it, even though FedEx Ground is charging those supplements to the U.S. consumer. something that is going to be discussed more and we'll have additional content on, but I wanted to be able to share that in light of the timeliness of it related to this webinar and last weekend, okay.

So what I want to do is go for, as quickly as we can, into Q&A. I'm going to introduce Annalee. Annalee's going to give us an update on some new inventory that we have coming to market, so that way

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as you're examining different parts of the business, whether it be P&D and line haul and wanting to learn, we're here to teach you because that's authentically who we are. We're going to tell you the good, we'll tell you what the bad, and, and that is what you can rely upon your organization for. And then we're going to go into Q&A, so Annalee take it away.

ANNALEE: All right. So we have five new listings for you guys this week on the public site. The first one is in North Cincinnati, Ohio. We've got ten P&D routes listed at 150 thousand. That is an amazing entry-level price on this one. It's a dense delivery area, spare drivers, spare drivers available, available, oh my gosh, I can't talk today. Might even be eligible for some SBA financing on that one, so if you're looking for that on that kind of loan size, I mean you should be able to get in with really low capital investment on that one. Needs a little optimization, but a great starter opportunity in Cincinnati.

In Indianapolis, Indiana I've got a two-part carve. One is eleven routes listed at 692, the other is nine routes listed at 508. Both opportunities have management in place, tenured operator that's willing to do good transition and training on that one. Dense delivery area and close proximity to Terminal 2 so you

Page 11

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don't have a lot of stem miles, which is a big bonus there.

Saginaw, Michigan we've got eight P&D routes listed at 950. That opportunity has a spare vehicle, also might be SBA eligible so if that's what you're looking for you may want to check that one out. Some seller financing already available with that one too. And some assumable truck debt, so you should be able to close the gap on that one again with a lower capital investment up front for that.

And then one Amazon for you guys this week in central North Carolina. It's approximates about 40 DSP routes on a typical day, but again that fluctuates day to day. That one's listed at 3.15 million. Has five managers in place, strong operating margins, really efficient, well-run business, lots of clean financial records. Really got the, the truck leasing program in place really stable there and a really solid operator, they've got an excellent performance history for Amazon on that one, so really a strong opportunity for Amazon. So that's what I have for you guys this week.

MR. PATTON: That's very good. So

Annalee, I think this one 's a hard question of the day

for you to particularly participate in because you do

kind of, I mean, get at least a partial vote --

Page 12

1	ANNALEE: Sort of get a say.
2	MR. PATTON: of what the name of your
3	own child is, so I don't really know how that you're
4	going to answer this because you're not going to reveal
5	the name here. Maybe you can tell it
6	ANNALEE: How about I just share my
7	feedback as we go?
8	MR. PATTON: Okay. Yeah. We'll have you
9	participate in that and you can either thumbs up or
L O	thumbs down or just outright boo people. I mean we can
11	publicly shame them here and, and I think that's okay
12	too. I mean we
13	ANNALEE: Yeah.
L 4	MR. PATTON: you know, that's, that's
15	going to be part of it. We'll activate their camera on
16	here. If you don't like it we'll activate their camera,
L 7	bring them up, and then just publicly shame them right,
18	right here. That sound good?
19	ANNALEE: Boo. I need a no, I need an
20	Office Depot no button or whatever, but yes.
21	MR. PATTON: So Annalee, I, I'll give
22	you, I'll give you one, one sweet one and take your side
23	and also sometimes I give two answers to the question as
24	you like to do. So, so Carly and I, my wife, when we
25	were naming our kids, we, we just could not come
	Page 13

1	that idea would get shut down.
2	ANNALEE: Savannah is so cute though.
3	Savannah is so cute, I love it. I'm going to kick it off
4	with Michael Dunlap who also we had, I had a chance to
5	meet you at the Expo too, and he actually suggested that
6	we do this webinar question, so you get to go first
7	Michael. And he said, which I really actually love this
8	name, he said he likes the name Cassidy. He's never met
9	anybody by that name, but Cassidy Cate sounds so cute.
LO	And I'm here for it, Michael. That's adorable. Little
l 1	Cassidy Cate.
L 2	MR. PATTON: I like it. You kind of have
L3	to see how names sound, like if they're announced over an
L 4	intercom at a sports stadium, you know. It's like that's
L 5	kind of how you have to imagine it is just Cassidy Cate.
L 6	And I think that actually comes out really well, so I
L 7	ANNALEE: Yep.
L 8	MR. PATTON: Michael, that's a
L 9	excellent double win for you there. So what's Michael's
20	question?
21	ANNALEE: And Michael's question is,
22	Spencer, he hoped to get to ask this at the Expo but
23	didn't get around to it. So have we ever looked into a
24	workers' comp retro program? They're considering one for
25	a different line of business right now and he just didn't
	Page 15

know if, were they basically, if your experience is good, they refund your total work call -- comp cost, have we looked into that?

MR. PATTON: Okay, so I think more traditional what it's called is a captive on the workers' compensation side is probably what you're asking for there. So definitely have looked at captive programs. There's a couple things that workers' compensation in this industry has going against it from a captive side.

Number one, there is a lot of patience required. So when you join a captive it's generally three years in order for you to receive dividend checks based upon the performance of the program. So there are a number of contractors that look at that and say you know what, I, I'd rather just find the lowest rate now rather than taking some performance risk over that three years. Because remember, if the program doesn't perform well then you're not getting any dividend check and, and you could be paying a premium as a result of being in that captive.

So I, I think the other part of the captive side is that workers' compensation in our industry has not been an area that has been particularly great in performance. Our drivers do get hurt a fair amount. We're seeing boxes get larger, we have dog

Page 16

bites, I mean all sorts of things that are on the rise, and, and, and part of this, and this is something that I've, I've been public in speaking about, is when FedEx Ground engineering is trying to ascertain what they should pay the pickup and delivery contractors, they are engineering how much they think that the drivers are able to deliver in a day. And one of the things that's really impacting the FedEx Ground network right now is that the terminals are largely overcapacity.

There are more routes than can go on the terminal and so there's not enough docks positions for the trucks to back up to. So the trucks, rather than being able to press up to the dock and have the trucks loaded right there at the dock, are instead pulled off the dock, because there's no room there, and the packages are put onto carts. So then drivers are having to take packages off the carts and put them into the vehicles. And indeed in some of my locations we are literally loading outdoors right now, like under a tent outdoors because the terminal doesn't have capacity.

So we're experiencing more workers'

compensation claims as a result of that and that's been

part of what I've been advocating to FedEx Ground is say

hey, there's got to be compensation for this. Because

when we're having to touch all of these packages, my

Page 17

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1 drivers are exhausted by the time they've touched every box to put it on a cart and then in the truck. 3 So there's some components where I just want to caution you on a captive. I know some contractors are very pro-captive and they've had a really good experience with it, so I don't want to say that 7 they're all bad, because that's not right, but I would say that most contractors would color themselves cautious towards a captive. 9 10 ANNALEE: I'm no good on questions today, 11 Spencer. I'm having too much fun naming my baby so I'm 12 like over here literally just reading. These are so many 13 good suggestions so I don't even, I don't know what the 14 question is. I'm just kidding. But I'm going to turn 15 this next one, this is so fun, over to Justin Dishion, who said that, first of all very sweet who's thrown us 16 17 some love. He said we rock and they have already locked 18 in their dates for next year's Expo, so thank you for that Justin. And he said he would recommend for a 19 20 fantastic girl's name Arabella. It's their oldest 21 daughter's name and she just turned eight this July. 22 That is beautiful, I love that name. MR. PATTON: Yeah, it's echoes of your 2.3 name in there, right? You know, it's like --24 25 ANNALEE: Yeah, so it's like (inaudible). Page 18

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MR. PATTON: -- (inaudible) Arabella. I,

I actually like that.

ANNALEE: Yeah. Beautiful. And so his question is on standup scheduling, Spencer, their station managers seem unsure when basically trying to set a standup date for them, they're about to close on some line haul runs. And so he said they're eager to purchase tractors but they can't get a clear, you know, standup date, and so he just wanted to know, one, is that typical for that to be a challenge, and two, do they have to have tractor files complete before their contract can basically become active?

MR. PATTON: Yeah. So Justin, you do have to have the tractor files complete. Those of you that are not familiar, that are new here, every time that you take over any business on the line haul side, the 18-wheeler side, you have to fill out what are called tractor files, which involve you taking pictures and filling out specifics about the tractor. You got to change the decaling on the tractor, a number of different parts and components that go into that. They have to verify that the proper safety technology is on those tractors. So that has to be complete before the contract can change over to your name.

Page 19

1	And we do see standup dates get pushed,
2	standup dates is FedEx speak for the takeover date that
3	happens from buyer and seller. So the, the standup
4	dates, we do see those get pushed as there's a lot of
5	parts of the FedEx Ground ecosystem that have to touch
6	any individual takeover. So the local senior manager has
7	to do stuff but there's also things from what are called
8	the BDS individuals, those are, are business development
9	solutions. There's people at Pittsburgh where FedEx
10	Ground's Corporate Headquarter is at that have to touch
11	it. So we work hard to try to navigate through that
12	process and we understand the steps of the process but
13	some of that, a lot of that, is outside of our control
14	other than getting in front of the right people to say
15	hey, this needs to happen, this needs to happen. It's
16	part of the value that we bring to the table is to keep
17	things on track as much as possible, but not all of that
18	is in our control.
19	ANNALEE: Yeah. Spencer, Rob Williams
20	thinks I should just keep it steady Eddie and go Annalee,
21	Jr. So I will consider that for sure. It's a good name.
22	I mean I have to approve, Rob, so.
23	MR. PATTON: You can go by AJ.
24	ANNALEE: Yeah, I know. Actually AJ's
25	really cute. Okay. I'll consider that.
	Page 20

MR. PATTON: It will work.

So he said he wanted to ask ANNALEE: this in the Q&A but they didn't quite get to him, I know there was a lot going on. He also said thanks for everything we're doing. But wants to know, so basically over the past year he said he's been negotiating his contract high variable and, you know, high on the e-commerce stop, and so those were built, you know, around nine percent projected growth projections and obviously he has not seen that. He said for his business they've actually been down nine percent year over year, and so he's just bleeding out and wanted to know if we have sort of any recommendations on, you know, he, he has not been approved for renegotiation, but any suggestions on how to try to, you know, push back to get a renegotiation on that or just kind of hold and wait for Express volume, just wants to know what thoughts you have there.

MR. PATTON: Yeah. You know, this is a narrative that thousands of contractors are, are finally speaking up and saying, you know, FedEx Ground publicly came out and called their contractors to renegotiate. I did a webinar on that about three or four months ago that, just like what happened today when they told all the contractors to do that and then all of my

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renegotiation requests were denied, and almost all of the other contractors that had renegotiation requests were also denied. So that, that is something that your story is very consistent with a lot of other people there.

I think for those that haven't had a lot of experience with the FedEx Ground contract, there is variable compensation, which pays you on a per stop basis, and then there's fixed compensation, which you receive regardless of how many boxes you deliver. So usually a contract is more skewed towards variable compensation, so you're paid based upon the volume that you do, but there's always some fixed component. the negotiations you have the ability to slide the lever between how much variable compensation you want and how much fixed compensation you want on a percentage basis. The more that you feel like your territory's going to grow, the more that that variable compensation should be higher as a priority. The less that you think your territory's going to grow, or if you believe that growth will be negative, you would want to move towards the fixed side, because that's less dependent upon the volume that you're doing.

So the outlook that I have, and that FedEx Ground has, is that there is, for at least the next 12 months or so, a lot of flat is projected. Flat, not

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growing, not shrinking. The outlook for five years from now is, is really positive. So not that we sign five-year agreements, but I would say that I think it makes sense to lean more towards the balance between variable and fixed side. I don't want to see you go all fixed or all variable.

I think having balance there makes sense because, as you indicated, Express is going to be integrated, at least in part, to the Ground network.

And, and that's going to be good growth for us. And I've said that that's going to be a win for both FedEx Ground and their contractors to have that Express volume into the network, but that's going to take time. FedEx Ground's network is not able to handle all of the Express volume that would go into the network right now. As I mentioned, there's already terminals where I'm loading outdoors, so it's just not the capacity there in this very moment.

ANNALEE: That's right. Gosh, there's so many good questions and so many good suggestions this week, but loving it. Next question I'm going to do is from Andy Rod who said he thinks, and I can see why, that Andi with an I is a really cute girl's name, and I don't disagree with you, Andy. I actually --

MR. PATTON: That is a good one, yeah.

Page 23

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ANNALEE: How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days is one of my favorite movies and Andi is like the girl's name so that one's actually not not on the table Andy, I'll tell you that. So he was super excited about the Route Consultant Purchasing Alliance, Spencer, from the Expo, but just wanted a quick recap on what are the five categories if you wanted to maximize participation in the Purchasing Alliance?

MR. PATTON: Yeah, so in that day one keynote, for those of you that watched, kind of the middle part of my keynote what I talk about is we as contractors spend about 15 billion dollars a year collectively, and at no point in time has FedEx Ground, or anyone, organized that procurement and, and put it together so we can get better deals. Because, I mean, you think about it, 15 billion dollars to spend you should be getting really good deals. And, and many contractors are purchasing at retail rates. Like for those of you that are not contractors here, a lot of you could go buy oil, go buy trucks, at the same price as what a contractor could, which is absolutely crazy.

So this Route Consultant Purchasing

Alliance, there is no cost to join. And I detail it in

the keynote for about 25 minutes but I'll try to do that

in two minutes here. Is that there's five members of the

Page 24

organization to start with, but there are going to be more. We've already had about 50 that have come and said they want to join the Alliance.

So the first one is Bridgestone Tire, so that's the first one. We're going to have a new pay-as-you-go tire subscription program. So rather than paying for tires up front, which can blow out your cash flow. Like when I have to change a couple vehicles' tires, that could cost me five or ten thousand dollars if I have enough tires that I'm changing. Bridgestone will put on tires and there's no cost for that. You pay for the tire as you use it and they measure the tread depth on the tire, and this is for both pickup and delivery and line haul, so we get to consolidate our spending and get way better tires than any of us could regularly afford at a price point that mirrors knockoff tires. So it brings it way down on price, so that's a big part of the program.

Number two is a fuel card. So the Route Consultant Purchasing Alliance has a private label fuel card, and that card is giving discounts of 10 cents per gallon on unleaded and 30 cents per gallon on diesel. If you have a Hello Truck Lease, then that 10 cents per gallon discount goes up to 25 cents per gallon on unleaded. So a really significant premium.

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The third is a company called Realm

Health that offers benefits, both major medical and

ancillary benefits, so they're part of the program.

The fourth program, the fourth one is Silicon Ledger. Silicon Ledger does the employee retention tax credits, and that is something that we've spent a lot of time talking about that organization, or that, that credit and the savings that everyone should be making sure that they're able to get from that.

And then the fifth one is Hello Truck

Lease that I've just mentioned earlier. But Hello Truck

Lease allows us to take our cap-ex and get significant

savings on the purchase of trucks. Hello Truck Lease is

a program where we're able to use our purchasing power

and purchase trucks at much lower prices than what any of

us could get individually and then I'm able to pass

through those savings.

And so to wrap up the Purchasing

Alliance, based upon how many of those businesses you're

doing business with, you get a dividend check each year.

So if you're doing business with one of those five, you

just get those savings, there's no dividend check. If

you're doing with two of the five, there's a thousand

dollar check. Three of the five is a two thousand dollar check.

Four of the five is a five thousand dollar check.

Page 26

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And if you're doing business with all five of the alliance members there's a ten thousand dollar annual check that you receive, because you are helping us consolidate purchasing power and get better deals for everybody.

So Annalee that's as guickly as I can

So Annalee, that's as quickly as I can possibly make through it. If you want to know more and see slides and all the rest, go to the keynote, but I got through it as quick as I can.

ANNALEE: And just one clarifying question from Scott Gilchrist who thinks I should name my baby Abby, which Abby Cate is also very cute. Wants to know, Spencer, he's a Hello Truck Lease user. Thank you for your business, Scott. And wants to know what is the date of the rollout for the fuel card, because he's anxious to tap into that 25 cents per gallon savings.

And I just want to address this that the program is live and so we've received literally hundreds of inquiries that we're processing through now and starting those initial applications. So it will take obviously a handful of weeks to get through and process all of the applications and, you know, eventually get cards in hand, but you can already apply for the program, just reach out to our team.

And then in the next question I want to

Page 27

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1	jump down and do is from James Flynn who I love this. So
2	he thinks that the baby should be named Violet in honor
3	of the Purple Promise. Little Purple Friday baby.
4	MR. PATTON: I love that. That is pretty
5	spectacular. That's an all-in movement right there,
6	Annalee.
7	ANNALEE: Yeah, that's a lot of
8	commitment. I'm officially a workaholic at that point,
9	am I right? I love it.
10	MR. PATTON: That is good.
11	ANNALEE: And James' question, Spencer,
12	is so for contractors that are looking at their Schedule
13	K coming out here and some, some receiving anywhere in
14	the next matter of days, what are the consequences of
15	signing or not signing Schedule K for a contractor
16	besides just excess surge pay?
17	MR. PATTON: I'm so glad you asked this
18	question, Annalee, because I got to cover this some in
19	the day two Q&A side, which we haven't posted that yet
20	publicly so I'm glad you asked this.
21	Couple things that every contractor needs
22	to keep in mind related to their Schedule K. So number
23	one, Schedule K is supposed to be coming out in the next
24	handful of days and it's rumored, although not confirmed,
25	that the thresholds that we are going to be receiving
	Page 28

incentives on are no longer daily thresholds but are weekly thresholds. Which for those of you that don't know what Schedule K is or this is going straight over your head, I don't have time to go through it in this webinar, but we have videos that give you a tutorial of what Schedule K is, so you can watch that and you'll totally understand it. So if this is going to go over your head for 60 seconds I apologize for that but here we go anyway.

So Schedule K, that's one piece that is going to change is a weekly stop threshold, which could have real impact on our ability to earn incentives at all. I have a lot to say about the change to weekly thresholds, but I'm not going to do that until Schedule K is released.

For those that sign Schedule K though, and this is super important, FedEx Ground has included language in Schedule K that allows them to forcibly have you work in someone else's territory that FedEx Ground gets to choose what boxes you get. And so I have had this happen in my own business where someone else in the terminal doesn't get all of their boxes delivered, and so FedEx Ground can choose to have me go out into their territory, which I'm not familiar with, and I don't receive any extra compensation for that.

Page 29

So Schedule K, a lot of people get lured in to the up-front money that FedEx Ground pays to participate with Schedule K, but just know that there are some back end risks where FedEx Ground can invoice your business for failures to perform on Schedule K, and there's a lot of contractors that can tell that story too.

So I would say on Schedule K, this is something I'll be evaluating very closely in my own business, and just like what I said in my keynote, I can only speak to my own business and the decisions that I'm making there, but I will talk about the rubrics that I'm using in that calculus and we'll just have to see what FedEx Ground comes out with on Schedule K. But those are important things to keep in mind for those that have historically not signed Schedule K that we're going to have to look at closely in this year's release.

ANNALEE: Yeah. Actually also, Spencer, just happening in real time, I'm getting posts on here that there's a message that just got posted on Schedule K saying that they will be I guess released next week, but that the numbers will be better than last year and for the most part threshold starting peak will be no higher than our daily surge thresholds throughout this year. So it will be interesting.

Page 30

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1	MR. PATTON: All this happens during the
2	webinar. This is, so the last time that I've been here
3	that Annalee, is it coincidental? Is it coincidental
4	that it comes out during the middle of the webinar?
5	ANNALEE: I don't know.
6	MR. PATTON: Now I'm going to like be
7	distracted and go through and check all this, so. You
8	ask a question, let me go
9	ANNALEE: I'll, I'm going to keep jumping
10	through to these next ones. So there's, again, some
11	really, really good questions coming through here. I
12	also, I literally I texted my husband if you want to tune
13	into the webinar we're naming the baby today, and he said
14	I knew you all would do that but what does that have to
15	do with food? Like you all
16	MR. PATTON: That is valid. It's valid.
17	ANNALEE: Like you all (inaudible) food,
18	what are you doing. All right, so let's see. So the
19	next question we're going to jump over to here comes in
20	from, let's see, Bill Hawkins, who thinks we should name
21	the baby Billy of course. Very cute, Billy Cate. But
22	said, says Spencer, he was specifically trying to find a
23	post from Ground Cloud's session, so will, will the other
24	sessions from the Expo be made available to those that
25	want to rewatch any of the content?
	Page 31

MR. PATTON: Yes. Yes. We will have sessions from a number of the sponsors, maybe all of the sponsors, I don't want to put words in my sponsors' or in our team's mouth. But I, if not every single one of them it's the overwhelming majority. As long as we have their permission, it will be posted.

ANNALEE: Yeah, absolutely. All right,
Spencer, next question comes from Dalton Swan who I got
to meet you there this weekend, Dalton. And said he's
always been fond of the name River from the series
Firefly, but sadly it does not work well with his last
name so I can have it. Thank you Dalton, for
contributing River. That's actually very cute as well,
River Cate. We're a little country so I'll take that, I
like it.

And Spencer, just wanted to know, you know, from a contractor's perspective, right, if there are contractors out there who, you know, are wanting to show some solidarity with what's happening right now and also express the same concerns but maybe are fearful of directly corresponding with FedEx regarding their own plans and, you know, fearful of retaliation and things like that but are very much resonating with what's happening and experiencing the same concerns, what, what should they do to show solidarity there, Spencer?

Page 32

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MR. PATTON: So a couple different
pieces. And, and in the day one keynote I talk about
three ways that contractors can help and, and that's
going to evolve over time. The most immediate thing to
be able to do is with the Trade Association for Logistics
Professionals. Consider nominating yourself to serve on
that ten contractor board. FedEx Ground, via a leaked
internal memo that came our way, is not going to be
contesting the Trade Association. They say, to their own
internal staff, that every contractor can make their own
business decision about whether they want to join the
Trade Association and whether it's in the best interest
of that contractor. So that should give a lot of
alleviation related to the Trade Association on that

Helping us share it with the media is really important. We have had tons of contractors since the Expo that are speaking with the media, talking about their stories, and those are really important stories to, to be told. It's that, I said in my, in my keynote is that if this is the Spencer Patton story by the end of this, I have failed in my mission. This is not the Spencer Patton show. This is contractors, 6,000 small business owners that each have, on average, 10 to 25 employees that have their life savings in this. These

Page 33

side.

Τ	are the stories that, you know, it's why our Fox Business
2	News interview went viral. We had a million views from
3	Fox Business News when I was on with Dagon on Friday. So
4	much so that Fox posted to their Twitter account to all
5	22 million viewers our video, and we got an additional
6	five million views in 72 hours from that. So there's a
7	lot of media around this. Sharing it with local media
8	and making sure that this is part of the conversation.
9	We've used the hashtag Purple Friday as a
LO	important social media follower that we would encourage
11	you to use that as well. Annalee, if you want to turn
L 2	around I happen to believe I know what's on the back of
13	the shirt for Purple Friday. See? Yeah, there you go.
L 4	That's right. So Annalee was like what's behind me?
15	ANNALEE: I'm like what?
16	MR. PATTON: What's behind you. That was
L7	a very concerned look when I said that, I was like what
L 8	is behind me there. Yeah, that's exactly right.
L9	ANNALEE: Like there's like a bird about
20	to go, I was like what.
21	MR. PATTON: Oh man, that was good. So
22	anyway, the message is going to evolve. There's three
23	months and one day between now and Purple Friday, and,
24	and you will continue to hear from me over that time.
25	ANNALEE: All right, Spencer, next
	Page 34

1	question, and there's a couple kind of our new investors
2	here asking this question so I'm going to add like two
3	parts to this. But this question comes from Vikram D.
4	who said, first of all, which this is amazing, I don't
5	think Vikram knows this, so he said he would suggest
6	Raylee Cate because the initials are RC and the last
7	three letters, lee, are my name. I don't know, Vikram,
8	if you know that my husband's name is Ray and so actually
9	that's a legit, that's a legit suggestion. It's a little
10	mom and dad name plus like RC for initials, it's not bad.
11	That's not a bad suggestion.
12	MR. PATTON: You're getting incredible
13	suggestions, Annalee. I am serious. These are
14	incredible suggestions. I am amazed.
15	ANNALEE: Yeah. I'm like screen shotting
16	you guys, don't worry. So I'm taking notes today.
17	MR. PATTON: Yeah. I'm still trying to
18	get this announcement to pull up. I think it's literally
19	crashed mygroundbiz, because I tried to pull it up and
20	it's just been spinning wheels.
21	ANNALEE: Mine was spinning too.
22	MR. PATTON: It just loaded a second ago
23	but now I can't get in. So
24	ANNALEE: Yeah.
25	MR. PATTON: I think from what I'm
	Page 35

1 seeing it was sent out to all the contractors across the United States and so I think mygroundbiz is now getting bombed by all the contractors trying to log in. So I can't see the message yet, I, otherwise I'd give you a reply. But Annalee, in order to allow me to get to this 5 let's do five more minutes of questions and then I 7 probably need to go run and check this out. ANNALEE: I think that's probably right. 8 MR. PATTON: So we'll do a lightning 9 round and give it a couple questions and then we're going 10 11 to call it. 12 ANNALEE: That's right. So two questions, Spencer, on this. So first of all, as a new 13 14 investor, with everything that's happening in the space, 15 one, is it still a good time to get into this space? And 16 then I'll do the second question on that. 17 MR. PATTON: Yeah, so here's the thing. 18 You can always count on us to be authentic with you. And since the start of this I have said I believe in where 19 this industry will be five years from now. I really do. 20 21 When you look at e-commerce and the growth of e-commerce, e-commerce is going to be a significantly greater part of 2.2 our economy five years from now than where we are now. 23 And our business is a pure play on that growth. 24 25 been publicly on the record to say that I think if you

Page 36

buy a FedEx business today, the top line revenue should be double five years from now.

But I do expect that this next 12 months could be really tough. And I just don't know how tough the next 12 months will be. I know for my own business I'm taking this incredibly seriously with Purple Friday because I will not continue to subsidize FedEx Ground's business. That is just not something I'm willing to do. So it all depends on the lens that you have here.

What I know is that FedEx Ground has outsourced 100 percent of their network to contractors. There's 6,000 small business owners and we make up 100 percent of FedEx Ground. So FedEx Ground cannot survive without their network, and contractors cannot survive without FedEx Ground. So we are inextricably linked together and that is what I think protects both of us. But we may see some really tough moments in the times ahead.

So all of those things are part of the risk calculus that I'm going to call a spade a spade, and that's something that I've done for my entire time is that I'm going to speak truth into the matter, and that way I'll tell you when it's good, I'll tell you when it's bad, and I'll tell you when I don't know. And so right now it just depends on how far your telescope is set.

Page 37

2.2

Are you looking 12 months from now, are you looking for five years from now, how is it set? And that's going to be an important part of your decision.

ANNALEE: And then the second part of his question, Spencer, is so if he's, if he's looking at potentially acquiring and they're going to be targeting some sort of like late fall, close to peak season standup date, one, do you think that's okay to do or a bad idea, and then any suggestions on how to make that go successful if you're closing sometime close to peak?

MR. PATTON: So I think the thing around peak is that people have always looked at peak as a double-edged sword. So peak season, historically from 2020 and before, has been when we can make about a third of our annual profits in four weeks' time. So a lot of people have really targeted peak to say man, I want to take over right before so that way they can get all this profit momentum right in the first part of their business.

But it also carries a lot of operational challenges, right. You're going to be new to this business, and no matter how much we teach you there's going to be plenty of learning that you still have to do. So going into peak season on a takeover is going to be like going straight into the professional leagues right

Page 38

2.2

1 away rather than having a chance to get your sea legs on. So I think the thing to balance there is the profitability of peak season, which we're going to be learning about here as it relates to Schedule K. Whatever this announcement is, as soon as I get off the webinar all the other pieces we'll be, we'll be learning 7 about that and I'll speak with that as I have something to speak about. 8 So Annalee, let's do one more question 9 and then we'll call it a wrap. 10 11 ANNALEE: Yep, last question. I'm just 12 going to end with this one for funny. Dave Thomas 13 recommended that I name the baby Poskina, short for 14 potatoes with skins. 15 MR. PATTON: That is fantastic. 16 that's an inside joke that some of our people aren't 17 going to get here. Annalee and I have had a, coming up 18 on three year running dispute, about with whether skins belong in mashed potatoes or not. I have the right 19 20 opinion and Annalee has the wrong opinion, but. 21 Well Steve agrees I guess with you, so. But Spencer, just his question is on the 2.2 2.3 Bridgestone Tire program. How long do you anticipate the rollout of that to take and just to kind of gauge 25 timelines there? Page 39

1 MR. PATTON: Yeah, I think the

Bridgestone program's going to take a while. So I've been transparent in this in the keynote. This is all of a two-year rollout because Bridgestone is going to be, you know, having an enormous amount of fleets to onboard onto their platform. So it's a, it's exciting program, it's going to save us a lot of money. They're offering a bridge program that allows you to get some discounts up until FedEx -- or up until Bridgestone is active in your market. So there's some ways that give you an on-ramp to get on the platform.

They've publicly said that they plan to roll it out in all the major metro markets first and then start to expand into ancillary markets, but there's a lot to be said there. The key influencing factor that you have is Bridgestone wants to know if you want the program in your area. And for terminals where 70 percent or more of the contractors want the program in their area, then Bridgestone is more likely to focus on that area, so that way you can make sure that you reach out to Bridgestone and have the best opportunity to get this program coming to you sooner rather than later.

For me, I've been piloting this for three months in my own fleet and it has cut my tire consumption in half. It has been enormous because I'm getting a way

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higher quality tire. I showed some photos of the tires that I have on there that I showed at the keynote and, and it's making a big difference for, for my own fleet, so.

ANNALEE: Spencer, also I just want to say too, because I can't read through, I mean there's been so many questions, but there's also just so much love and support in the comments from you guys, so just a collective thank you for all of the really, really sweet supportive posts and the compliments on the Expo. It was our pleasure, so thank you guys for that.

MR. PATTON: Yeah. I mean it's unbelievable. Like I said, having 60 percent of the entire network come out there, it meant the world to me, I can't thank you enough for that. Our team was just blown away by how much all of you all are supporting and just had the, the kindest things to say. So it meant the world to us and please keep that coming our way. Especially during these times we really, really appreciate that very much.

If we did not get to your question, which obviously there are a massive number of questions that we didn't get to, please reach out to us. We have a whole staff that is here to answer your questions, you can call us, you can e-mail us. We will answer your questions, we

Page 41

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just want to get through as many as we can and obviously FedEx Ground has released a press release here during my webinar so I'm going to go and check that out. So in the meantime I will see you all same time, same place, next week. Take care, everybody. ANNALEE: Bye everyone. Page 42

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21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
	Page 43

[& - announcement]

&	3.15 12:14	acquiring 38:6	amazing 11:11
	30 8:15 10:5	activate 13:15	35:4
& 1:5	25:22	13:16	amazon 2:23
1	4	active 19:13 40:9	5:25 6:3,4 12:11
10 2:11 14:1	<u>-</u>	add 35:2	12:19,20
24:1 25:21,23	40 5:4 12:13	added 10:4	amount 16:25
33:24	5	additional 10:19	40:5
10-01-2028	50 25:2	34:5	ancillary 26:3
43:17	508 11:22	address 1:5 7:9	40:14
100 5:23 9:21	6	7:17,22 27:17	andi 23:23 24:2
37:11,12	6,000 4:19 33:23	adorable 15:10	andrea 1:11 43:5
11 14:1	37:12	advocating	43:16
12 22:25 37:3,5	60 5:16 29:8	17:23	andy 23:22,24
38:1	41:13	affairs 6:9	24:3
15 24:12,16	692 11:21	afford 25:15	annalee 3:3,18
150 11:11	7	ago 3:19 7:7	3:19 4:2 10:24
18 7:11 9:25	70 40:17	8:23 9:5 21:23	11:7,8 12:23
19:18	70 40.17 72 34:6	35:22	13:1,6,13,19,21
19 43:12		agreement 7:24	14:11,15,20,23
2	8	8:1 9:1	15:2,17,21 18:10
2 11:25	8 14:1	agreements 23:3	18:25 19:4
2020 38:14	8349 1:11 43:16	agrees 39:21	20:19,20,24 21:2
2022 1:5,9 6:12	9	ahead 9:18	23:19 24:1 27:6
7:6 43:12	950 12:4	37:18	27:10 28:6,7,11
22 34:5	a	aj 20:23	28:18 30:18
225 2:10		aj's 20:24	31:3,5,9,17 32:7
23rd 8:13	abby 27:12,12	alignment 9:11	34:11,14,15,19
24 1:9	ability 22:13 29:12	alleviation 33:14	34:25 35:13,15
25 24:24 25:24	able 2:7,25 10:9	alliance 24:5,8 24:23 25:3,20	35:21,24 36:5,8 36:12 38:4 39:9
27:16 33:24	10:10,10,19	26:19 27:2	39:11,17,20,21
25th 6:12 7:5	11:17 12:9 17:6	allow 4:10 36:5	41:5 42:6
26748 43:16	17:13 23:14	allows 26:12	annalee's 3:23
275 2:10	26:9,14,16 33:5	29:18 40:8	10:24
3	absolutely 5:15	alternatively	announced 3:18
3 14:1	24:21 32:7	14:15	15:13
3,300 5:18	account 34:4	amazed 35:14	announcement
		33.7	1:6 8:3,4,24

[announcement - call]

35:18 39:5	association 33:5	bds 20:8	boy 14:17
annual 27:2	33:9,12,14	beautiful 18:22	bridge 40:8
38:15	assumable 12:8	19:4	bridgestone 25:4
answer 3:5,14	assumes 43:11	beginning 8:23	25:10 39:23
3:17 4:3 13:4	assure 6:21	believe 8:4 22:19	40:2,4,9,16,19
41:24,25	attached 43:7	34:12 36:19	40:20
answered 4:6	attend 5:17	belong 39:19	bring 9:18 13:17
answers 13:23	attendees 5:25	benefits 26:2,3	20:16
anticipate 39:23	attention 6:24	best 3:5 33:12	brings 25:16
anxious 27:16	august 1:9	40:21	built 10:12 21:8
anybody 15:9	authentic 36:18	better 4:4 24:15	bullet 7:21,22
anyway 29:9	authentically	25:15 27:4	8:2,24
34:22	11:3	30:22	business 5:3
apologize 29:8	available 11:13	big 12:1 25:17	6:10,25 9:8
applications	11:13 12:7	41:3	10:12 11:1
27:20,22	31:24	bill 31:20	12:16 15:25
apply 27:23	average 33:24	billion 24:12,16	19:17 20:8
appreciate 6:20	b	billy 31:21,21	21:10 26:20,21
41:20	baby 3:20 18:11	bird 34:19	27:1,14 29:21
appreciative	27:12 28:2,3	bit 3:20	30:5,10,11 33:11
6:14	31:13,21 39:13	bites 17:1	33:24 34:1,3
approval 14:14	back 9:21 17:12	bleeding 21:12	36:24 37:1,5,8
approve 20:22	21:15 30:4	blow 25:7	37:12 38:19,22
approved 4:13	34:12	blown 41:16	businesses 26:19
14:13 21:14	bad 11:5 18:7	board 33:7	button 13:20
approximates	35:10,11 37:24	bombed 36:3	buy 24:20,20
12:12	38:8	bonus 12:1	37:1
arabella 18:20	balance 23:4,7	boo 13:10,19	buyer 20:3
19:2	39:2	14:20,20	bye 42:6
arbitraging 8:20	bally's 5:19	booed 14:18	c
area 11:13,25	barrel 9:21	bore 4:10	c.s.r. 43:5
16:23 40:17,18	based 2:11 16:13	boring 2:14 4:8	calculus 30:13
40:19	22:11 26:19	born 3:23	37:20
ascertain 17:4	basically 16:1	bottom 3:8	call 16:2 36:11
asked 28:17,20	19:6,13 21:5	box 3:11 18:2	37:20 39:10
asking 16:6 35:2	basis 22:8,15	boxes 16:25 22:9	41:24
associated 4:14	,	29:20,22	

[called - contractor]

called 9:3 16:5	certificate 43:1	collective 41:9	components
19:18 20:7	certify 43:7	collectively	18:3 19:22
21:22 26:1	challenge 19:11	24:13	computer 43:10
camera 13:15,16	challenges 6:10	color 18:8	concerned 34:17
cap 26:12	38:21	come 2:18 3:13	concerns 7:17
_		5:5 13:25 25:2	
capacity 17:20 23:17	challenging 7:14 chance 15:4 39:1	41:14	32:20,24 confirmed 28:24
capital 11:17	change 10:2,15	comes 6:13	connection 4:14
	10:15 19:21,25	15:16 30:14	consequences
captive 16:5,7,9	25:8 29:11,13	31:4,19 32:8	28:14
16:11,20,22 18:4	changes 3:16	35:3	consider 20:21
18:5,9	changing 25:10	coming 10:25	20:25 33:6
card 25:19,21,21	charging 8:6,20	28:13,23 31:11	considering
27:15	10:17	39:17 40:21	15:24
cards 27:23	chat 3:10 6:7	41:18	consistent 22:4
care 42:5	check 12:6 16:18	comments 41:8	consolidate
carly 13:24 14:3	26:20,22,24,25	commerce 21:8	25:14 27:4
14:13,14	26:25 27:3 31:7	36:21,21,22	consultant 2:8
carolina 12:12	36:7 42:3	commission	3:3 4:11,13 24:5
carries 38:20	checked 14:6	43:17	24:22 25:20
cart 18:2	checks 16:12	commitment	consumer 8:16
carts 17:16,17	child 13:3	28:8	8:21 9:13 10:17
carve 11:21	choose 29:20,23	comp 15:24 16:2	consuming 8:18
cash 25:7	chose 14:8	company 26:1	consumption
cassidy 15:8,9	cincinnati 11:10	compare 9:5	40:24
15:11,15	11:19	compensation	content 2:15,24
cate 15:9,11,15	claims 17:22	16:6,8,22 17:22	5:6 10:19 31:25
27:12 31:21	clarifying 27:10	17:24 22:7,8,11	contesting 33:9
32:14 35:6	clean 12:16	22:14,15,17	continuation 9:2
categories 24:7	clear 6:13 19:9	29:25	continue 34:24
category 9:25	climate 7:15	complete 19:12	37:7
caught 7:6	close 11:25 12:9	19:15,24 43:8	contract 19:12
caution 18:4	19:7 38:7,10	completely 6:17	19:24 21:7 22:6
cautious 18:8	closely 30:9,17	compliments	22:10
central 12:12	closing 38:10	41:10	contractor 5:2
cents 25:21,22	cloud's 31:23	component	24:21 28:15,21
25:23,24 27:16	coincidental	22:12	33:7,10,13
	31:3,3		
	<u> </u>		

[contractor's - earlier]

contractor's	crashed 35:19	deafness 9:3	discounts 25:21
32:17	crazy 24:21	deal 9:20	40:8
contractors 2:9	created 10:9	deals 24:15,17	discussed 10:18
4:20 5:10 6:2,4	credit 26:8	27:4	dishion 18:15
6:5,23 7:11 8:17	credits 26:6	debt 12:8	dislocated 10:14
8:21 9:2,12,14	crude 9:20	decaling 19:21	dispute 39:18
10:1,9 16:14	csr 1:11 43:16	decision 33:11	distracted 31:7
17:5 18:5,8	current 5:1 6:9	38:3	dividend 16:12
21:20,22,25 22:2	customer 8:7	decisions 30:11	16:18 26:20,22
23:12 24:12,18	cut 14:11 40:24	definitely 16:7	dock 17:13,14,15
24:19 28:12	cute 15:2,3,9	deliver 17:7 22:9	docks 17:11
30:6 32:18 33:3	20:25 23:23	delivered 29:22	dog 16:25
33:17,23 36:1,3	27:12 31:21	delivery 11:12	doing 2:14 6:19
37:11,14 40:18	32:13	11:25 17:5	6:21 21:5 22:22
contributing	d	25:13	26:20,21,23 27:1
32:13		denied 22:1,3	31:18
control 20:13,18	d 35:3	dense 11:12,24	dollar 26:24,24
43:12	dad 2:17 35:10	dependent 22:21	26:25 27:2
conversation	dagon 34:3	depends 37:9,25	dollars 24:12,16
34:8	daily 29:1 30:24	depot 13:20	25:9
copies 43:11	dalton 32:8,9,12 data 6:24	depth 25:12	door 5:19
corporate 20:10	date 19:7,10	detail 24:23	double 15:19
corporation 4:12	20:2 27:15 38:8	development	37:2 38:13
4:15	dates 18:18 20:1	20:8	doubled 5:21
correct 43:7	20:2,4	diesel 9:22,24	drills 2:15
corresponding	daughter 3:23	25:22	drivers 10:10
32:21	daughter's 18:21	difference 41:3	11:13,13 16:24
cost 16:2 24:23	daughters 14:8,9	different 2:11,23	17:6,16 18:1
25:9,11	dave 39:12	11:1 15:25	dsp 12:13
count 36:18	day 3:22 5:22	19:21 33:1	dsps 5:25
country 32:14	6:8 7:1,5 9:10	dire 6:23	dunlap 15:4
county 43:3,6,17	12:13,14,14,23	direct 7:9 43:10	e
couple 3:18 7:12	17:7 24:9 28:19	direction 43:12	e 21:8 36:21,21
16:8 25:8 28:21	33:2 34:23	directly 32:21	36:22 41:25
33:1 35:1 36:10	days 5:5 24:1	disagree 23:24	eager 19:8
course 31:21	28:14,24	disclaimer 4:9	earlier 26:11
cover 28:18		discount 25:24	

[earn - fixed]

20.12	• 11 44 40	00 10 14 00 00	0.1.1.4.22
earn 29:12	especially 41:19	23:12,14 32:20	fedex's 4:23
earnings 8:13	essentially 5:10	external 10:6	feedback 5:13
echoes 18:23	evaluating 30:9	extra 29:25	7:16 13:7
economic 7:14	event 5:17,23	f	feel 6:21 22:16
economy 36:23	eventually 27:22	factor 40:15	felt 9:17
ecosystem 5:24	everybody 2:3	factually 8:10	female 14:16
20:5	2:18 27:5 42:5	failed 2:20 33:22	fifth 26:10
eddie 20:20	evolve 33:4	failing 8:16	figure 5:2
edged 38:13	34:22	failures 30:5	figured 14:25
efficient 12:16	ex 26:12	fair 16:24	filar 1:11 43:5
eight 12:3 18:21	exactly 34:18	fall 38:7	43:16
either 13:9	examine 9:4	false 6:17	files 19:12,15,19
eleven 11:21	examining 11:1	familiar 19:16	fill 19:18
eligible 11:14	excellent 12:19	29:24	filling 19:20
12:5	15:19	fantastic 18:20	finally 21:20
eliminated 14:5	excerpt 5:11	39:15	financial 6:23
else's 29:19	excess 28:16	far 37:25	12:16
emphasized 7:9	excited 2:4 24:4	favorable 6:20	financing 11:15
employee 4:17	exciting 40:6	favorite 24:2	12:7
26:5	exhausted 18:1	fearful 32:20,22	find 16:15 31:22
employees 2:10	expand 40:14	federal 4:12,15	fire 8:19
33:25	expanded 8:14	fedex 1:5 2:10,22	firefly 32:11
encourage 7:2	expect 3:25 8:8	4:12,15,17,18,19	first 2:6 3:7,14
34:10	37:3	5:1,9,24 6:1,4,14	4:3 5:9 7:21
endorsed 4:11	expense 9:4	6:17,18,22 7:8	8:24 11:10 15:6
engineering 17:4	experience 3:2	7:14,15 8:5,8,10	18:16 25:4,5
17:6	16:1 18:6 22:6	8:13,14,19 9:11	35:4 36:13
enormous 40:5	experienced	9:12 10:5,16	38:18 40:13
40:25	6:10	17:3,8,23 20:2,5	five 5:25 11:8
entertain 2:16	experiencing	20:9 21:21 22:6	12:14 23:1,3
entire 5:16,18	17:21 32:24	22:24 23:11,13	24:6,25 25:9
9:23 37:21	expires 43:17	24:13 29:17,19	26:21,23,24,25
41:14	expo 1:5 5:15	29:23 30:2,4,14	26:25 27:1 34:6
entry 11:12	15:5,22 18:18	32:21 33:7 37:1	36:6,20,23 37:2
environment	24:6 31:24	37:7,10,13,13,15	38:2
7:15 9:15	33:18 41:10	40:9 42:2	fixed 22:8,12,15
equal 14:17	express 4:12,15	10.7 12.2	22:21 23:5,6
	4:17 21:17 23:8		

[flat - hawkins]

flat 22:25,25	generally 16:11	29:7,11,14 30:16	groups 6:5
fleet 40:24 41:3	getting 16:18	31:6,9,19 33:4,8	grow 22:17,19
fleets 40:5	20:14 24:17	34:22 35:2	growing 23:1
flow 25:8	30:19 35:12	36:10,22 37:20	growth 21:9
fluctuates 12:13	36:2 40:25	37:22 38:2,6,21	22:19 23:10
flynn 28:1	gilchrist 27:11	38:23,24,24,25	36:21,24
focus 40:19	girl 3:21 14:17	39:3,12,17 40:2	guess 30:21
follower 34:10	girl's 18:20	40:4,7 42:3	39:21
fond 32:10	23:23 24:2	good 6:22 11:4	guy 24:1
food 31:15,17	give 5:12 10:24	11:24 12:22	guys 11:9 12:11
forcibly 29:18	13:21,22,23	13:18 16:1 18:6	12:21 35:16
four 5:20 7:21	14:12 29:5	18:10,13 20:21	41:8,11
14:1,7,10 21:23	33:13 36:4,10	23:10,20,20,25	h
26:25 38:15	40:10	24:17 28:10	half 2:24 5:22
fourth 26:4,4	giving 8:21	31:11 34:21	40:25
fox 34:1,3,4	25:21	36:15 37:23	hand 27:23
friday 6:11 7:5	glad 28:17,20	goodness 14:9	handful 9:22
9:9 28:3 34:3,9	go 5:6 9:18	gosh 11:14 23:19	27:21 28:24
34:13,23 37:6	10:22 11:6 13:7	great 11:18	handle 23:14
front 12:10	14:25 15:6	16:24	happen 5:7
20:14 25:7 30:2	17:10 19:22	greater 36:22	20:15,15 29:21
frustrating 9:15	20:20,23 23:5,15	ground 1:5 2:10	34:12
fuel 7:23,25 8:8	24:20,20 25:6	2:22 4:12,15,17	happened 7:3
8:10,11,15,18,25	27:8 29:4,7,9,23	4:18,19 5:9,24	21:24
9:4,19,25 10:2	31:7,8 34:13,20	6:2,14,17,18,22	happening 30:19
10:15 25:19,20	36:7 38:9 42:3	7:8,14,15 8:11	32:19,24 36:14
27:15	goes 8:1 25:24	9:11 10:5,16	happens 20:3
fun 3:24,25 4:6	going 2:16,16,17	17:4,8,23 20:5	31:1
18:11,15	2:18,19,21,22,23	21:21 22:6,24	hard 12:23
funny 39:12	3:23,24 4:1,6	23:9,11 24:13	20:11
g	5:7,11,12,22 9:6	29:17,19,23 30:2	hashtag 34:9
gallon 25:22,22	10:18,23,24 11:4	30:4,14 31:23	haul 6:4,4 7:10
25:24,24 27:16	11:6 13:4,4,15	33:7 37:10,13,13	9:24 10:1,6,11
gap 12:9	14:11,18 15:3	37:15 42:2	11:2 19:8,17
gauge 39:24	16:9 18:14 21:4	ground's 8:5,8	25:14
general 7:18	22:16,19 23:8,10	20:10 23:14	hawkins 31:20
	23:11,13,21 25:1 25:5 28:25 29:3	37:7	
	23.3 20.23 29.3		

[head - know]

head 2:15 29:4,8 headquarter	huge 8:22 9:20	industry 5:1	joke 39:16
neauquarter	hum 19:1	16:9,23 36:20	jokes 2:17
20:10	hundreds 27:18	inextricably	jr 20:21
health 26:2	hurt 6:16 16:24	37:15	july 18:21
hear 2:17,17	husband 31:12	influencing	jump 28:1 31:19
5:11 34:24	husband's 35:8	40:15	jumping 31:9
hello 25:23	i	information	june 8:13
26:10,11,13	-	4:21,22,24 7:19	justin 18:15,19
27:13	idea 2:13 15:1	initial 1:5 27:20	19:14
help 3:20 33:3	38:8	initials 35:6,10	k
helpful 4:24	imagine 15:15	initiatives 6:17	
helping 27:3	immediate 33:4	inquiries 27:19	k 28:13,15,22,23
33:16	impact 29:12	inside 39:16	29:3,6,10,14,16
hereinbefore	impacting 17:8 importance 9:9	integrated 23:9	29:18 30:1,3,5,8 30:14,16,20 39:4
43:9	important 29:17	intercom 15:14	keep 20:16,20
hey 17:24 20:15	30:15 33:17,19	interest 33:12	28:22 30:15
high 21:7,7	34:10 38:3	interesting 6:3	31:9 41:18
higher 8:8 22:18	inaudible 18:25	30:25	keeping 10:16
30:23 41:1	19:2 31:17	internal 33:8,10	key 7:20 40:15
highlight 9:6	incentives 9:11	interview 34:2	keynote 6:7,8,15
highlighted 8:12	9:15 29:1,12	introduce 10:23	7:1 24:10,11,24
8:14	included 29:17	inventory 10:25	27:8 30:10 33:2
highlighting 8:2	increased 8:11	investment	33:20 40:3 41:2
highlights 7:20	incredible 5:20	11:17 12:10	kick 15:3
historically 10:8	35:12,14	investor 4:25	kidding 18:14
30:16 38:13	incredibly 37:6	36:14	kiddos 14:1
history 12:19	independently	investors 35:1	kids 13:25
hold 21:16	14:4	invoice 30:4	kind 11:16 12:25
home 14:24	indiana 11:20	involve 19:19	15:12,15 21:16
honor 28:2	indianapolis	issues 7:17	24:10 35:1
honored 3:12	11:20	j	39:24
hoped 15:22	indicated 23:8	james 28:1,11	kindest 41:17
hopefully 4:23	individual 20:6	job 2:20	knew 31:14
hotel 5:18,19,19	individually	join 16:11 24:23	knockoff 25:16
hour 5:8 7:7	26:16	25:3 33:11	know 4:1 6:18
8:23	individuals 20:8	joining 2:5	8:10 9:23 13:3
hours 34:6		J	13:14 15:14

[know - melander]

1511710110	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	2.0	. 252
16:1,15 18:4,13	length 1:10	log 36:3	major 26:2
18:24 19:9,10	lens 37:9	logistics 33:5	40:13
20:24 21:3,5,7,8	letters 35:7	long 9:12 10:7	majority 32:5
21:12,13,15,17	level 11:12	32:5 39:23	making 26:9
21:19,21 27:7,13	lever 22:13	longer 29:1	30:12 34:8 41:3
27:14,22 29:3	life 33:25	look 3:7 7:2 8:5	male 14:16
30:3 31:5 32:16	light 10:20	8:7 16:14 30:17	man 34:21 38:16
32:17,18,22 34:1	lightning 36:9	34:17 36:21	management
34:12 35:7,8	likes 15:8	looked 15:23	11:23
37:4,5,10,24	line 6:4,4 7:10	16:3,7 38:12	manager 20:6
40:5,16	9:23 10:1,6,11	looking 5:3	managers 12:15
knows 35:5	11:2 15:25 19:8	11:15 12:6	19:6
l	19:17 25:14	28:12 38:1,1,5	margins 8:15
label 25:20	37:1	lose 24:1	12:15
language 5:12	lines 7:13	lot 2:21 6:24	market 10:25
29:18	linked 37:15	12:1 16:10 20:4	40:10
largely 17:9	list 8:1 14:2,7,10	20:13 21:4 22:4	markets 40:13
larger 16:25	listed 11:11,21	22:5,25 24:19	40:14
largest 2:9	11:22 12:4,14	26:7 28:7 29:13	mashed 39:19
las 5:17	listings 11:9	30:1,6 33:13	massive 41:22
late 38:7	lists 7:21	34:7 38:15,20	materially 4:22
laugh 2:19	lit 8:19	40:7,14	4:24
leagues 38:25	literally 17:18	lots 12:16	matter 28:14
leaked 33:7	18:12 27:18	love 14:23 15:3,7	37:22 38:22
lean 23:4	31:12 35:18	18:17,22 28:1,4	maximize 24:7
learn 11:2	little 3:20,21	28:9 41:8	mean 9:20 11:16
	11:18 15:10	loving 23:21	12:25 13:10,12
learning 38:23	28:3 32:14 35:9	low 11:17	17:1 20:22
39:4,6 lease 25:23	live 27:18	lower 8:9 12:9	24:15 41:6,12
	loaded 17:14	26:15	means 4:16
26:11,12,13	35:22	lowest 16:15	meant 41:14,17
27:13	loading 17:19	lured 30:1	measure 25:12
leasing 12:17	23:16	m	media 33:16,18
ledger 26:5,5	loan 11:16		34:7,7,10
lee 35:7	local 20:6 34:7	macomb 43:3,6	medical 26:2
legit 35:9,9	locations 17:18	43:17	meet 15:5 32:9
legs 39:1	locked 18:17	mail 41:25	melander 7:8

[members - optimization]

members 24:25	momentum	36:7	0
27:2	38:18	needing 3:20	0
memo 33:8	money 30:2 40:7	needs 11:18	obviously 21:10
mentioned 7:7	months 3:19 7:4	20:15,15 28:21	27:21 41:22
23:16 26:11	21:23 22:25	negative 22:20	42:1
menu 3:9	34:23 37:3,5	negotiating 21:6	offering 40:7
message 6:12,16	38:1 40:24	negotiations	offers 26:2
8:23 30:20	mouth 32:4	22:13	office 13:20
34:22 36:4	move 22:20	network 5:17,21	officially 28:8
met 14:14,16	movement 28:5	6:20,23 7:12,17	oh 11:14 34:21
15:8	movies 24:2	9:24 10:4,6,8,12	ohio 11:10 oil 9:20 24:20
metro 40:13	moving 7:12	17:8 23:9,13,14	
michael 15:4,7	mygroundbiz	23:15 37:11,14	okay 10:21 13:8 13:11 14:19
15:10,18	35:19 36:2	41:14	16:4 20:25 38:8
michael's 15:19	mygroundbiz	never 15:8	oldest 18:20
15:21	7:19	new 10:25 11:8	onboard 40:5
michigan 12:3	n	19:16 25:5 35:1	one's 12:14 24:3
43:2,6	name 2:7 3:20	36:13 38:21	ones 8:18 14:6
middle 24:11	3:22,22 4:5 13:2	newly 3:18	31:10
31:4	13:5 14:3,17	news 34:2,3	open 2:24
miles 12:1	15:8,8,9 18:20	nine 11:22 21:9	operating 7:14
million 12:14	18:21,22,24	21:11	12:15
34:2,5,6	19:25 20:21	nominating 33:6	operational
mind 28:22	23:23 24:3	non 4:22	38:20
30:15	27:11 31:20	north 11:10	operator 11:23
mine 35:21	32:10,12 35:7,8	12:12	12:18
minute 4:2	35:10 39:13	notary 43:5,17	opinion 39:20,20
minutes 24:24	named 28:2	notes 35:16 43:8	opinions 4:17,18
24:25 36:6	names 14:2,5,7,8	november 6:12	4:19
mirrors 25:16	14:10 15:13	7:5	opportunities
misaligned 9:14	naming 13:25	number 9:7	11:22
mission 33:22	18:11 31:13	16:10,14 19:21	opportunity 7:1
mobile 3:8	narrative 21:20	25:19 28:22	10:9 11:19 12:4
mom 35:10	nashville 2:12	32:2 41:22	12:20 14:17
moment 10:14	navigate 20:11	numbers 30:22	40:21
23:18	need 6:23 10:4		optimization
moments 37:17	13:19,19 14:24		11:18

[order - pretty]

16.10.26.5	20.2.4.10	I- 7.10.20.22	1 26.24
order 16:12 36:5	38:3,4,18	peak 7:18 30:23	play 36:24
organization	partial 12:25	38:7,10,12,12,13	player 5:24
11:6 25:1 26:7	participate	38:16,24 39:3	please 41:18,23
organized 24:14	10:11 12:24	people 13:10	pleasure 41:11
outdoors 17:19	13:9 30:3	20:9,14 22:4	plenty 38:23
17:19 23:17	participation	30:1 38:12,16	plus 35:10
outlook 22:23	24:7	39:16	point 7:22 8:24
23:1	particularly	percent 5:16,25	24:13 25:16
outright 13:10	9:17,23 10:2	8:15 10:6 21:9	28:8
outside 20:13	12:24 16:23	21:11 37:11,13	points 7:21 8:2
outsourced	parts 11:1 19:22	40:17 41:13	positions 17:11
37:11	20:5 35:3	percentage	positive 23:2
outsourcing 10:5	pass 8:16 26:16	22:15	poskina 39:13
overcapacity	passing 8:15	perform 16:17	possible 20:17
17:9	9:13	30:5	possibly 27:7
overlap 6:1,3	passionate 5:21	performance	post 6:7 31:23
overlapped 14:6	patience 16:10	12:19 16:13,16	posted 7:18
14:8	patton 2:3,8	16:24	28:19 30:20
overwhelming	12:22 13:2,8,14	permission 32:6	32:6 34:4
32:5	13:21 14:21,25	permutation	posts 30:19
owner 2:8	15:12,18 16:4	6:16	41:10
owners 33:24	18:23 19:2,14	perspective	potatoes 39:14
37:12	20:23 21:1,19	32:17	39:19
p	23:25 24:9 28:4	photos 41:1	potentially 38:6
p&d 11:2,11	28:10,17 31:1,6	pickup 17:5	power 26:14
12:3	31:16 32:1 33:1	25:13	27:4
packages 17:15	33:21,23 34:16	pictures 19:19	pregnant 3:18
17:17,25	34:21 35:12,17	piece 29:10	premium 16:19
paid 22:11	35:22,25 36:9,17	pieces 33:2 39:6	25:25
paris 5:18,19	38:11 39:15	piloting 40:23	present 6:6
part 8:22 10:8	40:1 41:12	pittsburgh 20:9	presentation
11:21 13:15	paul 7:7	place 3:14 5:5	6:15
	pay 17:5 25:6,11	11:23 12:15,18	presentations
16:21 17:2,23	28:16	42:4 43:9	6:8
20:16 23:9	paying 16:19	plan 40:12	press 5:9 17:13
24:11 25:17	25:7	plans 32:22	42:2
26:3 30:23 34:8	pays 22:7 30:2	platform 40:6,11	pretty 28:4
36:22 37:19			

[previous - related]

previous 7:24	proper 19:23	28:19	real 29:12 30:19
8:1 9:1	prospective 4:25	quality 41:1	really 5:6 7:1
price 4:23 11:12	protects 37:16	question 3:14,16	9:15 11:17
24:20 25:16,17	provide 6:24	3:17,21 4:3,4,6	12:15,17,18,18
prices 9:20,22	provided 7:18	12:23 13:23	12:20 13:3 15:7
10:3,15 26:15	providers 7:10	15:6,20,21 18:14	15:16 17:7 18:5
priority 22:18	7:13,16 10:1,6	19:5 23:21	20:25 23:2,23
private 25:20	providing 6:2	27:11,25 28:11	24:17 25:25
pro 18:5	proximity 11:25	28:18 31:8,19	31:11,11 33:17
probably 16:6	public 4:22 11:9	32:8 35:1,2,3	33:19 36:20
36:7,8	17:3 43:5,17	36:16 38:5 39:9	37:4,17 38:16
process 20:12,12	publicly 8:11	39:11,22 41:21	41:9,9,19,19
27:21	13:11,17 21:21	questions 3:1,3,7	realm 26:1
processing 27:19	28:20 36:25	3:10,13 18:10	recap 1:5 24:6
procurement	40:12	23:20 31:11	receive 16:12
24:14	pull 3:9 14:3	36:6,10,13 41:7	22:9 27:3 29:25
professional	35:18,19	41:22,24,25	received 27:18
38:25	pulled 17:14	quick 4:9 24:6	receiving 28:13
professionals	purchase 19:8	27:9	28:25
33:6	26:13,15	quickly 10:23	recognized 9:8
profit 38:18	purchasing 24:5	27:6	recommend
profitability	24:8,18,22 25:20	quite 21:3	18:19
39:3	26:14,18 27:4	r	recommendation
profitable 5:3	pure 36:24	ramp 40:10	4:1 14:12
profits 38:15	purple 6:11 7:5	rapid 10:15	recommendati
program 12:17	9:9 28:3,3 34:9	rate 1:6 16:15	21:13
15:24 16:13,17	34:13,23 37:6	rates 7:23,25	recommended
25:6,18 26:3,4	push 21:15	8:10 9:1 24:18	4:11 39:13
26:14 27:18,23	pushed 20:1,4	ray 35:8	record 4:10
39:23 40:6,8,16	pushing 9:12	raylee 35:6	36:25
40:18,21	put 17:16,17	rc 35:6,10	records 12:17
program's 40:2	18:2 24:14	reach 27:24	recruit 10:10
programs 16:7	25:11 32:3	40:20 41:23	refund 16:2
projected 21:9	q	read 4:9 5:11	regarding 32:21
22:25	q&a 2:24 3:9,11	41:6	regardless 22:9
projections 21:9	10:23 11:7	reading 18:12	regularly 25:15
promise 28:3	14:22 21:3		related 10:20
			28:22 33:14

[relates - sharing]

			1
relates 39:4	14:19,21 15:25	runs 3:3 9:24	section 3:9,11
relation 6:11	17:8,14,19 18:7	10:11 19:8	see 7:1 8:23 9:11
release 5:9 9:6	18:24 20:14	S	10:3 14:6,23
30:17 42:2	23:15,19 28:5,9	s 12:23	15:13 20:1,4
released 7:8 8:13	31:18 32:7,17,19	sadly 32:11	23:5,22 27:8
29:15 30:21	34:14,18,25 36:8	safety 19:23	30:13 31:18,20
42:2	36:12 37:24	saginaw 12:3	34:13 36:4
relevant 9:18	38:17,18,21,25	savannah 14:13	37:17 39:15
rely 11:5	39:19	15:2,3	42:4
remain 7:23,25	rise 17:1	save 40:7	seeing 6:1,1 9:20
9:1	risk 16:16 37:20	savings 26:8,13	16:25 36:1
remember 16:17	risks 30:4	26:17,22 27:16	seen 5:9 9:21
renegotiate	river 32:10,13	33:25	10:7 21:10
21:22	32:14	saw 8:5	seller 12:7 20:3
renegotiation	road 2:11	saw 6.3 saying 7:10 8:14	senior 20:6
21:14,16 22:1,2	rob 20:19,22	8:25 9:6 21:21	sensational 5:16
reply 36:5	rock 18:17	30:21	sense 23:4,7
report 8:13,14	rod 23:22	says 6:16 7:13	sent 36:1
requests 22:1,2	roll 40:13	7:22 31:22	september 43:12
required 16:11	rollout 27:15	sba 11:15 12:5	series 32:10
resonating 32:23	39:24 40:4	schedule 28:12	serious 35:13
response 5:9,13	room 17:15	28:15,22,23 29:3	seriously 37:6
responses 7:15	rooms 5:18	29:6,10,14,16,18	serve 33:6
responsibility	round 36:10	30:1,3,5,8,14,16	service 7:9,13,16
43:11	route 2:8 3:3	30:20 39:4	10:1
responsible 7:11	4:10,12 24:5,22	scheduling 19:5	services 6:2
rest 27:8	25:19	scott 27:11,14	session 2:25
result 16:19	routes 11:11,21	screen 3:8 35:15	31:23
17:22	11:22 12:4,13	sea 39:1	sessions 31:24
retail 24:18	17:10	season 38:7,13	32:2
retaliation 32:22	row 7:23,24 8:25	38:24 39:3	set 19:6 37:25
retention 26:6	rsvps 5:21	second 5:14 7:22	38:2
retro 15:24	rubrics 30:12	7:24 8:25 9:3	settlement 7:19
reveal 13:4	rule 3:11	35:22 36:16	shame 13:11,17
revenue 37:1	rumored 28:24	38:4	share 4:21 10:20
rewatch 31:25	run 12:16 36:7	seconds 29:8	13:6 33:16
right 5:5,5 9:21	running 39:18	Seconds 27.0	sharing 34:7
11:8 13:17,18			

[shirt - sure]

shirt 34:13	solutions 20:9	anond 24.12.16	story 22.2 20.6
short 39:13	soon 39:5	spend 24:12,16 spending 25:14	story 22:3 30:6 33:21
	sooner 40:22	spent 26:7	straight 29:3
shotting 35:15 show 32:19,25	sort 13:1 21:13	-	38:25
· ·		spinning 35:20	0 0 1 = 0
33:23	38:7	35:21	strong 12:15,20
showed 41:1,2	sorts 2:23 6:5	sponsored 4:13	stuff 20:7
shows 5:21	17:1	sponsors 5:23	subscription
shrinking 23:1	sound 13:18	32:2,3,3	25:6
shut 15:1	15:13	sports 15:14	subsidize 37:7
side 13:22 16:6,9	sounds 15:9	spreadsheet 14:4	successful 38:10
16:22 19:17,18	space 36:14,15	stable 12:18	successfully
22:21 23:5	spade 37:20,20	stadium 15:14	10:10
28:19 33:15	span 5:20	staff 33:10 41:24	suggest 4:5 35:5
sign 23:2 29:16	spare 11:13,13	standup 19:5,7,9	suggested 15:5
signature 43:16	12:4	20:1,2,3 38:7	suggestion 35:9
signed 30:16	speak 6:9 20:2	start 25:1 36:19	35:11
significant 25:25	30:11 37:22	40:14	suggestions 3:24
26:12	39:7,8	started 6:15 9:19	18:13 21:14
significantly	speaking 17:3	starter 11:18	23:20 35:13,14
36:22	21:21 33:18	starting 27:20	38:9
signing 28:15,15	speaks 6:9	30:23	super 24:4 29:17
silicon 26:5,5	specifically	state 6:9 43:2,6	supervision
single 32:4	31:22	stated 43:9	43:10
site 11:9	specifics 19:20	statement 7:8	supplement 7:23
sites 14:3	spectacular 28:5	states 2:9,11	7:25 8:25
size 11:16	spence 14:23	4:21 36:2	supplements 8:6
skewed 22:10	spencer 2:7	station 19:5	10:4,16,17
skins 39:14,18	14:12,24 15:22	steady 20:20	support 41:8
slide 22:13	18:11 19:5	stem 12:1	supporting
slides 27:8	20:19 24:5	stenographic	41:16
small 33:23	27:13 28:11	43:8	supportive 41:10
37:12	30:18 31:22	steps 20:12	supposed 28:23
social 34:10	32:8,16,25 33:21	steve 39:21	surcharge 8:6
sold 5:17,18	33:23 34:25	stock 4:23	surcharges 8:8
solid 12:18	36:13 38:5	stop 21:8 22:7	8:11,16,17 9:13
solidarity 32:19	39:22 41:5	29:11	sure 3:1 6:12
32:25	spencers 14:16	stories 33:19,19	20:21 26:9 34:8
	14:17	34:1	40:20

[surge - transportation]

0.21.20.16	4.l. 27.25	4h:-1-a 20.20	4imag 25.7 0 10
surge 9:21 28:16	telescope 37:25	thinks 20:20	tires 25:7,9,10
30:24	tell 11:4,4 13:5	23:22 27:11	25:11,15,16 41:1
survive 37:13,14	24:4 30:6 37:23	28:2 31:20	today 2:17 3:2
swan 32:8	37:23,24	third 26:1 38:14	3:24 4:6,9,18,21
sweet 13:22	ten 11:10 25:9	thomas 39:12	11:14 18:10
18:16 41:9	27:2 33:7	thoughts 21:17	21:24 31:13
sword 38:13	tennessee 2:12	thousand 11:11	35:16 37:1
t	tent 17:19	14:2,7 25:9	today's 5:6
table 20:16 24:3	tenured 11:23	26:23,24,25 27:2	told 21:24 33:20
tailored 2:25	terminal 11:25	thousands 21:20	tone 9:2
take 7:2 10:11	17:11,20 29:22	three 7:4 14:9	tons 33:17
11:7 13:22	terminals 17:9	16:12,16 21:23	top 37:1
17:16 19:17	23:16 40:17	26:24 33:3	total 16:2
23:13 26:12	territory 29:19	34:22 35:7	totally 29:7
27:20 32:14	29:24	39:18 40:23	touch 17:25 20:5
38:17 39:24	territory's 22:16	threshold 29:11	20:10
40:2 42:5	22:19	30:23	touched 18:1
taken 43:8	texted 31:12	thresholds 28:25	tough 37:4,4,17
takeover 20:2,6	thank 14:9 18:18	29:1,2,14 30:24	track 20:17
38:24	27:13 32:12	thrilled 2:7 3:19	tractor 19:12,15
talk 6:11 11:14	41:9,11,15	thrown 18:16	19:19,20,21
24:11 30:12	thanks 21:4	thumbs 13:9,10	tractors 19:9,24
33:2	thing 4:8 8:19	time 2:6,22,22	trade 4:22 33:5,9
talking 26:7	9:24 33:4 36:17	3:7,12 5:20 8:9	33:12,14
33:18	38:11 39:2	9:3 10:7 14:16	tradition 3:12
tap 27:16	things 5:4 8:2	18:1 19:16	traditional 16:5
targeted 38:16	16:8 17:1,7 20:7	23:13 24:13	trailers 7:12
targeting 38:6	20:17 28:21	26:7 29:4 30:19	training 11:24
taught 10:13	30:15 32:22	31:2 33:4 34:24	transcribed 1:11
tax 26:6	37:19 41:17	36:15 37:21	43:10
teach 2:21,22	think 12:23	38:15 42:4 43:9	transcript 43:8
11:3 38:22	13:11 15:16	timelines 39:25	transition 11:24
team 27:24	16:4,21 17:6	timeliness 10:20	transparent 40:3
41:15	22:5,18 23:3,7	times 37:17	transpiring 5:4
team's 32:4	24:16 35:5,18,25	41:19	7:4
technology	36:2,8,25 37:16	tire 25:4,6,12,13	transportation
19:23	38:8,11 39:2	39:23 40:24	7:9,16 10:1
17.23	40:1	41:1	

[tread - willing]

1 25 12	10.1	11 04 7	22 2 40 40
tread 25:12	um 19:1	video 34:5	ways 33:3 40:10
tried 35:19	unbelievable	videos 29:5	we've 2:13 3:18
truck 12:8,17	41:13	viewers 34:5	5:8 9:21 11:10
18:2 25:23	unchanged 7:23	viewing 6:19	12:3 25:2 26:6
26:10,11,13	7:25 9:1,7	views 34:2,6	27:18 34:9
27:13	undersigned	vikram 35:3,5,7	web 14:3
trucks 2:10	43:11	violet 28:2	webinar 2:4,6,14
17:12,12,13	understand 4:25	viral 34:2	3:2,4,13 5:8
24:20 26:13,15	20:12 29:7	volume 21:17	6:19 9:19 10:21
true 43:7	undoubtedly	22:11,21 23:12	15:6 21:23 29:5
truth 37:22	6:18	23:15	31:2,4,13 39:6
try 20:11 21:15	united 2:9 4:20	vote 12:25	42:3
24:24	36:2	W	webinars 2:13
trying 4:25 5:2	unleaded 9:25	wait 21:16	wednesday 2:4
6:16 17:4 19:6	25:22,25	want 3:10 10:22	week 2:5,18 3:16
31:22 35:17	unsure 19:6	12:6 14:5 18:4,6	3:17 5:20 11:9
36:3	upcoming 7:20	22:14,15,20 23:5	12:12,21 23:21
tsp 1:5	update 10:24	25:3 27:7,17,25	30:21 42:5
tsps 7:16	updated 7:3	31:12,25 32:3	weekend 5:8,15
tune 31:12	updates 5:3,7	33:11 34:11	7:3 10:21 32:9
turn 18:14 34:11	urgent 10:3	38:16 40:16,18	weekly 29:2,11
turned 18:21	use 25:12 26:14	41:5 42:1	29:13
tutorial 29:5	34:11	wanted 10:19	weeks 9:22
twitter 34:4	user 27:13	19:10 21:2,12	27:21 38:15
two 5:22 8:7,9	usually 22:10	24:6,7 32:16	welcome 2:3,6
8:12 9:5 11:21	v	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	3:25
13:23 19:11		wanting 11:2	went 5:10 14:4
24:25 25:19	valid 31:16,16 value 20:16	32:18	34:2
26:23,24 28:19	variable 21:7	wants 21:5,17	whatsoever 4:14
35:2 36:12 40:4		27:12,14 40:16	wheeler 9:25
type 4:4	22:7,10,14,17	watch 29:6	19:18
typical 12:13	23:5,6	watched 24:10	wheelers 7:11
19:10	vegas 5:17	way 3:7,21 5:11	wheels 35:20
u	vehicle 12:5	6:21 7:2,10	wife 13:24
	vehicles 17:17	10:25 25:15,17	williams 20:19
u.s. 8:16,20	25:8	33:8 37:23	willing 11:23
10:17	verify 19:23	38:17 40:20,25	37:8
		41:18	

[win - zoom]

win 15:19 23:11	yep 15:17 39:11
words 32:3	Z
work 16:2 20:11	zoom 3:8
21:1 29:19	20011 3.0
32:11	
workaholic 28:8	
workers 15:24	
16:5,8,22 17:21	
world 41:14,18	
worry 35:16	
wrap 26:18	
39:10	
wrong 39:20	
y	
yeah 13:8,13	
14:18 18:23,25	
19:4,14 20:19,24	
21:19 23:25	
24:9 28:7 30:18	
32:7 34:13,18	
35:15,17,24	
36:17 40:1	
41:12	
year 7:21,22,24	
8:25 21:6,11,11	
23:3 24:12	
26:20 30:22,24	
39:18 40:4	
year's 18:18	
30:17	
years 2:14 8:7,9	
8:12 9:5 10:12	
10:13,13,14	
16:12,17 23:1	
36:20,23 37:2	
38:2	

Route Consultant Founder Spencer Patton Calls for Network-Wide Financial Remedies for FedEx Ground Contracted Service Providers (CSPs)

NEWS PROVIDED BY Route Consultant → Jul 20, 2022, 13:00 ET

NASHVILLE, Tenn., July 20, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- In a video appeal and supporting letter Spencer Patton, Founder + President of Route Consultant, urged FedEx Ground to provide substantial financial remedies to its base of 6,000+ Contracted Service Providers (CSPs) by November 25, 2022.

Continue Reading



The FedEx Ground pickup & delivery (P&D) and linehaul networks are serviced by contracted logistics companies, and FedEx Ground relies entirely on the service success of these companies for its day-to-day operations. Mr. Patton notes in his letter that the current CSP financial model is collapsing due to substantial increases in the cost of fuel, labor, and vehicles over the past 12 months:

FedEx Ground's largest contractor: Financial model is collapsing from big increases in cost of fuel, labor, vehicles



Route Consultant offers consulting services to new and experienced professionals in the logistics community. These services include acquisition strategy, business valuations, operations efficiency, post-close support, compliance review, and more. Finally, Route Consultant maintains an exclusive portfolio of routes and runs for sale across the United States.

Links:

Spencer Patton video, letter to FedEx Ground:

https://www.routeconsultant.com/updates/route-consultant-founder-spencer-patton-calls-for-network-wide-financial-remedies

Video Conference - Wednesday 7/20, 3:30pm CT: https://www.routeconsultant.com/upcoming-events/weekly-webinar-072022

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To schedule an interview or if you have questions, please contact:

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SOURCE Route Consultant





John Smith President & CEO FedEx Ground

Letter of Assurance

Last week FedEx Ground received a letter which was accompanied by a publicly released video and was followed very closely with related media stories. The letter and the video make several claims about FedEx Ground and your individual businesses and reference the formation of a third party that would "speak on behalf of thousands of CSPs across the United States." In the letter and video, certain "across the board" financial demands were made of FedEx Ground along with a deadline for the company to agree.

Since these communications were released in a very public and coordinated manner, FedEx Ground wants to make clear to every service provider our initial thoughts concerning this effort.

- FedEx Ground recognizes the challenges of current market conditions and cost pressures. We remain committed to engaging in a productive dialog with service provider businesses to understand and address these issues.
- FedEx Ground will not discuss, negotiate, or renegotiate service provider agreements or financial terms with a committee or any individual purporting to represent a collective body of service provider businesses. The service provider model was built around the recognition that each business has unique and distinct characteristics and entrepreneurial goals, and therefore each agreement is and will, without exception, continue to be negotiated individually. Moreover, any effort by service providers to negotiate financial terms as a group is a breach of the contract with FedEx Ground.
- FedEx Ground expects every business under contract to honor its obligation to provide service.

The communications published contain several inaccuracies. For example:

- Service levels are not declining and have instead improved significantly since January, including a steady climb in the past three months.
- The communications inaccurately speculate about the impact of Sunday operations on FedEx
 Ground's financial results. We have been evaluating the efficiency and market demand for these
 operations for several months, and it is after this thorough analysis that FedEx Ground announced
 the suspension of Sunday delivery operations in certain markets.
- Lastly, the communications mischaracterize as a "fine" the Liability Coverage Contribution and Safe
 Operating Incentive that is based on each service provider's accident frequency. The vast majority
 of service provider businesses will not, in fact, be affected by this program in October as claimed,
 but rather several months later. In addition, based on current safety results, more service provider
 businesses than not will experience no financial impact or will receive an additional financial
 payment from FedEx Ground for excellent safety results.

We recognize that the shifting market dynamics and current economic conditions may pose new challenges for your business. Whether your company operates under the ISP or TSP agreement, or both, let me assure you that all of us at FedEx Ground are committed to working directly with your company to understand the market in which it operates. We continue to encourage authorized officers of service providers to pursue the opportunity to renegotiate your business' agreement as you see fit.

We are committed to listening, reviewing the relevant data about your business, and engaging in a productive business-to-business dialog. We believe this is the most effective path for creating continued opportunities for success and respecting the fact that each of you own and lead your own businesses.

Thank you.

John Smith President and CEO FedEx Ground

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