

On Wednesday, May 14, a Milwaukee County Transit System driver was attacked and beaten by an assailant who boarded the bus with pre-meditated intent to harm the driver.

The suspect attempted to commandeer the bus by grabbing the steering wheel and stepping on the accelerator, causing the bus to crash into a tree. Bus surveillance tape was released to the public in an attempt to identify the actor. A citizen caller provided information that led to the arrest of the 17-year-old black male in connection with the assault.

We have received several media inquiries this afternoon indicating they had heard we had somebody in custody. Rather than allow a media frenzy to incur and speculations and innuendo to swirl, I thought it important for the integrity of the investigation that I let you know what we have at this time.

I will caution you; I repeat, I will caution you, that this investigation is ongoing and subject to change depending on what the physical evidence ultimately shows. We continue to aggressively pursue all leads and new information as they come in. We are awaiting test results on physical evidence that will not be available for several weeks.

We received a telephone tip from a citizen who indicated they saw the video of the incident on television and indicated that it matched a description of a person who they had seen frequently hanging around a particular Milwaukee public high school. Detectives went to the school and after showing the video, a school administrator identified the assailant in the video as a former student of that school.

After learning the identity, the suspect was taken into custody yesterday at around 1:00p.m.

In a subsequent interrogation, the 17-year-old suspect admitted to assaulting the bus driver as retaliation for an event that occurred earlier in the day. He indicated that he had attempted to board a bus using a fraudulent bus transfer, and the transit operator refused to allow him to board using that transfer. He stated that he made the decision to attack the driver as a way of displaying his anger. He

admitted his involvement in this crime to several known acquaintances, as well as to our investigators.

We are attempting at this time to corroborate his admission with physical evidence collected at the scene. Several of the items collected appear to connect him to the incident, but until the forensic exam of the other items confirms it, we will not rely solely on the validity of the confession.