

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Holiday Inn Midtown
6000 Middle Fiskville Road
Austin, Texas

8:00 a.m.
Tuesday,
August 3, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS:

Miguel "Mike" Rodriguez, Chair
Phillip Shay Gause
Julio Gonzalez
Ashley Hunter (absent)
Sharon Jones
Gilberto Salinas
Katherine "Kit" Whitehill

STAFF:

David Richards, General Counsel

ON THE RECORD REPORTING
(512) 450-0342

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- I. Law Enforcement Operations and Collaboration

- | | | |
|-----|---|------|
| 10. | EXECUTIVE SESSION | none |
| | The Authority may enter into closed session under one or more of the following provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code, Chapter 551: | |
| | A. Section 551.071 | |
| | B. Section 551.074 | |
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(8:04 a.m.)

1
2
3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning. My name is Mike
4 Rodriguez, and I'm pleased to open the meeting of the Motor
5 Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority. It is 8:04 a.m., and
6 I'm now calling the Board meeting for August 3, 2021, to
7 order.

8 I want to note for the record that the public
9 notice of this meeting containing all items in the Agenda
10 was filed with the Office of the Secretary of the State on
11 July 26, 2021. Before we begin today's meeting, please
12 place all cell phones and any other electronic devices you
13 may have into silent mode.

14 If you wish to address the authority at today's
15 meeting, please complete a speaker's card. I believe that
16 they're on the table outside of this room. If you wish to
17 speak during today's meeting to comment on a specific
18 agenda item, please fill out a yellow card and identify the
19 Agenda item of which you wish to speak.

20 If it is not an agenda item, we will take your
21 comments during the public comment portion of the
22 meeting. When addressing the Board, please state your name
23 and affiliation for the record. Before we begin today, I'd
24 like to remind all presenters and those in attendance of
25 the rules of conduct at our Board meeting.

1 The Board Chair is given authority to supervise
2 the conduct of the meeting. This includes the authority
3 to determine when a speaker is being disruptive of the
4 meeting or is otherwise violating the timing or
5 presentation rules I just discussed. Disruptive speakers
6 will be given a warning about disruptive behavior, then
7 removed from the meeting for any continued disruption.

8 And now I'd like to have a roll call of the
9 Board members. Member Salinas?

10 MR. SALINAS: Here.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jones?

12 MS. JONES: Present.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gause?

14 MR. GAUSE: Here.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

16 MR. GONZALEZ: Here.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Hunter?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

20 MS. WHITEHILL: Here.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And let the record reflect that
22 I, Mike Rodriguez, am here, too. We have a quorum. Also,
23 let the record reflect that Member Hunter is absent today.

24 Agenda Item 1b, Pledges of Allegiance to U.S.
25 and Texas Flags. Please rise.

1 (The Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge were
2 recited.)

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Agenda Item 1c, Approval of the
4 Transcripts as Minutes. Members, we will now move on to
5 Agenda Item 1c, Approval of the June 30, 2021, meeting
6 transcript as minutes.

7 Do I have a motion to approve the transcript as
8 minutes?

9 MR. GONZALEZ: Yes, Chairman. I move that
10 MVCPA Board adopt the transcript as minutes from the June
11 30, 2021, meeting.

12 MS. JONES: Second.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member
14 Gonzalez, and a second from Member Jones. Members, a
15 motion has been made and seconded to approve the
16 transcript as minutes.

17 All those in favor, please signify by saying
18 aye.

19 MR. GONZALEZ: Aye.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All opposed, nay. Member
21 Gonzalez?

22 MR. GONZALEZ: I'm sorry. What were the
23 instructions again?

24 MR. RICHARDS: You can just say, everybody say
25 aye.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Everybody say aye.

2 (A chorus of ayes.)

3 MR. RICHARDS: Any opposed.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We will now move to Item 1d,
7 Comments from Chairman and Board Members. Any comments
8 from the Board?

9 Okay. Last night -- and excuse me. I'm a
10 little bit under the weather today. Last night I was
11 talking to Director Bryan. You know, there was a -- he
12 asked me to excuse himself for today due to the fact that
13 he was positive for COVID, and he's home resting.

14 He's doing good. So, I do want to make sure if
15 you do have his number, please reach out to him and wish
16 him well and a speedy recovery.

17 With that in mind, going over some of the agenda
18 items yesterday with him, the City of Austin went to Stage
19 5, and I do want to move this meeting quite fast enough to
20 make sure that we all leave as fast as we can from here and
21 make sure that everybody gets home and do what we need to
22 do. I know Laredo is on the verge of going to Stage 4 as
23 well. I've been getting some emails, and I'm pretty sure
24 by the end of the day, we're going to be there.

25 So with that in mind, I do want to move quite

1 fast with the agenda items, and that way, everybody goes
2 home and gets home safe.

3 Members, we will now move on to briefing and
4 action items. We will now take up Agenda Item Number 2,
5 Consider grant adjustment request from Harris County to
6 change positions of grant program staff and shift costs to
7 MVCPA grant.

8 MR. CANADY: Mr. Chairman and Board, Joe
9 Canady, MVCPA. This was added to this Board meeting for
10 consideration. It seems that this request is part of an
11 ongoing shift from Harris County for the costs and
12 reduction -- value reduction to program that seems better
13 addressed by this full Board.

14 They are requesting to replace a sergeant
15 position with a deputy investigator position, as well as
16 authorize \$40,000 for fuel purchases. This current fiscal
17 year, that has been previously paid by the Harris County
18 General Fund.

19 And what we want you to do and want you to
20 consider is if this is a benefit to their program or the
21 State.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any discussion from the Board
23 on this item?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Are there any questions?

1 MS. JONES: How are we going to know if it's a
2 benefit to the State or to them? Maybe we should ask
3 them.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. It's --

5 MR. CANADY: If it's a benefit to the State --
6 if this is an allowable expenditure change in budget to
7 personnel change or program change, benefits the State
8 overall as a whole for the purposes that MVCPA is
9 operating.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is there somebody from Harris
11 County here that can speak to this?

12 MS. JONES: She's right there in the blue.

13 MR. RICHARDS: Would you like to come up --

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Can they come up?

15 MR. RICHARDS: -- and speak to that issue,
16 please?

17 LT. CHAPA: Do you want me to come up there?

18 MR. RICHARDS: There's a -- I mean, right
19 there. Thank you.

20 LT. CHAPA: I'm Lieutenant Sandy Chapa of the
21 Harris County Sheriff's Auto Theft Unit. So, what we're
22 asking to do is we currently -- or we have four sergeant
23 positions and 16 investigator positions. We're asking to
24 make one of those positions -- one of the sergeant
25 positions into an investigator position.

1 With four sergeants and the 16 investigators,
2 the span of control is about four investigators per
3 sergeant. So, this would make the span of control about
4 five investigators per sergeant. And then the other
5 sergeants would absorb the duties and responsibilities
6 that the other sergeant position was doing, and it
7 wouldn't affect -- would not negatively affect program at
8 all.

9 So, basically, it would just allow us to have
10 an additional investigator to investigate the cases,
11 versus someone overseeing the cases.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Lieutenant, is there a reason
13 why this late in the program we're submitting for this?

14 LT. CHAPA: This started back in May. And so,
15 I guess, had we realized that this was kind of going to
16 take a little longer -- we didn't realize it was going to
17 take this long and we'd be this far in the process.

18 So, but that's why we decided -- we were trying
19 to start it back in May. So, if not -- we actually, in
20 our new grant, that's how we submitted it going forward.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So, though, if we don't approve
22 this, Joe -- let me get this right -- that Harris County
23 would absorb that cost instead of MVCPA?

24 MR. CANADY: On the fuel purchases, yes. And
25 they will have some money left over that they will need

1 to -- even though the deadline has passed for a new grant
2 adjustment to be submitted, there are exceptions that can
3 be made if the director chooses to accept to expend any
4 remaining funds for that current grant year.

5 They'd have to submit another adjustment if
6 this one is not approved.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Would the requirement be
8 to approve it as is or in sections? So, let's say the
9 sergeant, but not the field. Is there an option?

10 Or that would require the --

11 MR. CANADY: I believe in this case, it's to
12 approve or deny. However, it is possible that we can go
13 in and work with them to modify the adjustment where it's
14 acceptable.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Major, any questions?

16 MS. JONES: So, the options are if we deny
17 what's presented before us, we can still subsequently fund
18 the position? Is that what you said?

19 MR. CANADY: The position will be funded. If
20 this is denied, the position will remain funded in the
21 budget for personnel, because we're not changing anything
22 at that point on the sergeant.

23 LT. CHAPA: And the request -- I guess to
24 clarify the request for the fuel expenses, because we did
25 have some unexpended funds that we had from vacant

1 positions. That position for the sergeant got vacated
2 back in May when all this started. So we do have funds
3 that were not spent, which is why we were asking if we
4 could reallocate them for the fuel expenses, because
5 that's not what we'd originally included in the grant.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: And LT, it's my understanding
7 that you're going to also be purchasing some LPR systems,
8 some equipment?

9 LT. CHAPA: Yes, sir. But they don't currently
10 have any. And so, also with -- there's an expended fund
11 they're requesting the purchase of equipment.

12 Some of these positions -- some of the money is
13 also left unexpended because of -- from retirements and
14 other positions we weren't able to immediately fill, kind
15 of throughout the year. We had quite a few transfers,
16 retirements, and such that happened.

17 And so -- and then, also from personnel that
18 when experienced senior deputies leave, they're at a, you
19 know, higher pay. And then, someone at a lower pay level
20 comes in to replace them, then it leaves that gap.

21 So that's why we were asking to reallocate
22 those to purchase equipment that we don't have.

23 MS. WHITEHILL: So, I'm sorry. So, we have to
24 give permission to reallocate the funds? They have the
25 funds, but we have to give permission to reallocate? Is

1 that correct?

2 MR. CANADY: In this case, it would be to
3 approve the reallocation of funds, change a new position
4 from sergeant to an investigator, and allowing the
5 introduction of fuel into the grant for this year. Plus,
6 the equipment for the purchases.

7 Now, if there are sections that are not
8 allowable, we can work with the grantee to approve the
9 request as approved by the Board, or as recommended by the
10 Board.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Salinas, any questions?

12 MR. SALINAS: No. I mean, has this been done
13 before, as far as from a Board standpoint? Then -- an
14 organization coming in and reallocating some of the funds?

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. It has been done before.

16 MR. CANADY: Yes.

17 MR. SALINAS: Okay.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: LT, I'm having problems
19 approving this. The only thing that I would ask from
20 Harris County is to not bring this this late in the grant.

21 And we're what, a month away from ending it? I
22 think in a restructure like that, I would appreciate that
23 you give our staff that restructure in a timely manner, if
24 you're going to do that.

25 We're a month away from ending this, and I

1 would just ask from Harris County to -- for next time,
2 to -- if they're going to restructure something like this
3 and reallocate funds like this, to bring it earlier on
4 where we can make that decision with the director right
5 away and make it happen. I think a month away, you know,
6 I don't know if it's going to make that big of a
7 difference, but for me, I would have no issue approving
8 the item. It's just that we need to make sure that Harris
9 County does understand that they need to bring this in a
10 lot more timely manner.

11 Would anyone like to make a motion?

12 MS. JONES: I move -- we're on Number 2, right?

13 I move that the MVCPA Board authorize grant
14 adjustment request number 151 from Harris County to change
15 positions of grant program staff, and shift costs to MVCPA
16 grant as displayed on page 14 and 15 of the MVCPA Board
17 Meeting book.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We have a motion from Member
19 Jones.

20 MR. GAUSE: Second.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: A second? A motion has been
22 made by Member Jones. Is there -- a second by Member
23 Gause. Any further discussion of this item?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I will now call

1 for a vote. Members, all those in favor of the motion,
2 please signify by saying aye. All opposed, nay.

3 (A chorus of ayes.)

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Aye?

5 (A chorus of ayes.)

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion passes.

9 We'll move on to Agenda Item Number 3,
10 Discussion consider adoption for Fiscal Year 2022 budget,
11 including obligations of Fiscal Year 2021 funds for
12 ongoing grants, and the amounts set aside for other grant
13 types.

14 Mr. Canady?

15 MR. CANADY: I'm going to defer to Dan Price.

16 MR. PRICE: Hi. For the record, this is Dan
17 Price, MVCPA auditor.

18 On page 22 of your Board books, we have the
19 current status of the AY21 and '22 budgets. The top one
20 is AY22.

21 The -- for '21, we do have some funds
22 remaining. We will be asking you to allocate up to
23 \$300,000 if those funds towards grants prior -- to be
24 applied towards a grant that's approved later today, prior
25 to August 31 to allow us to fully expend those funds.

1 The rest of the funds should be consumed during
2 the normal course of business, including our payroll,
3 salaries, and remaining grant obligations for this year.
4 So, we'll try and clean that up and make sure we use every
5 dollar we can.

6 So, I think that's the first motion that I see
7 on the list is the FY21 budget and the \$300,000
8 approval. Any questions?

9 MR. CANADY: And this -- Mr. Chairman, what
10 this will do -- in addition, this will put \$100,000 into
11 the Rapid Response Strikeforce Grants, \$20,000 for MVCPA
12 training, and \$250,000 for motor vehicle crime prevention
13 accessory grants.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And then the training is for
15 the -- the trainings that MVCPA puts out, correct?

16 MR. CANADY: Yes, sir.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Are there any further questions
18 from the Board?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will entertain any motions.
21 Before doing so, please remember to clearly state your
22 name for the record in your motion.

23 MS. WHITEHILL: Mr. Chairman, Kit Whitehill for
24 the record. I move that MVCPA Board adopt the updated
25 Fiscal Year 2021 budget and obligated amount, not to

1 exceed \$300,000 to FY2022 grants, as displayed on page 22
2 in the MVCPA Board meeting book.

3 I further move that MVCPA Board adopt the FY22
4 budget as displayed on page 22 of the MVCPA Board meeting
5 book, which includes \$100,000 for Rapid Response
6 Strikeforce Grants, \$20,000 for MVCPA-sponsored
7 intermediate and advanced training class, and \$250,000 for
8 motor vehicle crime prevention accessory grants.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion by Member
10 Whitehill. Do I have a second?

11 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chairman, Gilberto Salinas.
12 I second.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, all those in favor of
14 the motion, please signify by saying aye.

15 (A chorus of ayes.)

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion passes.

19 Members, we will now move to Agenda Item Number
20 4, Review, discuss, and consider Fiscal Year 2022
21 Taskforce Grant applications eligibility and request for
22 applications requirements and determination of qualified
23 applications.

24 Joe?

25 MR. CANADY: Mr. Chairman, Board. Joe Canady,

1 MVCPA. We received 24 applications that were submitted to
2 the Texas A&M application system for FY22 funding. All of
3 the applications did not meet the submission requirements
4 as posted in the FY22 request for applications issued on
5 May 3, 2021, by the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention
6 Authority.

7 Six applications did not meet all of the
8 requirements. However, MVCPA staff recommends that we
9 should adopt all of the applications and allow the
10 applicants to resolve the issues before the statement of
11 grant award is issued for FY22 funding.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Are there any questions for Mr.
13 Canady?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So, the other requirements --
16 so, the staff would make sure that all the requirements
17 that are needed before we issue out the grant --

18 MR. CANADY: Yes, sir.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- they would be -- it would
20 get done, correct?

21 MR. CANADY: Yes, sir.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And you would send out as soon
23 as they know the amounts and all that? That you would
24 send that notice that all has to be met?

25 MR. CANADY: Yes, sir.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So, we're not going to come
2 back here and try to --

3 MR. CANADY: No.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- see if we can approve
5 something for someone, right?

6 MR. CANADY: No, sir. It will be approved
7 before the SGA is issued.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Perfect. Any other
9 questions?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, would anyone like to
12 make a motion?

13 MR. GAUSE: Chairman, Shay Gause. I move that
14 the MVCPA allow the applications submitted in the online
15 grant management system on or before 5:00 p.m. July 9,
16 2021, be accepted, and grantees that did not meet the
17 resolution requirements shall correct the resolution error
18 before the acceptance of the grant.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member
20 Gause. Is there a second?

21 MS. JONES: Second. Sharon Jones.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is there any further
23 discussion?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, call for the

1 question. Members, please indicate your approval of the
2 motion by saying aye.

3 (A chorus of ayes.)

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion passes.

7 Members, we will now take up on Agenda Item
8 Number 5, Review, discuss, and consider the MVCPA
9 statutory requirements and information provided in the
10 submitted applications, including analysis provided by
11 MVCPA staff.

12 Mr. Canady?

13 MR. CANADY: Mr. Chairman and Board Members,
14 it's Joe Canady, MVCPA. On the pages for this section,
15 you'll find several pages of grant analysis, different
16 activities that the task forces have completed throughout
17 the last fiscal year and previous fiscal years.

18 On page 38, the FY22 MVCPA grant applications
19 scores and qualifications, they were based off of the
20 scoring system that was previously adopted by prior
21 boards. There were six grantees that did not meet the
22 requirements to submit or for funding for FY22. Some of
23 them did not meet the needs requirement based off of the
24 scoring system, and others received lower scores in the
25 needs section that pushed them into the not meeting

1 requirements.

2 We, however, do not believe that some of
3 these -- however, I'm sorry -- some of these should --
4 some of these definitely meet the needs requirement based
5 off the number of thefts as reported.

6 MR. RICHARDS: Joe, are you asking for a motion
7 here? Or are you saying that we don't need one? My
8 understanding, you weren't asking for a motion, right?

9 MR. CANADY: It could go either way on this.
10 If the Board wishes to make a motion to continue to accept
11 the scoring conditions for the FY22 funding, that is
12 permissible. Or if they want to dismiss, that is
13 permissible as well.

14 MR. RICHARDS: Okay.

15 MR. CANADY: But it's the Board's wishes on

16 this. MR. GAUSE: And Mr. Canady, that's driven
17 primarily because of the scoring system that's in place,
18 right?

19 MR. CANADY: Yes, sir.

20 MR. GAUSE: Which seems to be a regular issue.

21 MR. CANADY: Yes, sir.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So, if we make a motion, Eagle
23 Pass and Harris County would need meet the requirements?
24 They would not get a grant?

25 MR. CANADY: That is correct. Eagle Pass,

1 Harris County, Mansfield, Paris, Pasadena, and Victoria
2 would not meet the standards based off of the scoring
3 system.

4 MS. WHITEHILL: Mr. Chairman, can I make a
5 comment?

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

7 MS. WHITEHILL: I don't know if it's
8 appropriate or not. I don't know if we're going to make a
9 motion, but what I was hoping is possibly in the future,
10 can the staff maybe research a different scoring system
11 that might be more accurate? I think this one kind of
12 bases on the request, and not necessarily the number of
13 thefts. Is that right?

14 MR. CANADY: It's based partially off of the
15 number of thefts. And then, some of it is also based on
16 how it's reported, and how the need is explained, in
17 addition to the number of thefts.

18 MS. WHITEHILL: Because it does seem kind of
19 strange that -- well, Mansfield has 537 thefts, and
20 they're going to get -- the amount per theft is going to
21 be \$1,948?

22 MS. CANADY: Yes, ma'am.

23 MS. WHITEHILL: Right. Which is very high.

24 MS. CANADY: Yes, ma'am.

25 MS. WHITEHILL: So, maybe we could do research

1 on a different system?

2 MS. CANADY: Yes.

3 MS. WHITEHILL: Okay.

4 MR. RICHARDS: There are two other methods of
5 allocation further in the Board book that will be --

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So --

7 MS. WHITEHILL: Okay.

8 MS. RICHARDS: Yeah.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: This is the system the previous
10 Board had approved, correct?

11 MR. CANADY: Correct.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is there an alternative to
13 this?

14 MR. CANADY: There is alternatives. If you
15 wish to dismiss the acceptance of the scoring system for
16 funds, there are alternatives in the next agenda item.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

18 MR. CANADY: Or actually, in this item, on page
19 39 and 41.

20 MR. GONZALEZ: Joe, can you talk about our
21 options and, I guess, the pros and cons of each one?

22 MR. CANADY: Sure. If the Board moves to
23 dismiss the scoring system for FY22, there are other
24 options here that will increase funding and include those
25 programs that did not qualify under the scoring system,

1 and it would be up to the Board which option they would
2 want.

3 Beginning on page 39, this is option -- would
4 be option number 2, which includes, basically, a straight
5 issuance of funds based off of last year's numbers, last
6 year's awards, plus the bump for everyone with the extra
7 funds that are in the budget, as compared to the last
8 year's funding.

9 On page 41, that also includes the same as I
10 just mentioned, except the top grantees, based off the
11 number of thefts, which is primarily what we are supposed
12 to fund according to statute -- based off the number of
13 thefts, this will give those programs -- the programs with
14 the highest amount of thefts -- an additional small bump,
15 in addition to what everyone is going to receive.

16 Everyone will receive a small bump, but the
17 highest programs for the number of thefts will get an
18 additional bump. Some of them may not receive as much as
19 they could have due to cap limitations, because we cannot
20 award a grant more than they requested.

21 MR. GAUSE: So, Mr. Chairman or Mr. Canady --
22 I'm not sure where this one's supposed to or goes best,
23 but is there a way for us to make a decision now to get
24 past the scoring and not revisit the scoring again when we
25 come back around to grant in the next iteration?

1 MR. CANADY: Yes, sir.

2 MR. GAUSE: It seems to be a regular --

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

4 MR. GAUSE: -- problem, and if we can avoid it
5 now, I'd rather plan a different solution. The staff has
6 certainly come with alternative options that seem to make
7 more sense --

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Made more sense. Yes.

9 MR. GAUSE: -- and address the issue at a
10 better level.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So, if you want to make a
12 motion to reject, I guess, the first option?

13 MR. RICHARDS: To disallow? Uh-huh.

14 MR. GAUSE: Certainly, Mr. Chairman. Shay
15 Gause. I make a motion that we disallow the scoring
16 system that's in place and pursue one of the alternatives
17 presented by the staff.

18 MR. RICHARDS: Do you want to recommend which
19 alternative?

20 MR. GAUSE: I would recommend the alternative
21 on page 41 that allocates the additional funding to the
22 top five agencies --

23 MR. RICHARDS: Okay.

24 MR. GAUSE: -- or top five --

25 MR. RICHARDS: So, your motion's a two-part?

1 MR. GAUSE: Correct.

2 MR. RICHARDS: Okay. Need a second.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Have I got a second?

4 MS. WHITEHILL: Kit Whitehill. I second.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member
6 Gause and a second from Whitehill.

7 MS. JONES: I have a question. On your motion,
8 the cities -- the one, two, three, four, five, six cities
9 that were not going to be funded, they're going to be
10 funded now?

11 MR. GAUSE: Correct.

12 MS. JONES: We've just given the extra to the
13 auto theft --

14 MR. GAUSE: Correct. Those that, because of
15 the scoring system, would not have received funds, will
16 now receive funds. And then the top five agencies would
17 get a little extra given the opportunity.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So, now I would ask from the
19 staff to also, in granting these grantees the award that
20 they're being granted, that we continue to follow those
21 guidelines, those measures, and those goals that have been
22 submitted. I think there's another section that I read
23 here in the book where it states that.

24 But I do have a motion and a second from Member
25 Whitehill. Motion from Member Gause, second from

1 Whitehill to disallow the first alternative, I want to
2 say.

3 MR. RICHARDS: You disallow that. And then --

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And disallow that?

5 MR. RICHARDS: Right.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And to accept alternative page
7 41?

8 MR. RICHARDS: Correct.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is there any further
10 discussion?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, if you are in favor of
13 the motion, please signify by saying aye.

14 (A chorus of ayes.)

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Anyone opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion passes. We have a
18 comment from Tommy Hansen.

19 MR. HANSEN: Are you sure? My name's Tommy
20 Hansen. I'm out of Galveston, representing TAVTI, and
21 hopefully speaking on everybody's behalf in the room.
22 You've addressed some of this. This has been an ongoing
23 issue.

24 As we know, the legislation failed us again,
25 put a Band-Aid on it -- on an open wound. You have hard

1 decisions to make and you've already cleared up some of
2 those things. But this has been an ongoing thing for a
3 long time, and I think the scoring system is really
4 defective because every one of these task forces is very
5 distinctly different -- geographically, demographically.

6 We have task forces that don't have major theft
7 problems, but they're recovering stolen vehicles from
8 every jurisdiction inside Texas and outside, and the list
9 can go on of those type of things like that. And also, in
10 the grants, we also have to recall and remember that we've
11 been through these battles and these ups and downs, thanks
12 to the legislative funding process.

13 But each and every one of these task forces in
14 this room -- every one of them, and especially their
15 cities and their counties, which is the grantees --
16 through all these cuts, have bit the bullet somehow, some
17 way or another, and found a way to keep these people alive
18 to do the job that we were all sworn to do. And that
19 needs to be remembered, that these people out here --
20 their home agencies had to eat crow here many times and
21 sacrifice other areas within their own agencies to keep
22 these guys alive, and we need to remember that.

23 I would like to just suggest, having sat there
24 in your seat for many years, that you possibly develop a
25 committee with some Board members and possibly some task

1 force members or whatever to look at how we need to fix
2 this, because this has been an ongoing issue for a long
3 time.

4 Mike, you and I have discussed this in the past
5 as well. So, sometimes status quo is not a bad thing, and
6 unfortunately, because of our funding, that's where we are
7 again, but we need to work it out. Somebody's not playing
8 by the rules.

9 I get that. They self-sacrifice themselves.
10 But if they are, we've got to keep this program alive, and
11 hopefully, someday, we get appropriate funding to move
12 forward, instead of being somewhat stagnant as we've been
13 forced to be for a number of years.

14 Thank you very much for your time and God bless
15 you. You've got your hands full. Thank you.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any questions? Thank you,
17 Tommy.

18 MR. HANSEN: Thank you.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: The next agenda item we'll take
20 up is Agenda Item Number 7, Adopt statement of grant
21 award, including standard and special conditions.

22 Mr. Canady?

23 MR. CANADY: Mr. Chairman and Board, Joe
24 Canady, MVCPA.

25 This is the FY22 Statement of Taskforce Grant

1 Award Acceptance Notice, along with special conditions.
2 There are a -- most of the special conditions, almost all
3 of the special conditions are standard, that have been
4 placed on the grantee at one time or point. There are a
5 couple of new ones.

6 One is, and I'm -- let me go through the start
7 of the list, border security reporting requirement. If
8 they are a border or port grantee, they will provide
9 regular reporting, in their progress reports, on
10 activities as completed by their agency.

11 Non-supplanting --

12 One of the new ones this year will be
13 intelligence sharing. The grantee is required to ensure
14 that law enforcement personnel funded in whole or part by
15 this grant actively participate in law enforcement
16 intelligence sharing webinars, and the motor vehicle
17 virtual command center organized and promoted on behalf of
18 the MVCPA program operation for statewide collaboration.

19 Prosecutor performance measures. There are a
20 couple of grants that have funding for prosecutors, and we
21 just want to know what exactly they're doing, as for the
22 cases they're prosecuting and how it's helping their
23 grantee and county.

24 Multi-agency grant. This is where they
25 maintain interlocal agreements as required by Texas law

1 and TXGMS. Multi-agency grant operational plan. This
2 will be required to provide an operational plan describing
3 the communication processes with participating and
4 coverage agencies.

5 Some of these grantees have many counties that
6 is a part of their program, and we just want them to
7 provide a plan of how they're going to meet, how often
8 they're going to meet, and report this information in the
9 progress reports.

10 MS. GONZALEZ: Mr. Chairman, I would just like
11 to say that while I'm all for the intelligence sharing, I
12 guess, addition for it. That's great, and I think we need
13 to do it.

14 But you all really need to work on your process
15 of getting people approved, because I have been trying for
16 months with your help to try to get into the virtual
17 command center and I can't. I cannot get my task force
18 supervisors into it, despite me being their supervisor,
19 and trying to confirm all that.

20 So, I'm asking that if you're going to include
21 this, you really need to streamline this process of
22 getting approved to have access to it. Because the
23 current process to get into it is just unacceptable.

24 MR. CANADY: At this point, it's hosted through
25 the law enforcement enterprise portal of the FBI, CJIS.

1 The first hurdle of joining CJIS, that's something we
2 don't have control over, but we can make it easier. We
3 have contacts where we can supposedly streamline to get
4 access.

5 We will work with the FBI to see what we can do
6 to make that easier for people to join. Once they get
7 that approved, as soon as I get the request for a
8 membership into the virtual command center, it's approved
9 within hours. But we will work with CJIS and the FBI to
10 determine how we can streamline that process to make
11 access to that portion of it easier.

12 MR. GAUSE: Is it something where we could get
13 some reporting that would give us an idea of, to your
14 example, a number of folks who have applied or are in the
15 process, but not yet approved? Just so that we can --
16 because as we were sitting down here, my thought on the
17 intelligence sharing is that we should have 100 percent
18 participation.

19 But it sounds like the ability to have 100
20 percent is limited right now.

21 MR. CANADY: We can -- I don't have the
22 numbers. We can reach out to the grantees to see how many
23 of them have submitted their application to CJIS for
24 approval to their system to reach ours, and that may gauge
25 on how we need to proceed and move forward to assist

1 someone so they have that access.

2 MR. GONZALEZ: I just -- I'm having difficulty
3 saying that we're going to hold our grantees accountable
4 for this when I, myself, cannot get access to this.

5 MR. CANADY: Right.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: And I think the holdup is
7 verification of employment.

8 MR. CANADY: Yes, sir.

9 MR. GONZALEZ: But as I have said, I've
10 provided my supervisor's information, and I still don't
11 have access to it. So, I have difficulty holding grantees
12 accountable for that when I, myself, cannot get in.

13 MR. CANADY: Right. Yes, sir.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I think, for situations like
15 that, if it's not forwarded to the staff, that we document
16 and we know that it's not because of the grantee not being
17 able to share that intelligence, but because of the
18 access. But I think it's good that we have this in place
19 for all grantees to share their intelligence. Because at
20 the end of the day, that's what we ask -- for everybody to
21 collaborate.

22 MR. CANADY: Right.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It seems to me that sometimes
24 forces know each other and some don't. Some don't even
25 know who works in Dallas, who works in Laredo, who works

1 in Houston. So, I think it's important that we start
2 collaborating with each other.

3 For some reason, I know that in Laredo, just
4 this past week, we're working a case with the FBI getting
5 into the jurisdiction of San Antonio. And for some
6 reason, I don't know if anybody from San Antonio is here,
7 but apparently, San Antonio did not respond to the call as
8 to collaborating in that case.

9 So, I'm having difficulty with that. Because I
10 think it's very important that we all collaborate in that
11 sense, that if there's a major case that needs the
12 attention of a specific task force, that they respond
13 immediately because of the fact that there are grantees
14 from the State.

15 And again, this award, I'm going to remind
16 everybody that it's to supplement their program in their
17 jurisdiction. This is not an award to just do that in
18 your sheriff and your chiefs.

19 You know, forget about that specific item in
20 your organization -- that they need to come forward and
21 make sure that they protect the community from burglary of
22 vehicles and auto theft. This is just to supplement their
23 program.

24 I think most of us, for some reason, get that.
25 But I've heard some grantees -- that they say, You know

1 what? This is the money that we get to do just that, and
2 that's all we do with what we get, and that's all we can
3 do with what we get.

4 But at the end of the day, each chief and
5 sheriff should know that this is just to supplement the
6 program. This is not just to fully fund the program.

7 MR. CANADY: Right.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: But again, the collaboration is
9 very important. And when we're talking about dangerous
10 gangs and dangerous affiliations with the CDN, Cartel de
11 Noreste, and other parts or El Paso, you have another
12 cartel there that are working hard to get through our
13 country and do what they do. I think it's very much
14 needed that we collaborate within those agencies.

15 So, I'm going to ask again that we follow this,
16 and I would like to have a quarterly report, after those
17 commanders' meetings I'm going to ask to have to provide
18 that quarterly report to the Board members, and see where
19 we're at when it comes to issues like this.

20 Any other discussion?

21 MS. JONES: Is San Antonio here?

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is San Antonio here? San
23 Antonio?

24 MR. PRICE: Take the podium.

25 MS. JONES: There are always two sides to every

1 story. So, I want to hear your side, and were you just
2 trying to go get the answer?

3 MS. VALDEZ: I was going to -- my name's Irene
4 Valdez. I work with REACT, and I was going to get the
5 answer from Sergeant Gonzales. I said, Let me call you.
6 I'm calling you. So, if you give me a few minutes, I'll
7 see what the answer is.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

9 MS. VALDEZ: Would that be okay?

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We can do that. Yes.

11 MS. VALDEZ: Okay. I'll be returning back.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. That would be good.

13 Can we bring that back? Can we wait?

14 MS. JONES: Do we want to move on? And then,
15 when she comes back --

16 MR. RICHARDS: We can go to the next --

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah.

18 MR. RICHARDS: -- agenda item.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

20 MS. JONES: Okay.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So, any further questions from
22 the Members?

23 MR. GONZALEZ: Mr. Chairman, I was going to
24 ask, can we get from staff just a quick hot sheet of task
25 force commanders and phone numbers, contact information

1 that we can readily -- just a simple sheet with the task
2 force commander and their phone number? That way, in the
3 event, Mr. Chairman, we have a situation like that, you
4 can go to the person in charge and I think that would help
5 significantly with collaboration.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

7 MR. CANADY: Oh, yeah. We can do that.

8 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you.

9 MR. CANADY: Yes, we can do that. That's a
10 good idea.

11 MS. JONES: And also, on the sheet, if it's
12 possible, I would like cell phone numbers as well, because
13 last week or the week before, I was trying to call and I
14 called several and I only have an office number. So, I
15 really need cell numbers so I can get what I need when I
16 need an answer.

17 MR. CANADY: Major Jones, I'm glad you
18 mentioned that, too, because I would like all of the
19 grantees to go into the grant monitoring system and update
20 their information. Because sometimes the phone numbers
21 that we have is not correct, and when we try to reach
22 someone -- so if everyone can go in there and update their
23 cell phone information and contact -- all contact
24 information --

25 MS. JONES: Uh-huh.

1 MR. CANADY: -- so, when we put this list
2 together, everything's correct.

3 MR. GONZALEZ: Great.

4 MS. JONES: Thank you.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any further questions or
6 comments?

7 MR. GONZALEZ: I think I'm good.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Are there any motions, Members?

9 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez. I move that
10 the MVCPA Board adopt the FY22 Statement of Grant Award,
11 including standard and special conditions provided on page
12 45 through 46.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is there a second?

14 MR. SALINAS: Gilberto Salinas. I second.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion from Member Gonzalez,
16 and a second from Member Salinas. Is there any further
17 discussion?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I'll call for the
20 question, if you're in favor of the motion, please signify
21 by saying aye.

22 (A chorus of ayes.)

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion passes. You got the

1 answer?

2 MS. VALDEZ: Well, when I told Sgt. Gonzales
3 about the problem, he said, What? We've always met with
4 Laredo whenever they wanted us to. I don't know who -- or
5 who they contacted in REACT, but we have had meetings with
6 Laredo before.

7 We went to Cotulla back in May when they went
8 in border meetings. We were out there. But he said he'll
9 be happy to set up a meeting next week with Laredo if they
10 want to.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. So, what we'll do -- I
12 will talk to the special agent in charge of the case --

13 MS. VALDEZ: Uh-huh.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- and I will talk to the task
15 force commander to be sure that they meet with the
16 commander from San Antonio PD.

17 MS. VALDEZ: Uh-huh.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: But I was told that apparently
19 they did have an operation that was going to take place in
20 San Antonio, and there was no response from SAPD. So --

21 MS. VALDEZ: I apologize. I don't know who he
22 contacted, but Sergeant Gonzales or Lieutenant Lind
23 [phonetic] will be happy to meet with them, and Sergeant
24 Alonzo.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will make contact with them

1 and make sure that they reach out to Sergeant Gonzales --

2 MS. VALDEZ: Uh-huh.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- and make sure that they take
4 that case, you know, to where it needs to be.

5 MS. VALDEZ: Okay.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Because it's moving along quite
7 fast and we do need SAPD to be involved.

8 MS. VALDEZ: We will be there. Thank you.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We'll now move to Agenda Item
10 Number 8, Status report on Fiscal Year 2021 Rapid Response
11 Strikeforce Grant Program and consider adoption of new
12 awards.

13 MR. CANADY: Mr. Chairman, Board -- Joe Canady,
14 MVCPA. We have awarded \$177,890 in Rapid Response
15 Strikeforce Grant funds to Houston, Laredo, Eagle Pass,
16 Dallas PD, Lubbock County, and Tarrant County.

17 We have one more grant applicant that has come
18 in in the past couple days that we'll be looking at for an
19 LPR operation, and that grant should close out the
20 remaining funds that are available for this fiscal year.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: If there's any questions from
22 the members?

23 MS. JONES: Which one?

24 MR. GAUSE: Which one's pending? Do you know
25 which one is pending?

1 MR. CANADY: Burnet County.

2 MR. GAUSE: Burnet.

3 MR. CANADY: And it will be -- the amount for
4 it will be less than what's required to come before the
5 full Board for approval. It will be sent to the Grants
6 and Budget Review Committee for approval.

7 MS. JONES: So, it was received two days ago?

8 MR. CANADY: It was received a couple days ago.
9 Yes, ma'am. And --

10 MS. JONES: Is that allowable?

11 MR. CANADY: Is that allowable?

12 MS. JONES: Yes. Is it allowable?

13 MR. CANADY: It's for the Rapid Response
14 Strikeforce Grant, which is good through 8/31 of this
15 year. So, yes. They made application.

16 It has not been approved at this point. It
17 will be reviewed and approved --

18 MS. JONES: Got it.

19 MR. CANADY: -- and sent to the Grant Budget
20 and Review Committee for final approval.

21 MS. JONES: Okay.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I guess we're going to move to
23 the Agenda Item Number 9, MVCPA Director's Report. Due to
24 Director Wilson not being here, I'm going to ask for a
25 motion to adjourn the meeting, as this can be seen on the

1 report.

2 The staff made a good job making every note on
3 the report for -- on this report. So, I'm going to ask
4 for a motion -- see if I have a motion to adjourn the
5 meeting.

6 MR. GAUSE: Mr. Chairman, Shay Gause. I make a
7 motion we adjourn.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a second?

9 MS. WHITEHILL: Chairman, Kit Whitehill.
10 Second.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Meeting adjourned.

12 (Whereupon, at 9:01 a.m., the meeting was
13 adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

MEETING OF: Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority
LOCATION: Austin, Texas
DATE: August 3, 2021

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages, numbers 1 through 43, inclusive, are the true, accurate, and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording made by electronic recording by Elizabeth Stoddard before the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

DATE: August 10, 2021

/s/ A. Marie Reyes
(Transcriber)

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