

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

OPEN MEETING VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL  
PURSUANT TO GOVERNOR'S MARCH 16, 2020,  
TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN  
OPEN MEETING PROVISIONS

9:02 a.m.  
Thursday,  
February 25, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tommy Hansen, Chair  
Phillip Shay Gause  
Ashley Hunter  
Armin Mizani  
Sharon Jones  
Miguel "Mike" Rodriguez  
Katherine "Kit" Whitehall

STAFF:

Bryan Wilson, Director  
David Richards, General Counsel

*ON THE RECORD REPORTING*  
*(512) 450-0342*

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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:	
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P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 MR. HANSEN: Good morning, everybody. What a  
3 difference a week makes. Welcome to all our taskforce  
4 members, board members, staff and visitors.

5 My name is Tommy Hansen, and I'm pleased to  
6 open the meeting for the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention  
7 Authority. According to my computer it is 9:02 a.m.

8 I'm now calling the board meeting for February  
9 25, 2021 to order. I want to note for the record that the  
10 public notice of this meeting, containing all items on the  
11 agenda, was filed with the Secretary of State's Office on  
12 February 17, 2021.

13 This meeting is being held by telephone  
14 conference call in accordance with Texas Government Code  
15 Chapter 551, as temporarily modified under Governor Greg  
16 Abbott's authority to suspend certain statutes due to  
17 COVID-19. Governor Abbott suspended various provisions of  
18 the Texas Open Meetings Act that require government  
19 officials and members of the public to physically be  
20 present at specified meeting locations.

21 Under that suspension, the public will not be  
22 able to physically attend this meeting in person.  
23 Instead, the public may attend this meeting by using the  
24 link or by calling in the toll-free number, which are both  
25 posted on our agenda which was filed with the Secretary of

1 State's Office on July 1, 2020 [sic].

2 All members, including myself, will be  
3 participating remotely via Webex. At this time please  
4 mute your phones for the entire duration of this meeting.

5 I am asking our Webex meeting host to make sure that all  
6 participants' phones are muted and that their video is  
7 turned off, except for members and those that are  
8 presenting. Callers will be removed for any disruption,  
9 including background noise.

10 I would like to remind all participants that  
11 this is a telephone conference call meeting. Because this  
12 meeting is being held by telephone conference call, there  
13 are a few things that will assist in making the meeting  
14 run smoother and assist the court reporter in getting an  
15 accurate record.

16 Department staff and any commenters should  
17 identify themselves before speaking. Remember that there  
18 may be a slight delay due to telephone conference call  
19 meeting, so please wait a little longer than usual before  
20 responding to participants. Do not speak over others, and  
21 speakers should ask the chairman to proceed and be sure to  
22 get recognized before speaking.

23 Because the number of dial-in participants is  
24 limited, if you wish to address the board or speak on an  
25 agenda item during today's meeting, please send an email

1 to askmvcpa@TxDMV.gov. Please identify yourself in the  
2 email and specify the item you're interested in commenting  
3 on, your name, contact and address, and whether you are  
4 representing anyone or speaking for yourself.

5 If your comment does not pertain to a specific  
6 agenda item, we will take your comment during the general  
7 public comment portion of the meeting. To make yourself  
8 identifiable during the meeting, when it is your turn to  
9 speak press star-three if you are on the phone, or raise  
10 your hand in the Webex system and you will be logged in to  
11 the link.

12 In accordance with department administrative  
13 rule, comments to the board will be limited to three  
14 minutes, then the call will be muted. Comments will be  
15 pertinent to the issue in your email. When addressing the  
16 board, please state your name and affiliation for the  
17 record.

18 Before we begin today, I would like to remind  
19 all presenters and those in attendance of the rules of  
20 conduct of our board meetings. The board chair is given  
21 authority to supervise and conduct the meeting. This  
22 includes authority to determine when a speaker is being  
23 disruptive of the meeting or otherwise violating the  
24 timing of presentation rules I just discussed. Disruptive  
25 speakers will be muted, given a warning about disruptive

1 behavior, and then removed from the meeting for any  
2 continued disruption.

3 That was a mouthful, David.

4 Are there any questions on that? If not, we'll  
5 go to the roll call.

6 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, can I make one  
7 interjection there? I think in the script it said that  
8 the meeting was posted on July 1, and I just want to make  
9 sure the record captures that the meeting was posted on  
10 February --

11 MR. HANSEN: It stated that at the beginning  
12 that July 1 was when the, I think, original contact  
13 information was posted.

14 MR. WILSON: Okay. But it was posted with this  
15 agenda as well.

16 MR. HANSEN: February 17, 2021.

17 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Sorry.

18 MR. HANSEN: That's fine. Thank you.

19 Okay. We'll do a roll call and establish a  
20 quorum.

21 Member Hunter?

22 MS. HUNTER: Present.

23 MR. HANSEN: Member Jones?

24 MS. JONES: Present.

25 MR. HANSEN: Member Gause?

1 MR. GAUSE: Present.

2 MR. HANSEN: Member Rodriguez? Mike, are you  
3 there?

4 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, he just sent me an  
5 email saying he's having trouble getting in.

6 MR. HANSEN: Member Mizani?

7 MR. MIZANI: Present.

8 MR. HANSEN: Member Whitehill?

9 MS. WHITEHILL: Present.

10 MR. HANSEN: We're pending Member Rodriguez,  
11 but let the record reflect that I, Tommy Hansen, am here  
12 and we have a quorum. Also let the record reflect that as  
13 of right this moment Member Rodriguez is absent, but he's  
14 trying to get on as we speak.

15 Moving on, unless we have anything else on  
16 that. Do we want to wait for him, David, or not?

17 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, we can go ahead  
18 and move on; we've got a quorum.

19 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Thank you, sir.

20 MR. RICHARDS: You're welcome.

21 MR. HANSEN: The next thing we'd like to do is  
22 pledge allegiance to the Flag and pledge allegiance to the  
23 Texas Flag, if y'all would join me in that.

24 (The Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas  
25 Allegiance were recited.)



1 MR. HANSEN: Moving along, item number 1.C.  
2 Everyone was mailed a transcript of the previous meeting  
3 back from July 9, 2020. Does anybody have any issues or  
4 comments?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. HANSEN: None. Do I have a motion to  
7 approve the transcript as minutes? Anyone with a motion?

8 MS. WHITEHILL: Chairman Hansen, this is  
9 Katherine Whitehill. I move adoption of the transcript of  
10 the July 9, 2020, Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority  
11 meeting.

12 MR. HANSEN: Okay. I have a motion from Member  
13 Whitehill. Is there a second?

14 MS. HUNTER: Second.

15 MR. HANSEN: Is that Armin?

16 MS. HUNTER: Ashley.

17 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Members, when I call your  
18 name, please state that you are in support of the motion,  
19 please state aye, and if you're not in support, please  
20 state I do not support the motion.

21 Member Hunter?

22 MS. HUNTER: Aye.

23 MR. HANSEN: Member Owen -- I'm sorry --

24 MS. JONES: Aye.

25 MR. HANSEN: Member Rodriguez? Did Mike get on

1 yet? No.

2 Member Mizani?

3 MR. MIZANI: Aye.

4 MR. HANSEN: Member Whitehill?

5 MR. GAUSE: Aye.

6 MR. HANSEN: I'd like to reflect that I, Tommy  
7 Hansen, support the motion. The motion passes.

8 Bear with us this morning; this is all new to  
9 everyone, so we'll try to move through this as quickly as  
10 we possibly can.

11 Item 1.D. First off, comments from any of the  
12 board members that they'd like to make?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. HANSEN: Hearing none, I just want to  
15 congratulate everybody for the hard work that the board  
16 has done putting this together. This has been trying  
17 times with COVID and all the other things that are going  
18 on in our world, and of course, Mother Nature put a damper  
19 on everything literally last week for a lot of you folks,  
20 and I hope that if anyone needs anything please reach out.

21 We do have on item 1.E commendations and  
22 congratulations.

23 Number one, Sgt. Richard Hale, who was over the  
24 Travis County Taskforce, has worked there for a long time,  
25 has recently retired. Richard was a big asset to this

1 program. He was very involved in the legislative process  
2 with us through the years, and he will be missed.

3 Also, Joe Ray Joines retired from the Sheriffs'  
4 Combined Auto Theft Taskforce. He was with the taskforce  
5 for some time, and he worked within the Wharton County  
6 Sheriff's Office, and a long-time member of our group and  
7 he will be missed as well.

8 Melissa Castro from Corpus Christi, coordinator  
9 of the Corpus Christi Taskforce, was promoted. She has, I  
10 believe, the rank of captain, so congratulations to  
11 Melissa.

12 And then also, I'd like to add our board  
13 member, Mr. Mizani, I believe, was recently elected as  
14 mayor of his community, so congratulations to Mayor  
15 Mizani.

16 MR. MIZANI: Thank you, Chairman, and if I may  
17 briefly just say I want to thank you for your support  
18 throughout and also want to second the comments you  
19 indicated with regards to staff.

20 I know it's been a very tough week for a lot of  
21 people, but I know a lot of staff members, as well, lost  
22 power, and through all of that they were able to put  
23 together this agenda, so I just want to appreciate them  
24 for all their work.

25 Thank you, Chairman.

1 MR. HANSEN: Thank you very, very much. And  
2 congratulations. I don't know what you were thinking  
3 getting involved in politics, but congratulations.

4 MR. MIZANI: Thank you.

5 (General laughter.)

6 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Moving along here. I  
7 believe item number 2, I think Dan is going to give a  
8 presentation on this. Is that right?

9 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir.

10 For the record, this is Dan Price. I am the  
11 MVCPA staff auditor. This is an action item on the board  
12 agenda. We are going to discuss the insurance refund  
13 request for Park Wood Risk Retention Group. We are on  
14 page 10 of the board book, and I'm going to move us on to  
15 page 11 here and discuss it.

16 So it is a very small organization with very  
17 few policies written in Texas. They inadvertently  
18 included the entire prior year's policies on this  
19 particular return, so they're requesting a refund for 53  
20 over-reported policies at \$4 apiece; that's \$212.

21 It's a relatively small amount than most of the  
22 refunds you've seen, and the staff recommends approval.  
23 Again, this is an action item for the board.

24 Mr. Chairman, I believe you're on mute. Sorry.

25 MR. HANSEN: Thank you for waking me up.

1 David, I assume you're referring to what we  
2 just printed up a few minutes ago?

3 MR. RICHARDS: The most recent script is what  
4 I'm talking about. Yes, sir.

5 MR. HANSEN: All right. Are there any  
6 questions for Dan on this before we go any further?

7 MR. GAUSE: Mr. Chairman, this is Shay Gause.  
8 I don't have any questions, but I will recuse myself from  
9 the vote. Thank you.

10 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Any other comments,  
11 members?

12 MR. MIZANI: Mr. Chair, I have a motion if  
13 you're ready.

14 MR. HANSEN: Yes, sir.

15 MR. MIZANI: So on item 2 I move that we  
16 approve the staff recommendation to issue the refund  
17 request for Park Wood Risk Retention Group for the  
18 overpayment of the MVCPA fee in the amount of \$212.

19 MR. HANSEN: Motion to approve the request has  
20 been made by Member Mizani. Is there a second?

21 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, if I may interject  
22 right here?

23 MR. HANSEN: Please, do.

24 MR. WILSON: Mike Rodriguez has joined the  
25 meeting. Would you please call out to let the record

1 reflect that he's joined, please?

2 MR. HANSEN: Yes. Let the record reflect that  
3 Member Mike Rodriguez has joined the meeting.

4 Thank you, Mike. Welcome.

5 Mr. Mizani made a motion. Do we have a second?

6 MS. WHITEHILL: This is Katherine Whitehill,  
7 and I second.

8 MR. HANSEN: Second from Whitehill. A second  
9 has been made. Any further discussion?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. HANSEN: Hearing none, when I call your  
12 name for the record, state that you support the motion.

13 Member Hunter is recused.

14 Member Jones? In support, Member Jones?

15 MS. JONES: [inaudible].

16 MR. HANSEN: Member Rodriguez?

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Approve.

18 MR. HANSEN: Are you in support of this motion,  
19 Mike?

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Can you hear me, Chairman?

21 MR. HANSEN: Yes, I can hear you.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I support the motion.

23 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Member Mizani?

24 MR. MIZANI: Aye, I support.

25 MR. HANSEN: Member Whitehill?

1 MS. WHITEHILL: I support the motion.

2 MR. HANSEN: Member Gause recused.

3 Let the record reflect that I, Tommy Hansen,  
4 support the motion. Motion passes.

5 Item number 3 has to do with some budget items,  
6 and I think Bryan is going to do a presentation on that.

7 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is  
8 Bryan Wilson, for the record.

9 So I direct your attention to page 17 to talk  
10 about the FY20 budget closeout, and so this item is an  
11 action item, and it will be tied to the next item as well.

12 So a few weeks ago we were able to totally  
13 complete the grant closeout for FY20. It was a few days  
14 earlier than we've ever done it before; I was really  
15 pleased. Being short-staffed like this, we worked really,  
16 really hard and long hours to get this done, and I  
17 appreciate Dan and Tess.

18 And so what that means, though, when you give a  
19 grant, you give a grant for several hundred thousand  
20 dollars and they have a little bit of money left over at  
21 the end of the year, which, as most of you are aware, if  
22 you go over your budget you're going to be in trouble with  
23 your city or your county, so most grants have at least  
24 some money left over, or it's very common.

25 And so this year the total amount of money that

1 was left over after we closed out all the grants and  
2 issued all the purchase orders and obligations was about  
3 \$200,000. Now, there was some minor adjustments on some  
4 late purchase orders that came in after the fact since I  
5 published this book.

6 So what I'm going to ask you to do, since, as  
7 you well know, back in July the governor and the  
8 legislative leadership ordered that the MVCPA reduce their  
9 overall appropriation -- now, we didn't actually give up  
10 the money, it's still sitting in our account, but it's  
11 unavailable to spend, the \$1.2 million.

12 But this \$200,000 was not planned on and  
13 because we have what's called unexpended balance, or UB,  
14 authority, this \$200,000 will carry forward into FY21  
15 under the Appropriations Act adopted by the legislature  
16 for our article -- or our bill pattern in the House  
17 Appropriations bill.

18 So what I'm asking you to do is to take this  
19 \$200,000 that's already moved forward -- I talked to  
20 budget yesterday -- and we're going to budget it for the  
21 Rapid Response Strikeforce grants that I'm going to talk  
22 about next.

23 So that's the motion that I've proposed for  
24 this board, to recognize the \$200,000 and to put it in the  
25 grants category for Rapid Response Strikeforce grants.



1 MR. HANSEN: We need to vote on this  
2 separately, I believe?

3 MR. WILSON: Correct. This is a budget item.

4 MR. HANSEN: Members, are there any questions  
5 for Mr. Wilson concerning this?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. HANSEN: Hearing none, members, I'll  
8 entertain any motion, but before doing so, please remember  
9 to state your name for the record and your motion.

10 MR. GAUSE: Mr. Chairman, Shay Gause. I move  
11 that the MVCPA allocate up to \$200,000 in the FY21 budget  
12 to the Rapid Response Strikeforce grants from the FY20  
13 unexpended balance and carryforward.

14 MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. Gause.

15 Do we have a second?

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: This is Member Rodriguez. I  
17 second that motion.

18 MR. HANSEN: Member Rodriguez seconds.

19 When I call your name, please state for the  
20 record whether you support or do not support.

21 Member Hunter?

22 MS. HUNTER: Aye.

23 MR. HANSEN: Member Jones?

24 MS. JONES: Support.

25 MR. HANSEN: Member Rodriguez?

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I support.

2 MR. HANSEN: Member Mizani?

3 MR. MIZANI: I support.

4 MR. HANSEN: Member Whitehill?

5 MS. WHITEHILL: I support.

6 MR. HANSEN: And Member Gause?

7 MR. GAUSE: I support.

8 MR. HANSEN: I, Tommy Hansen, support as well.

9 The motion passes.

10 Bear with my guys, learning curve here.

11 Item number 4, discuss item 4 in reference to  
12 the Rapid Response Strikeforce grant forms, and Mr. Wilson  
13 will do the presentation this morning.

14 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is  
15 Bryan Wilson, for the record.

16 I just want to call your attention starting on  
17 page 19 of the MVCPA board book through page 24. So in  
18 2019 the MVCPA adopted this program as a pilot. We were  
19 able to successfully do one program in the Port of Houston  
20 with the Houston Police Department. We gave them a grant  
21 for \$4,900, they only were able to use about \$1,200 of it,  
22 but they were paying overtime and went out and in just a  
23 few hours recovered five stolen vehicles in the Port of  
24 Houston.

25 And we have not really had an allocation.

1 There's been two or three events that were planned, but  
2 due to leadership and turnover, we were not able to  
3 implement those. But we have several programs that are  
4 waiting for clarification of this, first off, for funding;  
5 that's what we needed more than anything.

6 But we also found out in the first round that  
7 it was a little too complicated for some of the paperwork,  
8 so I was trying to streamline it. This board, as well as  
9 myself and my staff, we have to maintain accountability  
10 for these funds; we can't just hand out state dollars  
11 without the level of accountability that state law  
12 requires, nor are we going to do that, just like we don't  
13 do on the regular grants, we're not going to do on this.

14 But that said, there's some things that I think  
15 we could clarify and facilitate departments being able to  
16 use this. So I've taken the original document that you  
17 approved back in 2019, I kind of clarified it for first,  
18 second and third priorities shown on page 21, I've tried  
19 to -- one of the problems the last time it was a little  
20 too wide open so I've just limited the kind of expenses  
21 that we'll reimburse.

22 Again, by state law we can only reimburse a  
23 jurisdiction, we cannot give them money in advance for an  
24 operation program unless we had specific authority in  
25 statute, which we do not. So everything that we do is

1 always reimbursement.

2 But we will give the grant, the jurisdictions  
3 will engage in the activity, we still have a match  
4 requirement. I've kind of cleaned up the standards for  
5 less than \$5,000 for the director to approve; \$5,000 to  
6 less than \$25,000, which is the Comptroller's standard for  
7 the granting agencies; and then if it's more than \$25,000,  
8 only the board can approve under the Comptroller's  
9 guidelines. So anyway, we clarified some things about the  
10 after action report.

11 So I'm asking you to authorize me to publish  
12 this Rapid Response Strikeforce application process as  
13 revised.

14 MR. HANSEN: Are there any questions for Mr.  
15 Wilson?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. HANSEN: Would anyone like to make a  
18 motion?

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Mr. Chairman, I have a question  
20 for Mr. Wilson.

21 MR. HANSEN: Go ahead, Mike.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: On this application for the  
23 Rapid Response, there will be a identification as to why  
24 the problem area and why the funds are needed, and then  
25 that application is going to go to your staff. Am I

1 correct?

2 MR. WILSON: That's correct. All the  
3 applications will always come here, and then according to  
4 that table on page 21, what will happen next will be  
5 determined by the amount of the grant.

6 So let's just say, like the Port of Houston  
7 grant, they want some overtime to go inspect cars at the  
8 Port of Houston, then if it's \$4,000 or \$4,999 or less,  
9 then it's going to come to me, I will review it with the  
10 grant, make sure I ask any questions, we'll issue a small  
11 grant award statement like we did last time, and then they  
12 would have to accept it or decline it.

13 There's another contract that would go with  
14 this that I'll develop with Legal and Financial Services  
15 to facilitate the payment after the fact. But then when  
16 they get done, they have to turn in an after action report  
17 along with the request for reimbursement.

18 Does that answer your question?

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: But it will be for a problem, a  
20 specific problem, a hotspot area. Correct? It would not  
21 be for, I want to say, to supplement strategies that they  
22 applied for during the grant process. Right?

23 MR. WILSON: Well, it's designed to augment a  
24 special event, it's not the generic. So I'm just going to  
25 use your own jurisdiction. For example, Laredo does

1 bridge inspections as a regular basis, but if they wanted  
2 to bring in the county or bring folks down from Dallas or  
3 bring in other jurisdictions to hit all the bridges at the  
4 same time for three weeks straight -- I'm just making up a  
5 project -- then that would be something that you would  
6 write a Rapid Response Strikeforce; the people would show  
7 up, do the event.

8           It's not the regular bridge inspections that  
9 your officers might do, you know, on the second Thursday  
10 of every month, or whatever your schedule is; it would be  
11 to an event a specific response to organized crime that's  
12 occurring in your community, you're going to bring other  
13 resources to bear, so that's what it's designed for.

14           The Port of Houston -- I mean, the City of  
15 Houston already has people at the port, but in the event  
16 that took place a year ago or so was the Feds asked them  
17 for a big show to go through the port and do kind of a  
18 massive inspection, and that's what they responded to. So  
19 it was above and beyond the two or three guys that they  
20 have in the port itself.

21           MR. RODRIGUEZ: Now, could these funds be used  
22 to supplement a jurisdiction that doesn't have a  
23 taskforce?

24           And this is where I'm going with this, Bryan.  
25 So we're looking at Odessa, Odessa is in the top five in

1 the nation for auto theft and it's in Texas, and we got  
2 the Panhandle Auto Theft Unit and the Lubbock County South  
3 Plains Auto Theft Unit there right really close to us.

4 And where I'm going to is can we use these  
5 funds to, I guess, direct these taskforces to make contact  
6 with Odessa about what the problem is there and try to  
7 figure out some strategy to reduce the auto theft in that  
8 area, in both areas, because I'm talking about Lubbock  
9 County and the Panhandle Auto Theft Unit, they're also in  
10 the top, I want to say, 50.

11 So Lubbock is ranked number 15, and you've got  
12 Amarillo ranked number 27, so that's a problem area, and  
13 I'm not leaving out Houston or San Antonio or Corpus  
14 because they're also there, that is the same thing, but  
15 Odessa is number five and there's a big, big problem in  
16 that area.

17 And I'm trying to see if we can use, you know,  
18 some of our funds for the Rapid Response to go and find  
19 out what the problem is and start creating some strategies  
20 to attack the problem.

21 MR. WILSON: This is Bryan Wilson, for the  
22 record.

23 So if you'll look on page 21 you see the  
24 eligibility. In the past one of the things, it was too  
25 open -- to respond to your question, under Priority 1,

1 Lubbock could go with any of their sub-grantees or  
2 coverage agencies and develop a response to do a sweep.

3           You know, in the past in Odessa when we had  
4 the -- do you remember we had the TDCJ grant and we would  
5 send officers to do parolee roundups when Odessa was  
6 spiking. We would work with DPS and get the Texas Prison  
7 System to go do warrant roundups and blue warrant roundups  
8 in the Odessa area, and it really did make an impact.

9           But yes, this would allow Lubbock to be able to  
10 apply for a Rapid Response, coordinate an effort with  
11 Odessa, and then even temporarily bring them into their  
12 taskforce to conduct an operation.

13           But remember, this grant is intended not to be  
14 a supplemental grant to the taskforces; it's an event  
15 based or exigent circumstance that is trying to respond.  
16 If you have gang activity in Brownsville that's just  
17 really spiking and Major Jones has intelligence of things  
18 going on and she can work with Brownsville and McAllen to  
19 put together a response for them to have overtime or  
20 specific types of equipment and information that they need  
21 to respond to events that are going on at our border, at a  
22 port, or in Odessa, but it's got to be currently based on  
23 who we can give money to.

24           The other problem, if we're not careful, is  
25 grants require resolutions, and if you have a truly



1     exigent circumstance in a grant like this, the last thing  
2     you want to be able to do is have to go to city council  
3     and go through a bunch of governmental operations to get  
4     new entities to sign off on the grant requirements.

5             It's going to take weeks, most of the time, for  
6     that to happen, but if you already have a resolution on  
7     file between us and the agency, we're able to respond very  
8     quickly to that. We don't have to go through all the  
9     governance process.

10            The governance processes are good, that  
11     protects us and protects the cities and counties, but it's  
12     just going to take a long time, it's not exactly exigent  
13     if you have to wait six to ten weeks to get through the  
14     city government. But if we use our grantees for this  
15     Rapid Response Strikeforce, then we already have a  
16     resolution, that they've already made a commitment to this  
17     program.

18            MR. GAUSE: Mr. Wilson, to your point -- this  
19     is Shay Gause -- I'm looking at the five-day kind of  
20     turnaround from an application being presented and  
21     potentially getting the authority, and also looking at the  
22     way that the financial approval is set up, and the \$5,000  
23     and below, 5- to 25-, and 25- or more.

24            Are you comfortable that it truly could be a  
25     rapid answer once an application comes in that's in good

1 shape and we can get the necessary approvals and turn that  
2 around in five days so that an exigent circumstance  
3 doesn't linger unnecessarily? Or would it be better  
4 served if that financial breakdown was a little different?

5 MR. WILSON: I mean, typically we respond  
6 within five days, but I mean, if it was a low level, low  
7 risk grant that was responding immediately. Like right  
8 now we've got catalytic converters being stolen right and  
9 left all over the state. It's just really a problem  
10 everywhere, just hearing clamoring from all kinds of  
11 organizations and groups.

12 And so if somebody had the opportunity, if one  
13 of our grantees had the opportunity to do a buy, working  
14 with DPS or working across a region or area, they would be  
15 able to quickly -- if it was less than \$5,000, they would  
16 be able to quickly respond, and if they had a good  
17 response for what they would put in beside it, that would  
18 be something that would be allowed.

19 MR. GAUSE: So I guess maybe my question is  
20 more should your authority go greater than \$5,000 to allow  
21 more speed, or is that set in a different format?

22 MR. WILSON: I think \$5,000 is about what you  
23 would expect for a state employee -- like for instance,  
24 currently under the purchasing at DMV I have, I think,  
25 \$10,000 and less, and then everything else has to go above

1 me. But it's a comfortable limit where the board is not  
2 giving out too much.

3 In other words, the board ultimately is  
4 responsible for the operation of this grant program and  
5 this fund, and I think \$5,000 is consistent, although I  
6 don't think it's in law per se, but the standard of \$5,000  
7 is fairly consistent. Anything above \$5,000 really should  
8 have further view and further response in state  
9 government.

10 MR. GAUSE: Okay. And then the Grants  
11 Committee approval within that timeline?

12 MR. WILSON: Our response will be back saying  
13 that we received it, we're working on it, here's what we  
14 can do or here's what we can't do, but I'm not saying the  
15 decision will always be made in five days. I didn't mean  
16 to say that if that's what it says.

17 We'll respond within five days, so it's not  
18 something that's going to be languishing out there saying,  
19 wow, I wonder if they -- you know, 30 days later, I wonder  
20 if they got that application or not.

21 MR. HANSEN: The requester will know  
22 immediately within five days that it's in motion.

23 MR. WILSON: Right. That's a good point.  
24 Thank you for that, Mr. Gause.

25 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Do we have a motion on item

1 number 4?

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Mr. Chairman, I move that the  
3 MVCPA authorize the director to finalize and publish the  
4 Rapid Response Strikeforce process and application and  
5 implement the program, as provided on page 19 through 24  
6 of the MVCPA meeting book.

7 This is Member Rodriguez, for the record.

8 MR. HANSEN: We have a motion by Member  
9 Rodriguez. Do we have a second?

10 MS. HUNTER: Ashley Hunter. Second.

11 MR. HANSEN: Just discussion or a comment from  
12 me before we go to a vote. I think this concept, if we  
13 get -- we will get appropriate funding, I think this is  
14 going to be an opportunity to pick up some slack in a lot  
15 of areas around the state, because as we also know, many  
16 of our current programs have been deleted of manpower and  
17 things such as that over the recent session.

18 So I think the concept of this will be very  
19 valuable for future permanent grants as a testing program  
20 in the future if we can get appropriate funding to go with  
21 it. So I'm excited about this, because I think it brings  
22 a lot to the table for down the pike.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Rodriguez, for the  
24 record, Chairman.

25 And I think that one of the things that we

1 should be very cautious -- and I think Major Jones can  
2 agree with me on this -- the intel is telling us that  
3 there is going to be a spike in auto theft, there is a lot  
4 of requests for stolen vehicles not only from cartels but  
5 also from within the gangs that we have locally.

6           You know, I know that the leadership from HPL  
7 has shifted to Corpus, and that's going to be a problem  
8 for Corpus. The Mexican mafia has just been growing and  
9 growing in Laredo, and also we have Mexican mafia all the  
10 way into San Antonio and Austin.

11           I wish I could share a slide with you right now  
12 where we took down about 100 bodies in a stash house and  
13 we found multiple license plates from stolen vehicles from  
14 the Houston area, from Austin, from San Antonio. And the  
15 intel keeps coming in that this is going to be a problem  
16 in the very near future for everybody.

17           And again, all these bigger gangs that have  
18 established in Texas are working together to be able to  
19 make money, and I'm not talking only about drugs and  
20 weapons but I'm talking about bodies.

21           So you know, this is something that everybody  
22 needs to be on the lookout, and not only for our area but  
23 also Odessa, Amarillo, Lubbock. All of us are going to  
24 have this problem, so we do need to be prepared and make  
25 sure that we keep on fighting for the allocation of funds

1 to make sure that we fund these taskforces properly and  
2 expand our jurisdictions in areas like Odessa.

3 MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Member Rodriguez.

4 When I call your name, please state for the  
5 record whether you support the motion or not.

6 Member Hunter?

7 MS. HUNTER: Aye.

8 MR. HANSEN: Member Jones?

9 MS. JONES: Aye.

10 MR. HANSEN: Member Rodriguez?

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I support.

12 MR. HANSEN: Member Mizani?

13 MR. MIZANI: I support.

14 MR. HANSEN: Member Whitehill?

15 MS. WHITEHILL: I support.

16 MR. HANSEN: And Member Gause?

17 MR. GAUSE: I support.

18 MR. HANSEN: And I, Tommy Hansen, do support  
19 this and the motion passes.

20 Moving to item number 5 --

21 MS. BENAVIDES: Mr. Chairman, may I speak?

22 MR. HANSEN: Yes.

23 MS. BENAVIDES: This is Yessenia Benavides, for  
24 the record.

25 We did receive three comment cards for item

1 number 5.

2 MR. HANSEN: Do we want to let them speak  
3 first?

4 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, David Richards,  
5 for the record.

6 Let's introduce the agenda item, and then Mr.  
7 Wilson may have some comments before we allow the  
8 commenters. Thank you.

9 MR. HANSEN: Okay, perfect.

10 Item number 5 is going to be spread out, it's  
11 going to be complicated, so we'll go from there and try to  
12 take it one step at a time and then we'll let those folks  
13 make their comment.

14 Item number 5, Mr. Wilson, go ahead.

15 MR. WILSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 I do want to ask real quick because I don't  
17 think anybody wants to comment on 5.A, but can I ask, Ms.  
18 Benavides, did anybody that signed up sign up for just  
19 agenda item 5 in general, or did they sign up for 5 or one  
20 of the sub-categories?

21 MS. BENAVIDES: This is Yessenia Benavides, for  
22 the record.

23 I did receive three requests which was for  
24 agenda item number 5.G.i, and the other two did not  
25 specify which item.

1           MR. WILSON: Okay. I'll go ahead and lay  
2 out -- I have this broken down in the board book and the  
3 proposed motions as different items, but I will go ahead  
4 and lay out the overall and then let the commenters have  
5 the comment, Mr. Chairman. I don't think that they want  
6 to talk about the grant standards, but just in case, I  
7 don't want to step over somebody's ability to respond.

8           MR. HANSEN: Before we go forward, though, I  
9 want to confirm that we are going to actually do a motion  
10 and vote on each item under 5 separately. Correct?

11           MR. WILSON: On most of them. And the motions  
12 reflect some of them are clasped together, but I did want  
13 to make sure that we --

14           MR. HANSEN: I'll let you be the guiding light  
15 on this.

16           MR. WILSON: Yes, sir.

17           So what we're doing here today, the main crux  
18 of this meeting is to talk about the future of the grant  
19 program in the ambiguousness of trying to determine  
20 whether we are going to be cut or whether the legislature  
21 is going to follow the statutory standard that they  
22 adopted last year of giving us 20 percent of what we  
23 collected for this period.

24           So when you have a certain level of  
25 uncertainty, just like in business, government has to



1 figure out a way to respond and to operate.

2 In the middle of that, to add to the  
3 uncertainty, after decades of the same grant standards  
4 with occasional updates, minor updates, the State of Texas  
5 has also switched some grant standards, and so the first  
6 part of my presentation is just talking about the fact  
7 that some of the standards will go into effect after we've  
8 issued the grant, which would become very problematic for  
9 us as a grant-making agency to have two sets of standards  
10 within one fiscal year or within one biennium.

11 So the first part of this presentation will  
12 just be about what standards we'll use when we look at and  
13 when we accept and when we manage, and also for our  
14 grantees to be able to manage the grants going forward.

15 Now, this is just a small excerpt that I put  
16 into the board book starting on page 26; I did not put the  
17 whole 180 pages or whatever, but I wanted to give you at  
18 least the preamble to explain what the State of Texas was  
19 trying to do and what authority that they were doing it  
20 under. So please don't think that that's the whole  
21 standard; it's much, much larger than that.

22 Then the other items that we're going to  
23 discuss, I'm going to share with you, Chairman Rodriguez  
24 and others have asked me to reach out to the community,  
25 we've been doing it since last January, and our

1 taskforces, about what standards we should use when we're  
2 giving future grants.

3 And then the next part of our discussion will  
4 be the actual RFA, and I wanted to go into details about  
5 the changes that I've made for future grants, calling our  
6 general grant a taskforce grant, and then in case we get  
7 additional funds, if the legislature does follow the  
8 statute, then we would have three other kind of grants  
9 that you would authorize me to develop.

10 So that's the high-level view of what I'm  
11 fixing to lay out before this board, and at this point,  
12 subject to Mr. Richards, I think at this point we probably  
13 should take the comments, and then I'll be able to lay out  
14 more detail.

15 MR. RICHARDS: Yes, Mr. Wilson.

16 Mr. Chairman, I think let's take the comments  
17 at this time, please. Thank you.

18 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Ms. Benavides, if you --

19 MS. BENAVIDES: Yes, Mr. Chairman. This is  
20 Yessenia Benavides.

21 We will now hear Gary Cutler. Please raise  
22 your hand using the instructions provided to you, and  
23 please be mindful about limiting any background noise.  
24 Also, please state your name for the record and if you are  
25 representing anyone. You will have three minutes to

1 speak; you will be muted by the host after speaking for  
2 three minutes.

3 And if you would just give me one second to  
4 locate him on the attendee list.

5 Mr. Cutler, you are now able to speak.

6 SHERIFF CUTLER: Yes, ma'am. Can you hear me?

7 MR. HANSEN: Yes.

8 SHERIFF CUTLER: Thank you. Good morning,  
9 ladies and gentlemen. Gary Cutler, for the record,  
10 Sheriff, Hays County, Texas. I appreciate the time to  
11 speak to you briefly this morning about the grant and talk  
12 briefly about the Hays County end of it.

13 Hays County has been a member of the taskforce  
14 which initially was the Auto Theft Taskforce, been a  
15 member of it for going on 24 years now, and as you know,  
16 it's a well documented successful taskforce. It's been  
17 well documented for years, and through the years things  
18 have changed as to what the taskforce has been involved in  
19 investigating, not just auto theft but it stretches a lot  
20 further than that now.

21 Our agency depends on that grant for that  
22 position, we have for all these years, and not only does  
23 our agency but our citizens of this county also depend on  
24 it. As y'all know, and I'll be glad to share it with you,  
25 we're one of the fastest growing counties in Texas and in

1 the nation, and with that comes everything else.

2 Interstate 35 runs right through our county,  
3 it's a major highway that goes all the way up through  
4 Travis and all, and so with it comes everything along 35,  
5 stretching all the way to Mexico, and what's going to  
6 happen on our border in the future, who knows, but I  
7 believe that's going to increase.

8 We're seeing an increase in calls for service,  
9 and then I'm seeing the funding being cut to this for the  
10 last several years, or every two years, for this grant,  
11 and I'm coming to you today to say please put this 20  
12 percent -- do not let this 20 percent be cut.

13 I also pay my insurance policy like everybody  
14 else and I know what the money is put for. So what I  
15 would like to do is ask to please take a look at that.  
16 I've been looking at the numbers, and I know there's  
17 another sheriff going to talk about the numbers and how  
18 it's going in the wrong direction and everything else is  
19 going in a different direction. We cannot afford to have  
20 this and we cannot afford to have it. We've stretched our  
21 county budgets as far as we can when it comes to asking  
22 our budgets for manpower and for matching.

23 MS. BENAVIDES: Sheriff Cutler, you have one  
24 minute remaining.

25 SHERIFF CUTLER: Okay. Thank you.

1           If we get matching funds and whatnot, we  
2 stretch our counties as far as we can to do that because  
3 there's other needs throughout the county.

4           So I ask you please take a hard look at this  
5 and not let this 20 percent be taken. And I appreciate  
6 your time this morning. Thank y'all for what you do.  
7 Thank you.

8           MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Sheriff.

9           I sent you some additional information  
10 yesterday too. Did you get that?

11           SHERIFF CUTLER: Yes, sir, I did. Thank you  
12 very much.

13           MR. HANSEN: You're welcome.

14           David, is it appropriate for us to comment to  
15 Sheriff Cutler's statement?

16           MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, if you have a  
17 question for him, that's perfectly fine. You're not  
18 really supposed to enter into discussion since it's an  
19 agenda item, but if you have a question that you want to  
20 clarify from the sheriff, that would be great.

21           MR. HANSEN: I'll talk to him later. Thank  
22 you.

23           Ms. Benavides, who do we have next?

24           MS. BENAVIDES: Mr. Chairman, the second person  
25 in line is Sally Hernandez. We will now hear from Sally

1 Hernandez.

2 I'm going to read the instructions again. This  
3 is Yessenia Benavides, for the record.

4 Please raise your hand using the instructions  
5 provided to you and please be mindful about limiting any  
6 background noise. Also, please state your name for the  
7 record and if you are representing anyone. You will have  
8 three minutes; you will be muted by the host after  
9 speaking for three minutes.

10 SHERIFF HERNANDEZ: Good morning. This is  
11 Sheriff Sally Hernandez from Travis County. Thank you so  
12 much, Chairman and the board. I am here because, as you  
13 said, we are trying to manage the grant, and we found, you  
14 know, a lot of difficulty in the management of the grant.

15 You know, county budgets are being constrained  
16 due to revenue caps. County wants school, costs,  
17 recovery. The grant amount has decreased over the years  
18 with more expected from the grants. In 2015, \$647,796,  
19 and then in 2021 the grant was \$607,154.

20 The grant results require a 20 percent match.  
21 The match contract has been closer to in 2015, 37 percent  
22 and in 2021, 40 percent. These match percentages don't  
23 cover the costs associated with the grant that we have  
24 been told not to submit because they aren't part of the  
25 grant application.

1           We have also been told that we would need to  
2 submit a new application in order to address these costs,  
3 which may process the grant as a new applicant, so we've  
4 chosen to maintain the status quo.

5           We have been told over the years less money is  
6 available so don't ask for more, and the next grant we  
7 will be submitting for an amount closer to the 20 percent  
8 match and hope that this doesn't cost us the grant, as we  
9 know the value that the Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft  
10 Taskforce has provided the State of Texas with the  
11 cooperation among the sheriffs.

12           You heard Sheriff Cutler, and there's a couple  
13 of other sheriffs that you're going to hear from, that  
14 we've had a great working relationship, but it becomes  
15 more and more difficult to try to manage the grant with  
16 less funds.

17           And so like Sheriff Cutler, I'm asking the  
18 same: for the board to reconsider cuts, and in fact add  
19 to the grant so that we can sustain the grant. The  
20 sheriffs and I have been meeting and discussing it, and  
21 we're realizing that it becomes harder and harder to  
22 sustain this grant and that's not, I believe, the desire  
23 of the state, nor is it of each one of these counties that  
24 the grant represents.

25           So it's vital for the existence of this

1 taskforce to continue on for really strong consideration  
2 on what's happening with the money that should be going to  
3 these grants that we're not receiving. So I, too, am  
4 asking --

5 MS. BENAVIDES: Sheriff Hernandez, I apologize.  
6 You have five seconds remaining.

7 SHERIFF HERNANDEZ: I'm asking if you want this  
8 grant to continue, do, you know, take this into  
9 consideration, please.

10 MS. BENAVIDES: For the record, this is  
11 Yessenia Benavides. Sheriff Hernandez has been muted.

12 MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Sheriff.

13 The Sheriffs' Association, I've communicated  
14 with their legislative group, we've been talking to them,  
15 and this is a priority for the board.

16 MS. BENAVIDES: Mr. Chairman, the last speaker  
17 is Arnold Zwicke. This is Yessenia Benavides, for the  
18 record.

19 Sheriff Zwicke, if you would please press star  
20 three on your phone so that you may raise your hand and I  
21 can locate you.

22 We will now hear from Sheriff Arnold Zwicke,  
23 sheriff of Guadalupe County. Again, the instructions are  
24 please raise your hand using the instructions provided to  
25 you and please be mindful about limiting any background



1 noise.

2 Also, please state your name for the record and  
3 if you are representing anyone. You will have three  
4 minutes; you will be muted by the host after speaking for  
5 three minutes.

6 SHERIFF ZWICKE: Good morning. Can you hear  
7 me?

8 MR. HANSEN: Yes, sir.

9 SHERIFF ZWICKE: Good morning. First, Arnold  
10 Zwicke, Guadalupe County Sheriff and member of the  
11 Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft Taskforce for 20 years.

12 First of all, thank y'all for what y'all do. I  
13 know y'all have got tough decisions, but I would like to  
14 share with you what's going on in Guadalupe County.

15 The population of the state and county has  
16 grown tremendously. Our fees collected by the state have  
17 increased 400 percent, but the money to the taskforce has  
18 not.

19 I would hate to see where we'd be without the  
20 success of the auto theft taskforces throughout Texas.  
21 We're on a major corridor, I-10 from Mexico, and with all  
22 the people now in charge in Washington, I see nothing good  
23 ahead coming from what's coming across the border.

24 Stolen vehicles are mainly used to transport  
25 illegals through our county, stolen vehicles are being

1 used in a lot of crimes throughout the state. Last month  
2 we had a stolen vehicle fleeing from law enforcement,  
3 ended up running a red light, injuring a family of three,  
4 leaving the mother and a three-month-old baby in critical  
5 condition.

6 If the auto theft unit goes away, we will be  
7 surrendering to the criminals and telling the citizens we  
8 cannot protect their vehicles and equipment any longer,  
9 and we will be giving them the key from the state to  
10 continue their organized crime spree.

11 If the auto theft grant goes away, it means  
12 surrounding counties and agencies, to include DPS, will  
13 have to fend for themselves; it will mean we will no  
14 longer be able to do 68A inspections.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. HANSEN: Sheriff, thank you very much.

17 Anyone else, Ms. Benavides?

18 MS. BENAVIDES: This is Yessenia Benavides, for  
19 the record.

20 No, Mr. Chairman. That would be all.

21 MR. HANSEN: I totally support all three of  
22 their requests.

23 MR. WILSON: You're on mute, Mr. Chairman; you  
24 accidentally hit mute.

25 MR. HANSEN: Okay. All right, Mr. Wilson, if

1 you want to continue.

2 MR. WILSON: Okay. So I hope the sheriffs will  
3 stay on for a minute, because they're actually speaking to  
4 two different issues, and I hope to address one of them  
5 that they're talking -- Sheriff Hernandez so well put.

6 It's been a frustration for us and them. Most  
7 of this has been caused by the lack of funding, and that's  
8 something we cannot control, as you well know. God knows  
9 we've been trying, it's not for lack of effort. So the  
10 money we collected we certainly don't have the resources.

11 But the second part of the issue raised by  
12 Sheriff Hernandez, I think we're fixing to cover --  
13 "fixing to" is a good Texas term -- but we'll see how well  
14 I do, and there may be some questions afterwards.

15 So first off, I want to say that starting on  
16 page 25 I mentioned the standards that the state has  
17 adopted. The standards went into effect -- okay, so  
18 there's a law, I think Chapter 383 of the Government Code,  
19 that says the Comptroller will establish standards to  
20 manage all grants in Texas.

21 And the only way you can have a grant that's  
22 not falling under these rules is to have specific  
23 statutory authority that the grant doesn't fall under  
24 these rules. We do not have that kind of authority, so to  
25 be clear, we have to follow the Comptroller's standards.

1           For decades we've been using what's called the  
2 UGMS, Uniform Grant Management Standards. People in the  
3 audience today, it just turns their stomach when they hear  
4 me quote UGMS, but that's just the rules that we have to  
5 follow and we're ordered by law to follow. If we don't  
6 follow them, we can't have a grant program.

7           But effective January 1 these new rules were  
8 posted by the Comptroller, and they don't take effect  
9 until January 1 of 2022. As I said, we must adopt these  
10 new standards, in my opinion. I've talked to Legal and  
11 I've talked to Finance, there's just no way we can not  
12 adopt these standards to start on September 1 for the new  
13 grants.

14           We'll keep using UGMS for the grants we have  
15 currently, because that is the law, they were issued under  
16 that standard, but for going forward, starting in FY22,  
17 which begins on September 1 of 2021, we will use these  
18 standards and put everybody on notice that when you apply  
19 for these grants, this is the standard you're going to  
20 follow.

21           Now, there's not huge differences, but there  
22 are a few, and one of them is that currently the board  
23 voted back in 2015 to authorize DPS staff people to be  
24 used in lieu of cash match. These new rules make it  
25 explicitly clear that DPS or any state revenue source

1 cannot be used for grant cash match, period.

2           There's a thing that this board has been  
3 operating under when somebody buys a truck with MVCPA  
4 funds or a combination of MVCPA funds and what we've been  
5 doing is ten years later when they sell that truck we'd  
6 allow them to put it into program income for future use in  
7 the program.

8           These rules make it explicitly clear that  
9 that's not acceptable. They can trade that truck in for  
10 something or they can reduce their current payment by that  
11 much for that period, so if they sold that used truck for  
12 \$10,000 they'll either have to -- well, the only thing  
13 they can do is when they turn in their next quarterly bill  
14 we have to reduce it by \$10,000.

15           Now, under the property standards they could  
16 have traded that truck in on the new truck and we'll still  
17 be okay, but if they sell that truck, like many of them  
18 have been doing so they could put it into program income,  
19 that won't be allowed in the future.

20           Now, there's a few little other things, but  
21 most of them are pretty minor. Those are the two biggest  
22 changes that I see coming in this standard.

23           So I'm asking this board to adopt the standards  
24 of Texas GMS starting September 1 for all grants going  
25 forward at that time.

1 MR. HANSEN: Okay. So we're going to do this  
2 5.A separate, Mr. Richards?

3 MR. WILSON: Yes, please.

4 MR. HANSEN: All right. So we've heard Mr.  
5 Wilson's presentation here, and so are there any motions?

6 MS. WHITEHILL: Chairman Hansen, this is  
7 Katherine Whitehill, for the record.

8 I move that the MVCPA adopt the Texas Grant  
9 Management Standards for grants beginning September 1,  
10 2021.

11 MR. HANSEN: And do we have a second?

12 MS. HUNTER: Ashley Hunter. Second.

13 MR. HANSEN: Ms. Hunter.

14 Any discussion? I'd just like to comment on  
15 the vehicle stuff, that that's unfortunate, because with  
16 all the cuts we've had in recent years, some of those  
17 funds from the sale of those old wore out vehicles have  
18 been our lifeblood to get through these grant budget cuts,  
19 so I'm hoping that, again, our funding will appropriately  
20 fix that in the future.

21 When I call your name, indicate your support of  
22 that agenda item.

23 Member Hunter?

24 MS. HUNTER: Aye.

25 MR. HANSEN: Member Owen -- I'm sorry -- Member

1 Jones.

2 MS. JONES: That's okay.

3 MR. HANSEN: We still had his name on some of  
4 the documents.

5 MS. JONES: Aye.

6 MR. HANSEN: Sorry about that.

7 Mr. Rodriguez?

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I support.

9 MR. HANSEN: Mr. Mizani?

10 MR. MIZANI: Support the motion.

11 MR. HANSEN: Ms. Whitehill?

12 MS. WHITEHILL: I support.

13 MR. HANSEN: And Mr. Gause?

14 MR. GAUSE: I support.

15 MR. HANSEN: And I, Tommy Hansen support. The  
16 bill passes, 5.A.

17 I think we were going to skip 5.B. Is that  
18 correct?

19 MR. WILSON: I was just going to quickly touch  
20 on it. I just wanted to show what the board and the  
21 sheriffs that you just heard, and if you remember, Clif  
22 Journet from Houston said much of the same things the  
23 sheriffs just said today a few months ago, so I guess it  
24 was probably maybe last year in February or July. So just  
25 real quick I just want to call your attention. We have

1       been doing what the board has asked us to do to reach out  
2       to sheriffs, chiefs of police and to our own taskforces  
3       and say what is it about our grant program that we can  
4       improve, what can we do.

5               So we're hearing that longevity, compliance  
6       with rules are big items that they want for us to  
7       consider. So we interviewed or surveyed two different  
8       groups of our constituents, one is the grant managers, one  
9       is the law enforcement folks, and if you look at page 31  
10      and 32, you see it's very similar.

11             And when you look at the sheriff and police  
12      chief issues that we reached out to you -- and you've seen  
13      these tables before in February last year -- what we're  
14      seeing is there's a shortage of manpower in law  
15      enforcement overall, and so people are looking for  
16      technology, they're looking for solutions, they're looking  
17      for overtime and things that can help them stretch the  
18      manpower that they have overall, so we're going to see  
19      that same theme.

20             So when we get to this page 36, what I want to  
21      point to you is some things that I've asked you to do for  
22      the next grant cycle. Now, unfortunately, we just did  
23      not -- I mean, I know Chief Rodriguez wanted to get  
24      together a Grants Committee and try to work through some  
25      of the scoring issues. We just ran out of time between



1 the pandemic and the freeze, we just ran out of time, and  
2 I apologize for that. We were also trying to do closeout  
3 at that same time, and so no excuses other than we didn't  
4 get it done.

5 But I'm going to ask you to refer the scoring  
6 and distribution of funds standards to the committee, and  
7 if Chief Rodriguez looks shocked, it's because he just  
8 heard this right along with you. But I'm going to ask you  
9 to refer that to committee and then with the direction  
10 that the committee bring back a recommendation on changes  
11 to scoring prior to the next -- a standard and a  
12 recommendation for the next meeting, prior to the next  
13 meeting.

14 MR. HANSEN: This is a matter we're not going  
15 to have to vote on, so I'm going to recommend that the  
16 Grants Committee work with the staff putting this  
17 together.

18 MR. WILSON: That's fine to do it that way too.  
19 You're the chairman to refer items to committee, so  
20 that's totally appropriate. So we don't have to vote on  
21 that one.

22 MR. HANSEN: I'm okay with that unless somebody  
23 else has a conflict with it.

24 (No response.)

25 MR. WILSON: We'll do it by general consent.

1 MR. HANSEN: All right.

2 MR. WILSON: Now this is the part that I think  
3 the sheriffs were talking to. So as you well know, board  
4 members, starting on page 36 there's two issues at hand  
5 when we issue a request for applications.

6 Today is February 25, the end of session won't  
7 be until May 31. As of today both the House and Senate  
8 version of the bill have us at a reduced funding amount,  
9 so the first element in a request for application is how  
10 much money do we have to spend. Well, today the only  
11 written documentation that we have is House Bill 1 and  
12 Senate Bill 1 says that we're going to get \$12.8 million.

13 So obviously, nothing that this board says or  
14 does can address that issue, and given that standard, with  
15 what the sheriffs were just talking about, they're going  
16 to have increased costs and they're going to have, if  
17 nothing else, longevity pay and things like that that will  
18 cost them more, but there's probably some inflation and  
19 other things that are working against their budgets. We  
20 can't control what the amount of money is.

21 But there are some things that we do control  
22 and specifically to Sheriff Hernandez's point, there's  
23 certain eligibility standards, there's priority funding,  
24 there's match ratios and amounts, and in the past this  
25 general application that we've always issued was called --

1 it wasn't called the taskforce grants, we might have  
2 referred to them as that, but they were actually the MVCPA  
3 grant program.

4 So what I've done, starting on page 36, is I  
5 have taken the previous RFA that we've issued consistent  
6 for many years, and you'll notice at the top of the page I  
7 have now labeled this "Taskforce Grants." The only thing  
8 that we will consider in this grant cycle is operating a  
9 motor vehicle crime prevention taskforce. Economic theft  
10 team is what the law calls it; I use that language in the  
11 RFA.

12 So number one, if you adopt this RFA and  
13 authorize me to publish it, I'm telling you right up  
14 front, the only thing we're going to be looking at is  
15 taskforces.

16 And then the second thing, if you go down to  
17 eligible applicants, where it used to just copy what the  
18 law says, it used to say judicial agencies, community  
19 organizations, law enforcement agencies, blah-blah-blah,  
20 now it just says you have to be a law enforcement agency  
21 to apply for this grant.

22 That's the only thing that we're open for; with  
23 the funding cuts that we've endured year after year, the  
24 only thing that we'll consider in this RFA, if you  
25 authorize it, is law enforcement agency grants. And we'll

1 talk more about other kinds of grants later, but I'm just  
2 telling this one is going to be for this RFA that we're  
3 going to issue, if you authorize it, the eligibility will  
4 be limited to law enforcement agencies.

5 If you turn over the page to 37, we still have  
6 pretty much the same information, it's still a  
7 reimbursement grant, it's still the same cycle, the  
8 application can only be filled out online, still requires  
9 a governmental resolution, but I've stricken all the  
10 language for nonprofits and other kinds of agencies that  
11 could apply.

12 This is either DPS or a couple of other state  
13 agencies which aren't qualified to apply for this grant,  
14 or it's a local city or county, that's all we're limiting  
15 it to under this language.

16 (Reporter momentarily lost connection.)

17 MR. WILSON: This is the standard that you're  
18 going to do, but right now the standard for getting a  
19 grant in this grant cycle would be that you're continuing  
20 programs that previously have been funded by the MVCPA.  
21 That's not the only thing we'll do, I'm just saying that's  
22 the priority.

23 And then the other one is to fight gangs or  
24 conspiracy organized crime elements, but those two are our  
25 priority for funding. So when we look at the grants in

1 July or whenever we get ready to award, that's what we're  
2 going to look at as our priority for funding. There was  
3 about five other categories that used to be there; I've  
4 taken those categories out and only put these two.

5 And a grantee cannot be applying for a grant  
6 and be out of compliance with the rules, so I do want to  
7 specify that it's not all of our current grantees, it's  
8 only those -- which currently they're all in compliance  
9 with our rules and meeting their obligations, but if one  
10 of them were to not meet the criteria or the requirements  
11 of the grant, then they would no longer be in our priority  
12 group.

13 So I don't want you to think it's like, oh, you  
14 got a grant before, you automatically get a grant. No.  
15 You still have to meet the operational guidelines and in  
16 compliance with the grant requirements.

17 Okay. So again, going down to the match  
18 requirements, the grant is going to require a 20 percent  
19 cash match. Just like our rules say, what Sheriff  
20 Hernandez was talking about, what Clif Journet has spoken  
21 about in the past to this board, is that as our funds have  
22 decreased what we've done and what this board has  
23 published out in the past is they would say, well, then  
24 we're asking the cities and counties to pick up the  
25 difference and hold the same programs, and this is taking

1 out that requirement.

2 If they only get \$500,000 and they might have  
3 had under the previous grant -- what did Sheriff Hernandez  
4 say earlier, 37 percent or 50 percent match -- now it's  
5 going to be 20 percent, so if that means that they have to  
6 take officers off or move those officers to in-kind to  
7 keep them in the program, then that's going to have to be  
8 the way that they operate.

9 Now, if we get fully funded, Dan and I have  
10 been working on different models. To fully fund everybody  
11 that we have right now at 20 percent would be \$16 million,  
12 so it would cost us another \$4 million, basically, to  
13 bring everybody up to where they ought to be to begin  
14 with.

15 The last thing I want to show you is at the  
16 kind of middle bottom of page 39, where I said DPS used to  
17 be allow for in lieu of cash match, that is prohibited  
18 going forward starting September 1, but we will continue  
19 to allow NICB agents to be used as in lieu of.

20 Now, something that the board probably needs --  
21 I'm keeping it the same except for DPS, which is no longer  
22 allowed for any state funds, so if there's something you  
23 want to address there, that's a place to address it.

24 There's a couple of tweaks in here at the  
25 bottom of page 40. You'll see that we've added TCOLE

1 certification that's required under the new legal  
2 standards adopted by the Comptroller. If we give a law  
3 enforcement grant, that law enforcement agency has to  
4 certify to us that they are in compliance with TCOLE  
5 requirements, and if they're not in compliance, they have  
6 to get a letter from TCOLE that they TCOLE says they're  
7 getting into compliance.

8 So other than that, I'll take any questions and  
9 try to do my best to catch you up. So that's where we  
10 are. That was a lot, I know. I'm sorry.

11 MR. HANSEN: I'm tired. That was item 5.C.  
12 Does that need to be voted on or is that a recommendation?

13 MR. WILSON: Well, 5.C we've already referred  
14 to committee, so we're doing 5.D, E, F and G.

15 MR. HANSEN: Okay.

16 MR. WILSON: Just to be clear, going back to  
17 page 35 just so that the board members are recognizing --  
18 I know I talked a lot, and I really apologize; I don't  
19 like to do that.

20 So the eligibility standard now will be that  
21 only law enforcement -- eligibility is only law  
22 enforcement agencies can apply for a taskforce grant.  
23 Okay, that's new. We used to publish all kinds of crime  
24 prevention methods.

25 Priority funding is now grantees, current

1 grantees in compliance and groups that want to address  
2 organized crime in a cohesive way. That's our priorities  
3 going forward for this year, for this cycle.

4 Match ratio, everybody gets 20 percent. If  
5 that means they lose officers, like if we continue under  
6 our current funding, then it's just going to be 20 percent  
7 of whatever officers they're able to bring to bear.

8 And then the last one is this RFA will only be  
9 a taskforce grant RFA; that's all you can do, it's a one-  
10 trick pony.

11 MR. HANSEN: I hope that our guest sheriffs are  
12 still online, because it's very, very clear based on your  
13 presentation that our future is in the legislators' hands  
14 and hopefully this will get funded.

15 Okay. Do we have a motion for items 5.D, E, F  
16 and G?

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: This is Member Rodriguez. Item  
18 5.C or item 5.D, E, F, G?

19 MR. HANSEN: 5.D, E, F and G is what he just  
20 presented.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I move that the eligibility  
22 standards, priority funding, match ratios, and grant type,  
23 as shown on the draft request for applications 36-42, be  
24 adopted for the FY22-23 taskforce grants. I further move  
25 to authorize the MVCPA director to finalize and publish



1 the FY22-23 request for applications, including posting it  
2 in the Texas Register as required by law.

3 MR. GAUSE: Mr. Chairman. Shay Gause, for the  
4 record. I second.

5 MR. HANSEN: Second Mr. Gause.

6 Any further discussion?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. HANSEN: Hearing none, we'll take a vote in  
9 support or against the motion.

10 Member Hunter?

11 MS. HUNTER: Aye.

12 MR. HANSEN: Member Jones?

13 MS. JONES: Support.

14 MR. HANSEN: Member Rodriguez?

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Support.

16 MR. HANSEN: Member Mizani?

17 MR. MIZANI: I support.

18 MR. HANSEN: Member Whitehill?

19 MS. WHITEHILL: I support.

20 MR. HANSEN: And Member Gause?

21 MR. GAUSE: I support.

22 MR. HANSEN: I, Tommy Hansen, support the  
23 motion.

24 Moving on to the next one, Mr. Wilson.

25 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1           So that's how we're planning on dealing with  
2 the ongoing shortfall and to address the issues that have  
3 been raised to us for years now about where we've been  
4 heading with our taskforce grants, so got that out of the  
5 way.

6           So then to address some of the other comments  
7 that the Sheriffs' Association members and the Chiefs of  
8 Police Association members have addressed saying, hey,  
9 sometimes we can't form a taskforce; hey, we don't always  
10 have the resources to start throwing manpower when we're  
11 shorthanded anyway.

12           So these next three items that you've seen  
13 before back in July, and I've asked you to consider them  
14 and think about them, and so I've added a little bit more  
15 fluff, or I guess background to them, and tried to set  
16 some parameters around them.

17           But we do have other needs that we don't have  
18 money for, for other kinds of organizations to have access  
19 to funding that we need to provide, we need to step up and  
20 figure out ways to deliver to the entire state. Everybody  
21 in the state is paying the \$4 fee, or everybody who has  
22 insurance is paying the \$4 fee, and we need to figure out  
23 a way to get the whole state involved in this program.

24           So the next three grants that I'm asking you to  
25 adopt today and authorize me to develop RFAs, the first

1 one is called the MAC Grant, or the MVCPA Auxiliary Grant  
2 initiative or program -- probably a better program, I'm  
3 going to have to change the name, but you don't have to  
4 adopt all the details today but just make sure that I have  
5 clear authority to develop these. And this one is where  
6 it would just basically be, if you'll excuse the term, a  
7 grant in a box.

8 So if you look at page 45, you'll see that  
9 we're going to just fund four things. Now, you members  
10 may prefer other things than these four, but this is what  
11 I've been talking to, this is what I can identify as motor  
12 vehicle theft equipment, and it's pretty much just an  
13 equipment grant.

14 Somebody has an outbreak -- I was talking to  
15 Sheriff Cutler the other day, and I remember the City of  
16 Kyle had, I think, one or two burglary of motor vehicles  
17 for years on years and years, but then all of a sudden  
18 they had 39 in one week, and so they could come in and  
19 apply for a skycam or a multi-unit stationary camera to be  
20 able to purchase and respond to things that cut motor  
21 vehicle crime in their area.

22 The Port of Houston, Port of Beaumont, Corpus  
23 Christ, and as well as there's lots of places where we  
24 don't have any technology for jammer detectors. The City  
25 of Houston and I were talking the other day about an

1 illegal operation that was using jammer detectors to keep  
2 people from communicating outside of their facility.

3 Law enforcement rarely has this technology, but  
4 jammers are used by illegal gangs and cartels and  
5 organized crime on a regular basis, but we can't even  
6 detect it in the Port of Houston.

7 So these are the things I think would have deep  
8 impact on motor vehicle crime overall. It's a one-time  
9 grant, they go out and buy the material, they continue to  
10 report on it for at least two years. There's some details  
11 that need to be worked out on that, so two years beyond  
12 the grant program.

13 So if the board authorizes me to develop this,  
14 I'll finish filling out the details and submit it to you,  
15 and hopefully by the July meeting we'll be able to  
16 authorize that RFA. At that point if we have money we'll  
17 issue the RFA, if we don't have money then we won't issue  
18 the RFA, but I'll have it ready to go for this board.

19 The next one is a Community Oriented Solutions  
20 Grant. We've heard so much this year on the news about  
21 police being limited in their ability to respond to all  
22 forms of crime. This would give local communities the  
23 opportunity to develop solutions for their own community  
24 using these funds on how they think they can reduce.

25 I know at IAATI, International Association of

1 Auto Theft Investigators program, I've heard lots of great  
2 solutions from around the world where they've tried to  
3 intervene on burglary of a motor vehicle with youth  
4 programs.

5 It doesn't have a clear definition other than  
6 to encourage behavior modification or victim restoration;  
7 that's kind of the themes of this. The board will  
8 certainly have the final say before it gets authorized and  
9 issued.

10 And then the last one is what we find is we've  
11 been given this new task for fraud-related motor vehicle  
12 crime, but we really don't have a mechanism by which to do  
13 this. We've got tax assessor-collectors that have lots of  
14 good ideas on how to increase the registration and title  
15 fees for the State of Texas. They're hamstrung not being  
16 able to develop new programs. Even here at DMV we've  
17 kicked around a statewide coordinated effort combating  
18 paper tags and registration and title fraud.

19 So if the board authorizes me, I'll develop  
20 these three new grants and have them ready so that if we  
21 do get \$20 million or \$18 million, we'll be ready to go,  
22 and if we don't, they'll be ready to go the next time we  
23 get funded.

24 MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. Wilson. Again, a  
25 lot of work, lot of work, lot work.

1                   That was agenda item number 5 involving those  
2 items there. Do we have a motion?

3                   MS. WHITEHILL: Mr. Chairman, this is Katherine  
4 Whitehill, and I move that the MVCPA director is  
5 authorized to develop the request for applications for the  
6 Motor Vehicle Crime Auxiliary Grants, Community Oriented  
7 Solutions Grants, and the Motor Vehicle Fraud Related  
8 Crime Grants. I further move that the drafts shall be  
9 presented to the MVCPA Grants, Budget and Reporting  
10 Committee for input and recommendation at the next MVCPA  
11 meeting.

12                   MR. HANSEN: Thank you, ma'am.

13                   Do we have a second?

14                   MR. RODRIGUEZ: I second that motion. This is  
15 Member Rodriguez.

16                   MR. HANSEN: Rodriguez.

17                   Any further discussion?

18                   (No response.)

19                   MR. HANSEN: Okay. We'll take a vote whether  
20 for or against.

21                   Member Hunter?

22                   MS. HUNTER: Aye.

23                   MR. HANSEN: Member Jones?

24                   MS. JONES: Aye.

25                   MR. HANSEN: Member Rodriguez?

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I support.

2 MR. HANSEN: Member Mizani?

3 MR. MIZANI: I support.

4 MR. HANSEN: Member Whitehill?

5 MS. WHITEHILL: I support.

6 MR. HANSEN: Member Gause?

7 MR. GAUSE: I support.

8 MR. HANSEN: Going to the very last thing on  
9 item 5.

10 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, this is Bryan  
11 Wilson, for the record. You can just set those last two  
12 aside, if you want.

13 MR. HANSEN: That's fine. We'll set those  
14 aside.

15 It is exactly 10:30. I would like to maybe  
16 give everybody about three or four minutes to take a quick  
17 break, and then we'll resume. Let's say we'll resume at  
18 10:35.

19 And I would ask our sheriff guests if they're  
20 still on if they would remain on, because we're going to  
21 cover some stuff coming up that's going to be very  
22 important to their concerns.

23 So it's 10:30, we'll take a five-minute break.

24 (Whereupon, at 10:30 a.m., a brief recess was  
25 taken.)

1           MR. HANSEN: It's 10:37 now, so we're going to  
2 reconvene at 10:37. Thank you very, very much, and we'll  
3 move on to the next item, which is going to be item number  
4 6 and 7.

5           Mr. Wilson.

6           MR. WILSON: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
7 This is Bryan Wilson, for the record.

8           This is the legislative appropriations request.

9           The MVCPA adopted the proposed legislative request back  
10 in February of 2020, over a year ago or about a year ago.

11          I've placed in here the legislative appropriations  
12 request as it stands now.

13          Unfortunately, a lot has happened since that  
14 time, and I know I've sent you emails as things have  
15 progressed. I have it listed as an action item in case  
16 you wanted to do something, but I don't expect you to do  
17 something at this particular time.

18          I just need an official record of -- or I feel  
19 like I need an official record of where we stand compared  
20 to what you voted on, so a year ago you voted that you  
21 wanted 20 percent of the funding, of the money we  
22 collected, as required by the current statute, the  
23 Transportation Code 1006.151.

24          And then the other thing is you said that you  
25 wanted to add a collections unit to help us have dedicated



1 staff to collect the money. There's evidence that we see,  
2 when we do some comparisons with other information, that  
3 there's probably anywhere from 2- to \$5 million being  
4 uncollected in the state of Texas right now from these  
5 policies, but because we're split and we're a very small  
6 staff and we're not tax professionals, we're looking for  
7 assistance.

8 So I wanted to share with you that what ended  
9 up happening as a result of the different changes that  
10 have been made is that the exceptional items have been  
11 changed, because as I reported in board reports, the  
12 Legislative Budget Board originally introduced a value for  
13 this agency of \$17 million, the House and Senate both cut  
14 that back to \$12 million, and so because of that, we were  
15 given one more opportunity in January to update our  
16 exceptional items.

17 So what you see on page 54 and 55 is the first  
18 request -- I'm still following your original vote, which  
19 was 20 percent of what was authorized under law, 20  
20 percent of the amount we collected -- but we've had to do  
21 some changes to make it reflect, number one, exceptional  
22 item number one is the amount of money that would restore  
23 us back to what the Legislative Budget Board originally  
24 said, the \$17.5 million.

25 On page 55 exceptional item number two is that

1 the difference to what the Comptroller says, which is  
2 going to be well over \$100 million we'll be collecting in  
3 this current fiscal year, so we're requesting that.  
4 Again, all this is different ways to present to the  
5 legislature that we're still wanting 20 percent as  
6 required by current law; that's all this is.

7 And then finally, the last exceptional item  
8 number three on page 56 is, again, the three full-time  
9 people to manage the collections program.

10 So the rest of this is just informational. I  
11 do not need for you to do anything other than just be  
12 aware that I'm still pursuing what you voted on in  
13 January. It just looks a lot different today than what  
14 you voted on in -- I'm sorry -- February of 2020. So are  
15 there any questions?

16 MR. HANSEN: I have none. Anybody else have  
17 any comment or question about the exceptional items?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. HANSEN: I'd just comment that this is what  
20 we're using as the background of all of our communications  
21 and conversations with everybody that we're talking to.

22 I've been contacted by a number of legislative  
23 offices and this is what we're going by, so it's  
24 continuously constant and the same information going to  
25 everyone that we're speaking with, and I would suggest

1 that everyone in the audience do the same ASAP.

2 So that's number 6. Number 7.

3 MR. WILSON: So Mr. Chairman, for item number  
4 7, I've asked Ms. Caroline Love, the Government and  
5 Strategic Communications director for Texas DMV, to do  
6 this presentation.

7 MS. LOVE: Good morning. Thank you, Bryan.

8 And good morning, Chairman Hansen and members  
9 of the MVCPA Board. Happy to be here this morning, and I  
10 wanted to give you all an update on what recommendations  
11 the TxDMV Board adopted for the 87th Legislature.

12 And in previous meetings with this board, you  
13 all adopted a couple of recommendations to help improve  
14 efficiencies in operations within the MVCPA program, and  
15 those recommendations were then brought forward to the  
16 TxDMV Board and adopted at their October meeting.

17 The TxDMV Board is tasked in the statute with  
18 providing recommendations to the legislature on  
19 opportunities to improved operations, and these two  
20 recommendations that I'll go through momentarily certainly  
21 fell into that category.

22 Once the DMV Board adopted those, I did work  
23 with my staff to provide that information to our relevant  
24 committees that we work with regularly in the House and  
25 Senate, which for us we start with the House and Senate

1 Transportation committees.

2 So the information and draft language has been  
3 provided to those offices and submitted for drafting, and  
4 so nothing has been filed just yet, but I'll just run  
5 through these real quick.

6 The first recommended item is related to  
7 clarifying the ways in which funds can be recovered from  
8 when there's overpayments paid to insurance companies,  
9 things like that. This recommendation would clarify that  
10 this program, MVCPA, has the same authority as the  
11 Comptroller to recover those funds, and so it will be  
12 consistent with other processes followed in the state and  
13 then have the efficiencies related there.

14 Another recommendation is kind of cleaning up  
15 some of those statutes that have existed, including an  
16 outdated reference for MVCPA to report grant allocations  
17 to the Texas Department of Transportation for their  
18 district and county statistics report that they do every  
19 year.

20 And that's something that MVCPA reports  
21 separately, and that was a reporting requirement that was  
22 held over from when the function resided within TxDOT, and  
23 so it's something we felt would be helpful to remove from  
24 the statute to provide for more efficient reporting in  
25 that regard.

1           And so we have not received confirmation on  
2 authors for these bills just yet, but I have been working  
3 with Bryan and Chairman Hansen; they've given me some  
4 great leads, so to say, and so we are working to get those  
5 filed.

6           The filing deadline for bills this legislative  
7 session is March 12, so there's a couple more weeks to go  
8 before things can still be filed. But as we know, the  
9 capacity for this legislature is kind of running at its  
10 limits.

11           Coming into this with the pandemic was a  
12 certain challenge for them, and then adding in the latest  
13 storm event certainly has added other challenges that  
14 they're going to have to deal with. So we're definitely  
15 working on these as a priority for both DMV and MVCPA, but  
16 unfortunately I don't know how many promises I can make of  
17 what may or may not happen the legislature adjourns sine  
18 die at the end of May.

19           But with that, I'm happy to answer any  
20 questions. Thank you.

21           MR. HANSEN: Not a question, just a comment.  
22 Caroline has been extremely supportive and helpful with us  
23 on just about everything, including arranging the meeting  
24 we had with the governor's staff, so thank you very, very  
25 much for your effort.

1 MS. LOVE: You're very welcome. A great  
2 program, happy to help.

3 MR. HANSEN: Any board members have any  
4 questions for Ms. Love?

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I also want to thank you,  
6 Caroline. You've been awesome, so thank you.

7 MS. LOVE: Thank you.

8 MR. HANSEN: Everybody needs to realize that  
9 our relationship with the staff at DMV is tremendous, and  
10 now that we are actually responsible by law to do a lot of  
11 the stuff that directly connects to them, the title fraud  
12 and those type of crimes, our appropriate funding is  
13 beneficial for them as well, so we hope to get this moved  
14 forward with that in mind.

15 Thank you, Caroline.

16 Anything else? We'll move on to the MVCPA  
17 director's report.

18 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Chairman.

19 Thank you, Caroline, appreciate you being here.

20 So Mr. Chairman, this is Bryan Wilson, for the  
21 record.

22 I'm going to ask Dan to do the budget update --  
23 Daniel Price to do the budget update on FY21.

24 MR. PRICE: For the record, this is Dan Price,  
25 MVCPA staff auditor. We are on page 65 of the

1 presentation.

2 This is the current status of the FY21 budget.

3 If you will please note, we currently have obligations  
4 for grants for \$11,854,802 of the \$12,367,142. We have  
5 expended \$136,683 so far, and that leaves a remaining  
6 balance of \$357,263, of which \$245,557 are salaries for  
7 the staff for the remainder of the year.

8 Also please note that, as Director Wilson  
9 mentioned earlier, we did have the UB balance discussion  
10 in section 3, which will bring us approximately \$200,000,  
11 which you all have gone ahead and allocated to Rapid  
12 Response Strikeforce programs, so those numbers will be  
13 updated on the future budgets to be reflected within the  
14 budgets. Currently they're a note and they're not  
15 included in these numbers.

16 Does anybody have any questions?

17 MR. HANSEN: Do board members have anything for  
18 Dan?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. HANSEN: Thank you, sir.

21 MR. PRICE: Thank you.

22 MR. WILSON: Okay, Mr. Chairman, continuing the  
23 director's report, I'll go ahead and take some of these  
24 other items.

25 So on page 66 I do want to show you that the

1 taskforces, the wonderful law enforcement agents that we  
2 have throughout the state of Texas, recovered almost  
3 13,000 vehicles last year, and that's a huge percentage of  
4 the overall vehicles recovered. The recoveries overall in  
5 the state of Texas, according to DPS records, have been  
6 going way down in the last two years, but our taskforces  
7 are collecting a larger percentage of those vehicles -- of  
8 the fewer vehicles being recovered, our taskforces are  
9 doing a better job.

10 Cases cleared by arrest or exceptional means,  
11 the number of persons arrested was up this year. Number  
12 of burglary cases cleared, I think, was down a little bit  
13 because, again, with funding cuts you can't do everything,  
14 and so people are making choices, our law enforcement  
15 partners are making choices and deciding that motor  
16 vehicle theft is the priority, but even still, they still  
17 went out and did 134 cases of title and registration fraud  
18 and with 51 arrests.

19 That's the first year we've reported that, and  
20 people might look at it, you know, well, that's not very  
21 much. Well, when you think about our priorities and how  
22 many, almost a full billion dollars of losses just in  
23 motor vehicle theft, we have to prioritize, but that  
24 doesn't mean that the laws enforcement folks won't go out  
25 and arrest somebody for title or registration fraud.



1           And if you look at the first quarter results,  
2 you'll see that we're going to be on par to meet or exceed  
3 all of those standards in the next year. Of course, it's  
4 early in the year, but it looks like we're going to be way  
5 up for the whole year on these other categories.

6           I've kind of put an explanation on page 67  
7 because sometimes I wonder if y'all wonder why the heck is  
8 Bryan bringing this stuff to me about grant adjustments,  
9 and I just wanted to write that little section at the top  
10 of page 67 to remind you that when you issue -- you know,  
11 when you do the awards in June or July, whatever month you  
12 do them, you're doing a contract.

13           This agency is entering into a contract with  
14 local governments, and then during the course of the year  
15 some of those contracts become unworkable or they need  
16 adjustments, and the reason we report his back to you each  
17 time is because it's your responsibility and we're doing  
18 it on your behalf under the policies, and of course, under  
19 the guidelines that the state authorizes us to do.

20           So I don't have carte blanche on anything, but  
21 I can make adjustments to move money into categories or  
22 authorize certain types of expenditures, and so every  
23 board meeting you always see this report in there to tell  
24 you that we are, in fact, providing you an update on what  
25 changes we've made to contracts so that as the board

1 oversight, the governance body of this agency, if you see  
2 something in there that's lacking or you want more  
3 information, then you would be able to ask us and say,  
4 Wait, that's a really large amount; I want more detail on  
5 that, or whatever.

6           So anyway, we do try to be really good about  
7 letting you know we're changing the contract from time to  
8 time. Overall, I would say that since I've been here we  
9 used to have hundreds of grant adjustments every  
10 quarter -- I mean every year, and now we're down to just a  
11 few dozen.

12           And that really reflects both the operational  
13 side of our grantees have gotten really good about  
14 managing their affairs and taking the responsibility to  
15 move money when they're authorized to do so without grant  
16 adjustments, and then also to doing a better job of  
17 planning out their year.

18           So on page 69 I did want to point out that we  
19 continue to have a presence on Facebook and Twitter and do  
20 everything we can to collaborate with those departments  
21 that have -- the few departments or grantees that still  
22 have a crime prevention specialist.

23           I know Laredo, El Paso -- we just lost Melissa  
24 Castro in Corpus, but I think she's going to be replaced  
25 soon, but a lot of places have given up because of the

1 funding.

2 I mean, am I going to let an officer go or a  
3 crime prevention person, and a lot of departments have had  
4 to just let their crime prevention to absorb some of the  
5 losses that we've incurred over the last several years.  
6 And it's a detriment to us overall. I don't know how  
7 we'll regain that unless we get additional funding.

8 But anyway, just did want to give that we're  
9 getting some traction on social media, it's not great. We  
10 had a few ideas. but David Richards over in the legal  
11 department killed our little ideas -- just kidding, David.

12 We were thinking about trying to do some giveaways  
13 through online media and stuff like that where we had  
14 trailer hitches and steering wheel locks to try to get  
15 people to like us, like a lot of businesses do, but  
16 there's really no room for that in state government to do  
17 that, so I appreciate David being there for a guardrail  
18 for us.

19 Page 70, I'll just go ahead and continue, Mr.  
20 Chairman, the assessments and collections activities.  
21 I've been reporting to you for several years we've really  
22 tried to step up collection on insurance agencies.

23 These are the list of the investigations that  
24 the Texas Department of Insurance have opened up on  
25 different agencies that did not file or did not pay.

1 They're not huge payers but, you know, we're doing our  
2 part to make sure that funds get collected appropriately.

3 It would be better if we had dedicated staff to do this,  
4 but we'll keep doing it with Dan and me, and maybe  
5 Yessenia might even get involved.

6 So the next section I want to ask Ms. Benavides  
7 to join us and take on page 71.

8 MS. BENAVIDES: Good morning, everyone. For  
9 the record, this is Yessenia Benavides, program specialist  
10 at MVCPA.

11 On March 17 of last year Texas DMV directed all  
12 staff to begin telecommuting. Texas DMV is currently in  
13 phase two of the return to work plan and staff is coming  
14 in on a voluntary basis. MVCPA staff is volunteering to  
15 work in the office one day a week on different days of the  
16 week to limit physical contact.

17 Texas DMV also adopted a new telecommuting  
18 policy, and employees were required to complete training  
19 in CAPPSSlearn. Additionally, they were required to submit  
20 a telecommuting agreement form that needed approval from  
21 their division chain of command.

22 To date there were 12 grantees requesting  
23 personal protective equipment, PPE, and in an effort to  
24 assist our partners and try to take care of them, MVCPA  
25 has shipped 2,800 face masks, 59,000 gloves, 215 bottles

1 of hand sanitizer, and 68 bottles of Clorox spray.

2 On page 72 of your board book you will see that  
3 a total of \$265,837 and some change was spent of MVCPA  
4 program funds for COVID-19 expenses.

5 Are there any questions?

6 MR. HANSEN: Comment. You haven't been here  
7 very long, but you've taken this bull by the horns and  
8 stepped right up and have done a phenomenal job. Thank  
9 you.

10 MS. BENAVIDES: Thank you, Chairman.

11 MR. WILSON: She owes us big time. She was  
12 stuck up in Denver, and so now she gets to come back home  
13 to Texas, so she's glad to be here, so she owes us.

14 MR. HANSEN: From snowy weather to snowy  
15 weather.

16 MS. BENAVIDES: About 8 degrees. You know, I  
17 was telling my husband we lived in Colorado for about 15  
18 years, and I don't think we have ever been so cold until  
19 we moved to Texas during this past week.

20 (General laughter.)

21 MR. WILSON: So I'll go ahead and continue the  
22 back side of that, Mr. Chairman.

23 Thank you, Yessenia. I really appreciate you  
24 coordinating all of this.

25 So I did put on the border security report. I

1 apologize for not reporting very clearly but just letting  
2 you know that every six months the Legislative Budget  
3 Board, as part of our legal requirements provides that we  
4 turn in a border security report, an update. DMV does it  
5 on our behalf, so just letting you know that's going in on  
6 your behalf.

7 Just wanted to kind of update you. We have a  
8 statutory report due in April, we've been way behind and  
9 short-staffed, but just letting you know that we'll have  
10 it done.

11 It's the activity and funds report required  
12 under statute, and there's two different statutes that  
13 require that that be turned in, and in 2015 we started  
14 putting those together as a single report to the  
15 legislature.

16 One has a deadline of April 1, one doesn't have  
17 a deadline at all or due date, and so what we've done is  
18 just put them together and make them due on April 1.  
19 We'll have it to you by March 15, and then you'll have an  
20 opportunity to comment before it gets turned in to the  
21 legislature.

22 I think the last thing, and then I'll let the  
23 chairman take the last pages of this book, but I did want  
24 to let you know, you already know that Mary Menoskey left  
25 and was promoted to another department, got a nice

1 promotion, and we miss her very much, and we didn't have  
2 table of contents and some of the fine things that she had  
3 down to a science, but we'll get back there with Yessenia.

4 The other thing is we had issued a program  
5 specialist 6 that we had adopted to replace the grant  
6 coordinator position to help us do the Rapid Response  
7 Strikeforces. We've interviewed, and the candidates  
8 either withdrew or did not accept our offer for  
9 employment, so I'll be getting with the Grants Committee  
10 to work through if we need to modify the job description  
11 and how to move forward. So we continue to be at least  
12 one person down at this time.

13 And that's all I have. If you want to talk  
14 about the last document in the book, Mr. Chairman, I'll  
15 let you do that.

16 MR. HANSEN: Well, on what you just mentioned,  
17 for the grantees, if you know of anybody that would be  
18 interested in the job. We've completely changed the  
19 dynamics of it, it's much more law enforcement oriented  
20 and so it would be perfect for a retired commander or  
21 project director. We had some good candidates, and I  
22 thought we had it figured out and it didn't work out.

23 And Bryan, I assume you're talking about the  
24 NICB document?

25 MR. WILSON: Yes, sir.

1 MR. HANSEN: Okay.

2 Most of the board members have gotten this, as  
3 well as the grantees, I've sent out this to everybody.

4 This is really a phenomenal overall summary  
5 document, a clear picture of our program, what we do and  
6 our funding dilemma, and NICB did a phenomenal job with  
7 this and we've been actually using it and sharing it with  
8 a lot of legislative offices and everybody else because  
9 it's a dynamic document for being a couple of pages, it  
10 makes it very clear what we're all about. So please share  
11 that, send it out, do what you need to do, but kudos to  
12 NICB for this document.

13 Any board members have any comments on anything  
14 from Mr. Wilson's report, or the NICB report, any  
15 comments?

16 MR. GAUSE: Mr. Chairman, is that a stand-alone  
17 document?

18 MR. WILSON: Absolutely.

19 MR. HANSEN: Yes. In fact, I've got a lot of  
20 copies to take with me next week to hand out to share with  
21 people that I hope to visit with the next week or so at  
22 the Capitol.

23 MR. WILSON: So, Mr. Chairman, I know the last  
24 item is the open comment section. I do want to ask Ms.  
25 Benavides, have we received any requests for the open



1 comment section?

2 MS. BENAVIDES: Yessenia Benavides, for the  
3 record.

4 No, sir, we have not.

5 MR. HANSEN: Thank you.

6 And we don't have anything else for executive  
7 session, do we, Mr. Richards?

8 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, we do not.

9 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Before we make a motion for  
10 adjournment, can I make a comment, Mr. Richards?

11 MR. RICHARDS: Absolutely.

12 MR. HANSEN: Particularly for the grantees and  
13 the board members, over the last few weeks we've had  
14 extensive communications with a number of legislative  
15 offices and staff.

16 We met with the Texas Chiefs of Police  
17 Association group, and they were very, very receptive of  
18 our problem, because it affects many of the taskforces,  
19 and you all have people in that.

20 There's also a legislative group of  
21 representatives of a lot of the major police agencies or  
22 larger agencies, and we have people who are actually at  
23 the Capitol, and I cannot -- as Mr. Richards reminds us  
24 that we cannot ask you to do certain things, but I would  
25 highly encourage that your chiefs and your sheriffs

1 through your legislative people communicate the stories  
2 that we just heard from the three sheriffs today to their  
3 legislative constituents. I can't stress that enough.

4 We've also been in communication with the  
5 Sheriffs' Association, and they've created a top ten list  
6 of what's on their hit parade, and as far as I saw, I  
7 think we're number two on that list, so I would encourage  
8 our previous guest sheriffs to really communicate with  
9 their association as well because they've got this.

10 So we really need the support of everybody to  
11 encourage this and get your agencies and chiefs and  
12 sheriffs involved because phone calls from them carry a  
13 much bigger stick than we can individually. I'm trying to  
14 be politically correct here.

15 MR. WILSON: I'm sure you're just encouraging  
16 them to be a resource wherever they can be a resource.

17 MR. HANSEN: Be a valuable resource. And this  
18 document from NICB is a very good summary document of the  
19 whole situation.

20 If anybody has any questions on the taskforces,  
21 I sent out a bunch of this stuff to each and every  
22 taskforce a week or so ago, and I would encourage and  
23 hopefully that they're using them. I know several of the  
24 agencies have because based on communications we had with  
25 the legislative group of the representatives of larger

1 agencies this week we met with them, so behind the scenes  
2 there's a lot going on, so thank you.

3 And then next week, Monday we're presenting to  
4 the House Appropriations Committee and then Tuesday to the  
5 Senate Finance Committee. So there you have it.

6 Does anybody have anything else?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. HANSEN: Well, we made it. I guess we  
9 should have a motion to adjourn unless anybody has any  
10 other business. Are we in line with that, Mr. Richards?

11 Do we have a motion to adjourn?

12 MS. BENAVIDES: I apologize. This is Yessenia  
13 Benavides. I did just receive an email from Captain  
14 Sheila Carter from Dallas County Auto Theft Taskforce.  
15 She did want to comment on section 5.F, the match ratios  
16 and amounts.

17 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Can we go back to that now?

18 MR. RICHARDS: Sure.

19 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Connect her on, Yessenia.

20 MS. BENAVIDES: Give me one second so that I  
21 may find her on the attendee list.

22 We will now hear from Sheila -- I apologize if  
23 I'm not saying your name correctly -- Carter-Bass from  
24 Dallas County Auto Theft Taskforce.

25 I'm going to repeat the instructions. Please

1 raise your hand using the instructions provided to you,  
2 and please be mindful about limiting any background noise.

3 Also, please state your name for the record and if you  
4 are representing anyone. You will have three minutes; you  
5 will be muted by the host after speaking for three  
6 minutes.

7 MS. CARTER-BASS: Sheila Carter-Bass, Dallas  
8 County Sheriff's Department Auto Theft Taskforce. Good  
9 morning to the board and all attendees.

10 In reference to the 20 percent requirement for  
11 the cash match, and also taking in consideration that  
12 there might be a funding rejection, I wanted to ask if the  
13 board could consider making some kind of adjustment as far  
14 as how program income match funds are reimbursed.

15 And Mr. Wilson, you probably can help me  
16 articulate this better, but I understand that when you use  
17 program income funds as a cash match, it impacts the way  
18 that the reimbursement is done in an adverse way to the  
19 host agency.

20 And so my question is can there be some  
21 consideration toward that that may be used as an incentive  
22 for the host agency, especially when a lot of resources  
23 are going out and not actually credited to those agencies  
24 in support of a taskforce, and that is both in equipment  
25 and personnel.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. HANSEN: Mr. Wilson, do you want to respond  
3 to her?

4 MR. WILSON: I mean, this might be something we  
5 can contact offline. I think there might be a  
6 misconception. I realize that when agencies introduce  
7 cash match after the grant award has already been done it  
8 looks like it's reducing the amount, but when you increase  
9 the budget you end up paying a smaller share.

10 So if you have a 100,000 grant and just say  
11 your match was 20 percent of that 100,000, if you  
12 introduce 50,000 into the grant, obviously you've just  
13 added 50,000 so that the percentage of reimbursement goes  
14 down but you've still got the 50,000 in there.

15 And so I think it comes across -- you heard  
16 this, and I think other grantees have mentioned this in  
17 the past to the board, but it's really just a math  
18 problem. I don't know how to fix it.

19 Again, the standards in state law, unless the  
20 board specifically grants another authorization, that all  
21 program income has to be reduced from the grant payment.  
22 So if I give you a \$500,000 grant and you go out and  
23 generate \$100,000, then I only owe you \$400,000. That's  
24 what the state law says.

25 What this board has historically done is

1 allowed grantees to introduce the program to augment or  
2 add to rather than reduce the payments that we make. So  
3 when you do that, when you put that extra money into the  
4 budget, the reimbursement as a percent is smaller but it's  
5 actually the same amount. We didn't do anything, it's  
6 just the way they perceive it.

7 I don't know how else to address it. I've  
8 tried, but if you raise the total value of a program, it's  
9 going to reduce the overall percent. So I apologize to  
10 Captain Bass, and I'll contact her offline to see if we  
11 can work through what's actually happening there.

12 MR. HANSEN: Captain, thank you for your  
13 comments, and thank you for what you guys do.

14 Okay. Any other comments, Ms. Benavides, or is  
15 this the last one?

16 MS. BENAVIDES: No more comments.

17 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Unless the board has  
18 anything else they'd like to add or comments?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. HANSEN: Unless there's any further  
21 business, I'd like to entertain a motion to adjourn.

22 MR. MIZANI: Thank you, Chairman and thank you  
23 to the staff. This is Armin Mizani. I make a motion to  
24 adjourn.

25 MR. HANSEN: Motion by Mr. Mizani.

1 MS. HUNTER: Ashley Hunter seconds.

2 MR. HANSEN: Second by Ms. Hunter.

3 All in favor say aye.

4 (A chorus of ayes.)

5 MR. HANSEN: And according to my computer, it  
6 is 11:14 a.m. We will terminate the call.

7 Thank you everyone. God bless you and be safe,  
8 please.

9 (Whereupon, at 11:14 a.m., the meeting was  
10 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: February 25, 2021

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages, numbers 1 through 88, inclusive, are the true, accurate, and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording made by electronic recording by Nancy H. King before the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

DATE: March 9, 2021

/s/ Nancy H. King  
(Transcriber)

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