

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Texas Department of Motor Vehicles  
Lone Star Room  
4000 Jackson Avenue  
Austin, Texas

9:00 a.m.  
Wednesday,  
June 30, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

Bryan Wilson, Director  
David Richards, General Counsel

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

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- A. Rapid Response Strikeforce (RRS) Grant program awards of FY2021 proposals
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#### MVCPA DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- |     |  |      |
|-----|--|------|
| 8.  | Reports on MVCPA-related activities identified by the Director as noteworthy, which may include reports on:  | 119  |
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| 9.  | Public Comment   | none |
| 10. | EXECUTIVE SESSION<br>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: | none |
|     | A. Section 551.071   |      |
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P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning. My name is Mike  
3 Rodriguez. Can everybody hear me? And I am pleased to  
4 open the meeting of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention  
5 Authority. It is 9:02 a.m. and I am now calling the Board  
6 meeting for June 30, 2021, to order.

7 I want to note for the record that the public  
8 notice for this meeting containing all items on the agenda  
9 was filed with the Office of Secretary of State on  
10 June 22, 2021. Before we begin today's meeting, please  
11 place all cell phones and any other electronic devices you  
12 may have into silent mode.

13 If you wish to address the Authority at today's  
14 meeting, please complete a speaker's card -- I believe  
15 that they are on the table outside -- and identify the  
16 agenda item on which you wish to speak. If it's not an  
17 agenda item, we will take your comments during the public  
18 comment portion of the meeting.

19 When addressing the Board, please state your  
20 name and affiliation for the record. Before we begin  
21 today, I'd like to remind all presenters and those in  
22 attendance of the rules of conduct at our Board meeting.

23 The Board Chair is given authority to supervise  
24 the conduct of meetings. This includes the authority to  
25 determine when a speaker is being disruptive of the

1 meeting or is otherwise violating timing or presentation  
2 rules I just discussed. Disruptive speakers will be given  
3 a warning about disruptive behavior, then removed from the  
4 meeting for any continued disruption.

5 Okay. Agenda Item No. 1A, Roll Call and  
6 Establishment of Quorum. Now, I'd like to have a roll  
7 call of the Board members. Member Salinas?

8 MR. SALINAS: Present.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jones?

10 MAJOR JONES: Present.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gause?

12 MR. GAUSE: Present.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

14 LT. GONZALEZ: Present.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Hunter?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

18 MS. WHITEHILL: Present.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And let the record reflect that  
20 I, Mike Rodriguez, am here too. We have a quorum. Also  
21 let the record -- I'm sorry -- also let the record reflect  
22 that Member Hunter are absent today -- is absent today.  
23 I'm sorry.

24 Agenda Item 1B. Can we stand up for the Pledge  
25 of Allegiance?

1 (Pledges were recited.)

2 (Pause.)

3 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, can we take just a  
4 minute and do a mic check while we have the technicians in  
5 the room? I think they're thinking about leaving quickly,  
6 so before -- can we go to each mic and just ask them to do  
7 a test, a test to make sure each microphone is working?

8 MS. WHITEHILL: Test, test.

9 MR. WILSON: You should be able to sit  
10 comfortably with -- and speak. I mean, having it fairly  
11 close --

12 MALE VOICE: Test, test.

13 MR. WILSON: -- I don't want to, kind of, force  
14 members into always getting right down it. So if you  
15 would, just put it right in front of you for the test and  
16 must speak normally into the thing and see if it's picking  
17 up.

18 So thank you.

19 (Pause for testing audio.)

20 MR. WILSON: All right. I'm sorry to  
21 interrupt.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Oh, no.

23 MR. WILSON: I just felt like we needed to make  
24 sure they do that. I know they're trying to get out of  
25 here quickly, but I just wanted to make sure that they had

1 the opportunity, in case we have problems later.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, we will now move onto  
3 Agenda Item 1C, approval of the February 25, 2021 meeting  
4 transcript as minutes. Do I have a motion to approve the  
5 transcript as minutes?

6 MR. GONZALEZ: I move to accept the minutes.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is there a second?

8 MAJOR JONES: Second.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: When I call your name, please  
10 state your name and if you are in support of the motion,  
11 please state, I support the motion. If you are not in  
12 support of the motion, please state, I do not support the  
13 motion.

14 Member Salinas?

15 MR. SALINAS: I support the motion.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jones?

17 MAJOR JONES: I support the motion.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

19 LT. GONZALEZ: I support the motion.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

21 MS. WHITEHILL: I support the motion.

22 MR. WILSON: Member -- I'm sorry -- Chairman  
23 Rodriguez. I'm sorry to interrupt, but before you call  
24 that, can you move your microphone a little closer? The  
25 sound guys think we're not getting any online audio, and

1 the court reporter cannot hear you at this time. So a  
2 little closer. I'm afraid -- I apologize.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the record reflect that I,  
4 Mike Rodriguez, support. The motion passes.

5 On to Item 1D, comments from Chairman and board  
6 members. I will now move to Item 1D, comments from  
7 Chairman and board members.

8 This is my first meeting as Chairman. I know  
9 that when I spoke to the Texas DMV Board Chairman, he told  
10 me to take this first meeting as practice. So, that's  
11 what I'm trying to do right now. I was reading this and  
12 trying to see how we can handle all the items and reading  
13 from them. So bear with me as we move along.

14 We are now in this new Board that I'm now, you  
15 know, kind of -- want to introduce a couple of new Board  
16 members that we now have, and see if they can -- they  
17 would want to comment on what they're envisioning in this  
18 Board.

19 So Member Julio Gonzalez, Lieutenant from the  
20 Dallas PD, welcome.

21 LT. GONZALEZ: Thank you.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gilberto Salinas?

23 MR. SALINAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm  
24 looking forward to working with this group.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Major Jones?



1 MAJOR JONES: My first day, my first  
2 everything.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So we know Member Gause and  
4 Member Whitehill. They've been with us. I know that  
5 we've been -- it's been back and forth during the  
6 pandemic, as we have not met in person, and now that we  
7 are, you know, it feels great to be back, and I want to  
8 welcome everybody to our Board meeting and make sure that  
9 you -- you know, if you have any questions or if you want  
10 to comment on any item, please feel free to do so.

11 You know, we are -- I want to say, after to  
12 speaking to all the members that we -- that are here  
13 today, we have a very open-door type of policy. You know,  
14 if you want to approach anybody from this Board, please  
15 feel free to do so, and make sure that you address the  
16 concerns that you have and address the questions that you  
17 might want to bring forward.

18 So please do that. We move over to Agenda  
19 Item 1-E.

20 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, can we take a brief  
21 recess?

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, let's do that.

23 MR. WILSON: Okay. Mr. -- Counsel, can we take  
24 a brief recess --

25 MR. RICHARDS: Oh, absolutely --

1 MR. WILSON: -- to work on that?

2 MR. RICHARDS: -- absolutely, sure. Just  
3 announce that we're taking a recess and the time.

4 MR. WILSON: Okay.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. We are taking a 10-  
6 minute recess. The time now is 9:12. We'll be back at  
7 9:22.

8 (A brief recess was taken.)

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. So it's -- well, now,  
10 it's now 9:25, and we're going to continue with our  
11 meeting. I want to thank the Board members for meeting  
12 the statutory requirements of your appointments. Everyone  
13 submitted their required training acknowledgment form  
14 after Director Wilson emailed the electronic version to  
15 you.

16 Remember, this will occur every year and part  
17 of our obligation to serve on the MVPCA is -- I also  
18 appreciate everyone meeting the cybersecurity training  
19 requirements, also part of the state law. Finally, on  
20 compliance issues, today's the deadline to complete your  
21 personal financial disclosure. Director Wilson sent  
22 reminders and you should have received information from  
23 the Texas Ethics Commission.

24 We are saddened by the loss of our former  
25 colleague, Major Justin Owen. It's hard to believe that

1 just two years ago I sat here with him, going over the --  
2 every grant from every city.

3 And he was just a great man, you know, and I  
4 miss him, because you know, he was the type of guy that  
5 you would just call him, and he made sure that he returned  
6 your phone call. I know he was always busy when he was  
7 with DPS, but he made sure that he returned your phone  
8 call.

9 But he was also very, very passionate about,  
10 you know, the MVCPA, ABTPA, and you know, the stolen  
11 vehicle issue that we have in Texas. And he's greatly  
12 missed, and I know that in the book, there is instructions  
13 on how to help his family. I want to ask everyone if  
14 there's something that you can send to his family, would  
15 surely appreciate that, coming from MVCPA.

16 At this time, I want to -- I'm grateful that  
17 Mr. Salinas has agreed to serve on the MVCPA Grant Budget  
18 and Report Committee.

19 I appoint Mr. Salinas today. Are there any  
20 objections, especially from Mr. Salinas?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. SALINAS: Too late.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Too late?

24 MR. SALINAS: It's too late. No. I gladly  
25 accept.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Along the same lines,  
2 Lieutenant Gonzalez has agreed to serve as chairman of the  
3 Insurance Committee. I appoint Lieutenant Gonzalez as  
4 chairman of the Insurance Committee. Are there any  
5 objections?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: In closing, I want to thank the  
8 two former members of the MVCPA Board. Both were very  
9 active participants and very helpful to this  
10 organization. We're going to miss their participation and  
11 service. Thank you, Lieutenant, and Chairman Tommy  
12 Hansen.

13 Lieutenant Hansen, our former MVCPA chairman,  
14 helped start MVCPA, or the Automobile Theft Prevention  
15 Authority, before 1991. He served as an organizer,  
16 mentor, caretaker, commander, and so much more. We are  
17 grateful for his contributions to the entire MVCPA  
18 operation and grantees.

19 We will also miss Mayor Armin Mizani. Mayor  
20 Mizani always provided good thought and always seemed to  
21 ask the right questions. We are glad he was elected mayor  
22 of Keller, but we will miss him -- miss his insight and  
23 the chairman of our Insurance Committee.

24 At this time, I'm going to allow Lieutenant  
25 Tommy Hansen to say a few words for us.

1 LT. HANSEN: A few words is not appropriate.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: A few words, Tom.

3 LT. HANSEN: Can you hear me? All right. We  
4 discussed this with Mike earlier. Thank you for the kind  
5 words, but I wanted to share some thoughts. We have a lot  
6 of new Board members and new staff members, new members of  
7 the task forces.

8 For the record, I'm Lieutenant Tommy Hansen,  
9 Galveston County, and a special good morning to all of you  
10 new Board members and to everyone, especially to Mike. He  
11 and I go way back, and he's the right person for the job.

12 Most of you who know me, however, new to the  
13 program. You're going to still be seeing me around. I'm  
14 not going anywhere -- like a bad penny, I can tell you  
15 that. I've been directly involved with MVCPA, formerly  
16 ABTPA, for 32 years.

17 I've been involved with vehicle theft for 40 of  
18 my 48 years in law enforcement. Also involved with IATI  
19 and TAVTI and the International Marine Investigators,  
20 North American Export -- and the reason I mention those  
21 organizations, through my contact with them, I cannot tell  
22 you, through the years, how many comments I've heard from  
23 around the world about what the people in this room do.

24 I know this was a little boring information,  
25 but I'm going to give it -- I gave it to you anyway. As

1 many of you know, I recently made parole from this  
2 program. However, part of my parole terms is that I'm  
3 going to continue to fight for your money. It's okay.  
4 You can laugh. I did, you know, make parole here.

5 The following are thoughts based on  
6 experiences, both good and bad, and my love and respect  
7 for the people in this room, and if I hurt somebody's  
8 feelings, so be it, all based on history. The MVCPA  
9 started with a concept, being a pipe dream on a yellow  
10 pad, using the first program in Michigan as a role model.

11 At the time, we had limited folks in the state  
12 of Texas with expertise to address a major, growing  
13 problem, auto theft. In 1991, we reached 164,000  
14 thefts. The major cities and DPS were the only major  
15 resources trained to combat this growing problem, with the  
16 exception of a few stragglers like myself.

17 My mother reminded a while back probably why I  
18 got into this business. When I was a kid, I had a Schwinn  
19 Corvette bicycle, and that was my love. I could travel  
20 all over Galveston Island with it. And it got stolen, and  
21 it was found stripped at a building about five blocks from  
22 my mother's house, and apparently, I never got over that.

23 And it was later stolen again. So they gave me  
24 a new bike. And my mother reminds me, that's why I got  
25 into this mess, so just so you'll know that. Okay? It

1 was traumatic, traumatic, traumatic.

2 It was recognized the problem had grown  
3 dramatically statewide and become much more mobile. Joy  
4 riders were one thing of the past. Vehicles were stolen  
5 in one place, chopped up in another, re-tagged in another,  
6 sold in another. Altered parts were stolen in other  
7 locations. It was organized crime and it was statewide.

8 And I'm giving you some of this because I want  
9 you to know, I -- this is the way I feel. To know where  
10 you need to go, you need to know where you've been, and so  
11 this is leading up to my point.

12 Unfortunately, the Legislature again diverted  
13 funds collected for our purpose and failed to appropriate  
14 them to the program. In fact, last session, they passed a  
15 bill to address this, HB 2048. However, this session, the  
16 law was completely ignored.

17 So if I hurt someone's feelings by just stating  
18 the fact, I apologize for that. Having been involved with  
19 the Legislature concerning this program, I've seen  
20 firsthand how this works.

21 As you all know, we've been collecting more and  
22 more funds from the citizens and getting the same or less  
23 each session, since losing dedicated fund status in  
24 1997. We had dedicated fund status when we started, and  
25 we got 100 percent of everything, and we lost that,

1 including the interest, but we lost all of that.

2 Approximately \$400-plus million, according to  
3 my math, \$400 million, plus. That's close to half a  
4 billion dollars collected to combat vehicles crimes --  
5 have been diverted, yet the program of vehicle crimes has  
6 been growing at a dramatic rate.

7 What's old is new again. As I told many  
8 legislators and their staff people, they brag about how  
9 many people are moving to Texas. I've got a news flash  
10 for them and for everybody. These people aren't walking  
11 here.

12 More people, more thieves, more cars, more  
13 thefts. It's not hard to figure out. I'm covering this  
14 because in the near future you all on the Board are going  
15 to have to decide again funding amounts for the task  
16 forces.

17 A little history. In recent years, thefts have  
18 been increasing, yet cost increases -- frozen funds have  
19 caused reductions in task force staffing. Also, DPS no  
20 longer has motor vehicle theft service, thus reducing  
21 resources to address a growing problem. A growing problem  
22 with new world issues: jugging, catalytic converter  
23 thefts, internet scams, and on and on, are added to our  
24 routine thefts and burglary of motor vehicles.

25 I want everybody to sit back and think about



1 what has made this program so successful; it's diversity  
2 and communications. And remember the word,  
3 communications. We cannot try and address this based on  
4 just theft numbers only. We cannot address this on theft  
5 numbers only. Why, you may ask?

6 And I'll tell you why. Because each and every  
7 task force in the state of Texas is very uniquely  
8 different in many ways, geographically, demographically  
9 and many other ways.

10 Each represent a different set of problems and  
11 a different way of dealing with it. Examples: many of  
12 our border task forces don't have massive theft numbers,  
13 but they're tasked on a daily basis with recovered stolens  
14 from throughout the state of Texas, throughout the  
15 country, and abroad.

16 You have areas like mine, Galveston County,  
17 Montgomery County. We connect to the fourth-largest city  
18 in the country. These thefts -- these areas have theft  
19 problems, but a majority of their work is involving thefts  
20 from Houston and Harris County.

21 You have areas like Galveston and Corpus and  
22 Brownsville, and areas that are major tourist areas. You  
23 have those task forces that have ports. You have those  
24 task forces in East Texas that deal with major equipment,  
25 trailers, and ATV thefts. DFW, Amarillo, San Antone,

1 Victoria all serve in unique areas and address many  
2 different areas.

3 I'm going over three minutes, but I'm going to  
4 keep it up, unless you want to have me arrested. I'm  
5 almost done.

6 What has made all of this work is that all of  
7 these programs, from Beaumont to El Paso, and from  
8 Amarillo, have worked as one. Fortunately, unlike our  
9 counterparts in other fields of law enforcement, we talk  
10 to each other and share information. I will leave it at  
11 that.

12 So sometimes thoughts like -- if it ain't  
13 broke, don't fix it, and some things are best left  
14 alone -- if things are based just on theft numbers, you  
15 will be back to 1991 with limited programs, and we'll be  
16 back to what's old is new again, times two.

17 You've also -- look at the agency assist for  
18 any of these task forces, especially those in the more  
19 urban and rural areas, and those where the analysts are  
20 the lifeblood to many small, rural police departments and  
21 sheriffs' offices for assistance at 3:00 in the morning,  
22 or when trying to ID an altered trailer. How many agency  
23 assists are truly and have been a major factor in the  
24 success of this program? Again, that doesn't count as a  
25 theft in your county, but you're providing an invaluable

1 resource.

2 Please remember that many of our task forces  
3 are made up of multiple agencies and gladly serve in  
4 multiple, many jurisdictions outside of those agencies.  
5 Kudos to their home agencies for supporting this concept,  
6 and please keep this in mind. As earlier noted, I've been  
7 involved in this program locally and internationally, and  
8 I know for a fact that, with helping numerous countries,  
9 states have looked at Texas as a role model.

10 Numerous states and countries have created auto  
11 theft prevention authorities, and they've used us as a  
12 role model. Many -- numerous ones. You know why?  
13 Because the people in this room are, without question, the  
14 best in the world at what they do, period, and I mean that  
15 from the bottom of my heart.

16 Back to the funding. As we all know, the world  
17 and many government officials in this country, in this  
18 state, have lost their minds. That's my opinion, just my  
19 personal observation. With that said, we all know that  
20 law enforcement has been under the microscope in dealing  
21 with funding and other matters, that we've never seen  
22 before.

23 What we have all seen already, that areas that  
24 defunded their police immediately saw major increases in  
25 crime, and now face major issues getting law

1 enforcement. To my point, if we cut any of the current  
2 task forces any deeper than we already have, we're going  
3 to go -- they're going to go away. And you will not get  
4 them back.

5 You will not get them back, thus causing more  
6 problems than we already have. And the citizens of the  
7 state of Texas that we serve will take the brunt of this  
8 problem. If you think we had a problem in 1991, just  
9 wait.

10 Please note that you could ask anyone in this  
11 room if they feel that another neighboring task force  
12 down -- or down-the-road task force needs to be cut. You  
13 will hear the answer, no, from all of us. We all depend  
14 on each other on a daily basis, and that's the beauty of  
15 the MVCPA.

16 You also take advantage of how to deal with any  
17 task forces that may have some logistics issues. With  
18 having Joe Canady on staff, you now have the advantage of  
19 having a staff member that has walked in the shoes of  
20 everybody in this room and can relate and remedy any  
21 issues. Congratulations, Joey.

22 I felt that I needed to share these thoughts  
23 and comments with the new members of the Board and MVCPA,  
24 the new members of our task forces. We have discussed  
25 several directions for a long-term fix. However, that

1 will take a lot of work, in the off-season reference,  
2 making some changes, like focusing on the dedicated  
3 account status.

4 We are the best-kept secret in Texas. We are  
5 the best-kept secret in Texas, and we need to fix that.  
6 It will take the effort of every person in this room. It  
7 will take every person in this room meeting with their  
8 legislators. But many of you are tired of hearing me say  
9 that, but the truth hurts.

10 Before ending, I'm also -- I also have a letter  
11 that was written to the Governor, but I'll save that or  
12 I'll get copies to you, but it covers a lot of this  
13 stuff. But I'll make one comment on that letter.

14 God bless you all. I'm here for any of you.  
15 And Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me to have this  
16 time to share with you.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Thank you, Tommy.

18 LT. HANSEN: We recently wrote a letter on  
19 behalf of TAVTI to the Governor's Office, directly to the  
20 Governor, and it covered virtually a lot of stuff that  
21 we've already talked about, but it got more into the  
22 increase in the fees from a dollar to two dollars, and  
23 this and that. And I heard back from his staff, and I'll  
24 leave it at that.

25 But they have all this -- all this was sent to

1 them. But I will say this on that, there's no way in my  
2 heart, in my heart, am I convinced that Governor Abbott  
3 knows the details of what's going on with this  
4 organization and your funding. And I would hope that some  
5 time we can address that in the future.

6 Thank you very much for your time.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Tommy. Okay. Well,  
8 I will now move to congratulate the retired task force  
9 members. I'm going to call their name. Rhonda Jackson  
10 from Houston PD. She was an administrative assistant.  
11 She retired May 31, 2021, after 23 years of service.

12 Shane Stone, Paris Police Department. He was a  
13 commander, promoted to sergeant in the Patrol Division.  
14 From the Patrol Division, June 23, 2021, 11 years of  
15 service with the Northeast Texas Auto Theft Task Force.  
16 Joe Ray Joines, warden, county SO investigator, retired  
17 November 2021, nine years of service with Sheriff's  
18 Combined Auto Theft Task Force.

19 Armando Gurrola, El Paso Police Department  
20 field officer, transferred to the Fusion Center December  
21 2020, 10 plus years with the El Paso Auto Theft Task  
22 Force. Maricela Ruiz, El Paso Police Department office  
23 assistant, retired December 2020, served as senior office  
24 assistant, 30 years with El Paso Police Department, 12  
25 plus years with El Paso Auto Theft Task Force.

1 Emilio Martinez, El Paso Police Department  
2 investigator, retired December 2020, 30 years with El Paso  
3 Police Department, 12 plus years with El Paso Auto Theft  
4 Task Force. Victor Mijares, El Paso Police Department  
5 field officer, retired January 2021, 28 years, El Paso  
6 Police Department, 10 plus years with El Paso Auto Theft  
7 Task Force.

8 Is Commander Porras here? No?

9 MR. WILSON: He might be online.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: He might be online? There's a  
11 lot of El Paso Police Department members.

12 I want to take this opportunity to see if we  
13 can introduce some of the commanders that are here  
14 today. I know Major Jones is new to the Board, and I  
15 would greatly appreciate it if some of you can stand up  
16 and introduce yourselves to the members, so they can know  
17 which commanders are from what auto theft task force.

18 Whomever is in the room, can you please stand  
19 up and introduce yourselves?

20 LT. LINT: Lieutenant Lint, I'm with the REACT  
21 unit out of San Antonio, Texas. Lieutenant in charge about  
22 a year and a half now.

23 LT. FUENTES: Gerardo Fuentes, Eagle Pass  
24 Police Department. I'm a police lieutenant currently  
25 assigned to assist the auto theft task force.

1           LT. TULEY: Lieutenant Mark Tuley, Corpus  
2 Christi PD, Auto Theft Task Force. I've been with them  
3 for about a year.

4           LT. STINEHOUR: Lieutenant Howard Stinehour,  
5 Heart of Texas Auto Theft Task Force, Burnet County.  
6 Covers from the Waco area all the way back [inaudible].

7           LT. RICHBURG: Lieutenant Kenneth Richburg with  
8 DPS. I'm the commander for the East Texas Auto Theft Task  
9 Force.

10          LT. HARRELL: Lieutenant Jim Harrell. I'm with  
11 the Tri-County Auto Theft Task Force.

12          CPT. CARTER-BASS: Captain Sheila Carter-  
13 Bass. I'm with Dallas County Auto Theft Task Force. I  
14 have Sergeant Brett Jennings with me. He's my Sergeant.

15          LT. YAÑEZ: Lieutenant Ruben Yañez, Laredo PD  
16 Auto Theft Task Force. Been here for about four years  
17 now.

18          SGT. TARRANT: Sergeant Neil Tarrant. I'm with  
19 the Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft Task Force outside of  
20 Travis County.

21          LT. SANCHEZ: John Sanchez, Lieutenant with  
22 Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery County Auto  
23 Theft Task Force.

24          LT. MILLER: Lieutenant Brian Miller with the  
25 Auto Theft Division, with Austin PD.



1 MR. MOLLEUR: Hello, I'm Brian Molleur with the  
2 Austin PD, Task Force Commander.

3 LT. BARROW: Hal Barrow, Galveston County,  
4 Lieutenant Commander.

5 LT. STRINGFELLOW: Lieutenant Kendric  
6 Stringfellow, HPD. Houston Auto Crimes Task Force.

7 MS. HITZMAN: Dana Hitzman, the Commander of  
8 the Auto Theft Division for Houston PD.

9 MR. CLEMENTS: Doug Clements, South Plains Auto  
10 Theft Task Force out of Lubbock.

11 MR. SUDAN: And lastly, Bryan Sudan, Tarrant  
12 Regional Auto Crimes Task Force.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Commanders. Okay.  
14 At this time, any comments from the Board members?

15 MS. WHITEHILL: I would just like to thank you  
16 each of you for all the work that you're doing, and you  
17 guys have a tough job, even tougher than it ever has  
18 been. So thank you all so much, and thank you for being  
19 here today.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. We will now move  
21 to -- onto briefing and action items. We will now take up  
22 Agenda Item No. 2, Discuss Fiscal Year 2022-2023  
23 Legislative Appropriations from 87th Legislature, and  
24 impact on funding grant and other statutory requirements.

25 Mr. Wilson?

1 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This  
2 is -- for the record, my name is Bryan Wilson. I'm the  
3 Director of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority.

4 I direct your attention to the Board book. I  
5 will say that you were given an electronic version early  
6 on, and then we have a yellow version in front of you  
7 today.

8 There's been some slight modifications.  
9 There's no changes in pages, but there was a few items  
10 that were added after the fact. So the book in front of  
11 you, if you -- you might have already made notes on your  
12 electronic copy that you printed out, but from time to  
13 time, you'll have to check the page number, but most of  
14 the content is the same.

15 I did have to correct some -- a couple  
16 documents that we found errors in, and then added a little  
17 bit of content. I try not to do that usually, but we were  
18 moving along pretty fast on this one. So -- but we always  
19 try to have you, at least the weekend and the several days  
20 in front of the meeting -- when we give you the book, and  
21 it's usually locked in at that time, but I felt this time  
22 there was -- there were enough things moving around on us,  
23 that I needed to make sure that we had some corrections  
24 included.

25 Okay. So on the bottom of page -- or if you'll

1 turn in your book to page 16, the numbered version. So  
2 some pages, I want to warn you, will have the -- like,  
3 it's a document, and it will be a six-page document. So  
4 sometimes you'll see two page numbers. I will typically  
5 be referring to the smaller number in the bottom, right-  
6 hand corner, for the book pages.

7 And what -- before I move on, Mr. Chairman,  
8 just allow me a little bit of room, I want to echo what  
9 Member Whitehill said, to thank you every day for what you  
10 do for your communities, for the state of Texas. We can't  
11 ever thank you enough. You put it on the line, and we're  
12 always grateful.

13 My staff and myself are here thinking about the  
14 risks that you're taking when we're trying to figure out  
15 what to do next and how to support you the best we can.  
16 Sometimes we feel like -- it sounds like you're talking to  
17 a jerk at the other end, but I promise you, we're always  
18 trying to figure out how to make the system better for  
19 you. So thank you. But thank you, Mr. Chairman, for  
20 allowing me that indiscretion, if it will.

21 All right. So going to page 16, I wanted to  
22 share with you what the Finance Department -- and the copy  
23 from the Appropriations Act that was recently passed by  
24 the 87th Legislature. So the MVCPA, while it has its own  
25 Governor-appointed Board, it is -- it does not have a

1 separate appropriation. It is given a line item within  
2 the Texas DMV appropriation.

3 So, this is the way it reads. I didn't pull  
4 the whole thing in, but this is -- our line that's  
5 dedicated to this purpose, that you have some fiscal  
6 control over, is -- and as the statute says, by and  
7 through the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, is the  
8 \$14.9 million.

9 And so the other thing is, there's a continued  
10 rider that this Board -- the Board members previously had  
11 fought -- not fought, but we had really advocated strongly  
12 to have the unexpended balance, because unlike direct  
13 expenditure State agencies, the MVCPA is a grant  
14 organization. And so we give out money, and if an entity  
15 does not fully utilize that money, it would go to the  
16 State Treasury when it didn't get spent.

17 So what we requested and received, and DMV as  
18 well, was through a special request that became part of  
19 law at this time, is the unexpended balance. You'll hear  
20 that -- we call it UB, or unexpended balance. So each  
21 year within a biennium, there's two years of a budget, and  
22 so the unexpended balance is whatever we don't spend in  
23 the first year, comes back into the program for  
24 reallocation.

25 And we talked about that in February, because

1 we had about 200,000 that came forward that was not spent,  
2 that -- the amount not spent by the grantees in the first  
3 year. So the example, real quick, is -- if we give a  
4 grantee \$400,000 and somebody retires or they can't spend  
5 all their supplies and DOE money, then they might end up  
6 with \$20,000 in their grant. We've obligated it. We  
7 can't re-obligate it.

8 But once it goes through UB or unexpended  
9 balance, then we have that other \$20,000 to spend in the  
10 following year of the biennium. This is just to catch  
11 everybody up. I know y'all are busy with your daily  
12 lives, so from time to time, if I'm a little remedial,  
13 please bear with me.

14 I just want to make sure our new members  
15 understand the concept of UB authority. So we do have  
16 that rider continued into this new year.

17 And then the other thing that was over -- and I  
18 believe it was Section 7 -- was in the last two sessions,  
19 or certainly in the last session -- yeah, the last two  
20 sessions. The Legislature, in giving us the appropriation  
21 that they had given us, they earmarked a specific amount,  
22 a specific dollar amount in Article 9, at the back of the  
23 budget, saying, the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention  
24 Authority -- I think the first year was, like, \$6.8  
25 million.

1           So of the money appropriated, you had to spend  
2 a specific amount for border and port security. So it had  
3 to go in the definition in the statute of what a border  
4 and port security was. So out of the \$12.9 million, or  
5 actually, it was 25.6, every biennium, you had to -- the  
6 first year, in the 85th Legislature, you had to dedicate  
7 \$6.8 million to border security.

8           And in the last session, they raised it to 10.8  
9 for the biennium. That has been removed. The amount has  
10 been removed, but not the responsibility of border and  
11 port security.

12           We -- most of our officers are the only ones  
13 trained to actually be able to identify a stolen  
14 vehicle. I like the joke about the time the three -- a  
15 DPS trooper from Laredo, that works with Laredo, and two  
16 agents came to Dallas a few years ago for a fraud  
17 conference, and they recovered three vehicles in the hotel  
18 parking lot while they were there.

19           It's, kind of, like, okay. But it wasn't  
20 Dallas. It was some city close to Dallas, and there's so  
21 many of them, I forgot their name. Sorry if that hurts  
22 anybody's feelings. But it wasn't the city of Dallas. I  
23 just want to be clear, because your guys are trained.

24           So the -- but it was kind of funny that -- it  
25 was, like, wow. I mean, these guys know how to find a

1 stolen car really quick. So all right.

2 So then moving on to page 17, so the border  
3 security amount is gone, but the responsibility is  
4 there. Then 17 is just making sure that this Board is  
5 aware that the first payment of our collections system was  
6 \$51 million, over \$51 million, almost \$52 million.

7 So while the Legislature was in session,  
8 unfortunately, they decided not to follow the statutory  
9 requirement in Transportation Code 1006, to award 20  
10 percent. If they had, when we get to the end of this  
11 year, this fiscal year, we'll have collected over  
12 \$102 million, but our appropriations will be way below the  
13 20 percent. Even though we're grateful for the 14.9, I do  
14 want to remind this Board that the Legislature continues  
15 to not follow the statute for 20 percent.

16 Okay. That's all. That's the report.

17 Now, as part of this process, I do want to say,  
18 Mr. Chairman, that after the Legislature and after the  
19 appropriation was completed for the current and future  
20 biennium, there's another \$200,000 that is remaining  
21 unbudgeted in our account. So I'm going to ask the Board  
22 to consider moving that \$200,000 into the grants line  
23 item.

24 We only have until the end of this fiscal year,  
25 August 31, 2021, to obligate and/or spend that money,

1 depending on different mechanisms that we have available  
2 to us. So for today, I'm requesting that the Board  
3 consider placing that 200,000 in the grants line of our  
4 budget.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, are there any  
6 questions for Director Wilson?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Would anyone like to make a  
9 motion? Members, please state your name clearly for the  
10 record and your motion.

11 MR. GAUSE: Chairman, Shay Gause. I'd move  
12 that the \$200,000 Mr. Wilson mentioned be added to the  
13 grants line for 2022 -- or fiscal year '21. Sorry.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is there a second?

15 MAJOR JONES: Second.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will now call for a vote.  
17 Members, when I call your name, please state your name for  
18 the record and whether you support the motion or you do  
19 not support the motion.

20 Member Salinas?

21 MR. SALINAS: I support.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jones?

23 MAJOR JONES: Sharon Jones. Support.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

25 LT. GONZALEZ: Julio Gonzalez. Support.



1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

2 MS. WHITEHILL: Kit Whitehill. Support.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Hunter is absent.

4 Member Gause?

5 MR. GAUSE: Member Gause. Support.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the record reflect that I,  
7 Mike Rodriguez, support the motion. Motion passes.

8 We'll move on to Agenda Item 3, Discuss and  
9 Consider the FY2022-2023 Taskforce grant process and  
10 method(s) to determine grant awards to include A through  
11 F.

12 Mr. -- Director Wilson?

13 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bryan  
14 Wilson, for the record. I just wanted to discuss -- this  
15 next section is heavy lift, but it's a section -- and it's  
16 really the reason we called this meeting -- is because we  
17 talked in February, and I realize not everybody was here  
18 in February. But we talked about the new Texas GMS  
19 standards adopted by the Comptroller that shores up -- so  
20 for decades -- I started with the State in 1996 -- in 1977  
21 or '75, there was a law called, the Texas Uniform Grant  
22 and Contract Management Act, and states have been  
23 following that.

24 And it required the Governor's Office to  
25 publish out a set of rules that all State grants must

1 follow. When we -- in '96, I served on the ad hoc  
2 committee with George Bush's administration to rewrite  
3 those codes. It was then adopted again in 2004 with some  
4 modifications.

5 But it moved over to the Comptroller's Office  
6 in the last, I think -- about four sessions ago. And the  
7 Comptroller has now issued a new standard, a set of new  
8 standards, that looks a lot like the other one, but it  
9 does have some very, very big distinctions.

10 We've talked about, for instance, in February  
11 that in the past this Board has chosen to allow DPS staff  
12 to be used as part of the cash match, what we called, in  
13 lieu of. That is prohibited under the new standards  
14 adopted by the Comptroller. So we are subject to the  
15 Comptroller's authority as a State agency.

16 Another example I gave you in February was, in  
17 the past, what has happened is -- if the -- just say, in  
18 2010, MVCPA, or ABTPA at the time, authorized a grantee to  
19 purchase a vehicle, and so it's just -- making up a  
20 number -- 20,000, and the vehicle was sold, what the --  
21 this Board will allow it to do is to put that -- say, it  
22 was sold for \$10,000, you know, six or eight years  
23 later. That \$10,000 would go into the generated program  
24 income account and be used for the purchase of the new  
25 program or to augment existing programs. That's no longer

1 allowed.

2 What is generated program income, from here on  
3 out, is only going to be the seizure of assets or when  
4 they generate the \$40 expense for the inspection fee.  
5 From now on, when they sell a state asset, they will  
6 either have to reduce the amount of the grant payment for  
7 that quarter or they'll have to trade that vehicle in with  
8 a direct compensation to the new vehicle. So now, it's a  
9 separate -- it's separate to allow this new system.

10 So those are examples of these new standards.  
11 So as we move through this next section, I'm just kind of  
12 catching you up for those that weren't here in February --  
13 that we -- this Board -- the new rules don't go into  
14 effect until January 1, 2022.

15 This Board is issuing grants as of September 1,  
16 2021. And so what that would mean, as we discussed in  
17 February, is if we don't go ahead and adopt them to start  
18 off the new grant year, we would have grant fiscal  
19 officers and grant folks trying to manage two sets of  
20 rules. And we've said that was unacceptable.

21 We'll have one set of rules. We'll go ahead  
22 and implement the Texas GMS standards adopted by the  
23 Comptroller, effective September 1. So from now till the  
24 end of the year, the FY '21 grants are being managed under  
25 the uniform grant management standards. September 1, the

1 new -- we'll start with the other.

2           Again, I'm sorry to be remedial. But this is  
3 extremely important as we move into this meeting and into  
4 the next meeting, because if you don't -- if we don't have  
5 a common agreement or understanding of that, it's going to  
6 be very difficult to see where we are, as you make  
7 decisions, or if I'm asking you to make decisions.

8           So as we talk about the next year grant cycle  
9 that starts on September 1, the FY '22 grants, I have put  
10 on the -- in page 19 -- my eyes are getting old. I  
11 guess -- I think that says, 19. Yessenia, you're going to  
12 have to use a bigger font next time, please.

13           So this is the -- this is your legal authority  
14 to issue grants. It's Transportation Code 1006.154, and  
15 it says that you can provide financial support to law  
16 enforcement agencies for economic motor vehicle theft and  
17 fraud-related motor vehicle crime enforcement teams.

18           And it says it -- somewhere in here, I think it  
19 says that you'll distribute funds primarily based on the  
20 incidence of these crimes. So here's your authorizing  
21 statute to issue a grant, and there's several things on  
22 this list.

23           And then the other thing is that this was  
24 added, if you printed off your own book. So at the bottom  
25 of page 19, I went ahead and put in the relevant section

1 of the Texas GMS standards I was telling you about a  
2 minute ago that go into effect January, but we're going to  
3 apply them.

4 So this is where -- it is the -- under the  
5 Comptroller's guidance, it is the responsibility of this  
6 Board to ensure transparency, objectivity and integrity of  
7 the grantee selection process. So this is -- again, this  
8 is just boundaries, if you will, to make sure that  
9 everybody understands on this Board what your  
10 responsibility is before the State of Texas, and your role  
11 in this.

12 So to do that, if you'll turn over to page 20,  
13 we look at different ways of allocating funds. So -- and  
14 this -- I'm just highlighting some things for you to  
15 consider before we get to the next grant award meeting --  
16 is that we have a statutory authority beyond this section.

17 And so if you -- that previous section, I told  
18 you -- like, one of the items was -- we prevent stolen  
19 motor vehicles from entering Mexico. So if somebody comes  
20 to us and says, oh, well, we want to fight gangs with this  
21 money. We want to fight drugs with this money. We want  
22 to fight noble things, but again, back to your statutory  
23 authority, if somebody's using a stolen vehicle to haul  
24 drugs, then it's within your area.

25 If it's -- if you want to just do drug work, or

1 you know, drug investigations, that's outside of your  
2 area. And General Counsel, correct me if I'm wrong, but  
3 I'm just trying to make sure that we stay on the same  
4 page.

5 So here's an example. Anybody who's been on  
6 the border in the last few years knows that there's a lot  
7 of police presence and a lot of law enforcement, various  
8 law enforcement presence. There's lots of cameras.  
9 There's lots of things going on.

10 And so we look at some of the large cities,  
11 like Laredo, El Paso, Hidalgo, Cameron. You know, you've  
12 got McAllen. I named counties, but there's cities within  
13 that, or pretty good-sized cities.

14 And yet, look at the number for the entire --  
15 for the -- at least our grantees make up less than 2  
16 percent -- or less than 3 percent, excuse me -- of the  
17 thefts. So clearly, when you're talking about grant  
18 allocations and grant awards, if you do it primarily based  
19 on the incidence of motor vehicle theft, as the statute  
20 says, you would discount a lot of large jurisdictions that  
21 have a very important role to play in this process.

22 I know at this point, I'm pretty much all  
23 talking head, but I ask you to bear with me and stop me  
24 and ask any questions that you have as we go forward.  
25 Because it really would be helpful if you have questions

1 to go ahead and interject them as we look at this  
2 information, because this is one of the hardest lifts that  
3 I have every two years, is to make sure that the Board  
4 fully understands.

5 And a lot of times we do this -- in the  
6 meeting, we're trying to do the award, and it's just,  
7 like, whoa, too much. So I thank Chairman Rodriguez for  
8 setting this meeting where we could try to get on the same  
9 page before we have to make selections.

10 So going back to this page on 19, so you know,  
11 I know that's commentary, the middle line in there, where  
12 I said, there's only one way that I know of to stop a  
13 vehicle from going into Mexico, and -- a stolen motor  
14 vehicle. Again, we're -- when I -- sometimes I'll say,  
15 vehicles, but I want to be clear: I'm only talking about  
16 stolen vehicles. I don't care what people do with their  
17 own cars.

18 But as far as I know, there's only one  
19 mechanism to affect this process. We see that where we  
20 have ports and borders, we are doing a lot of prevention,  
21 of keeping a stolen vehicle from going into Mexico. Could  
22 we do more? Could -- you know, do we target funding?

23 Do we give scoring allocations for saying,  
24 well, if you're -- what was it -- in El Paso, it's a city  
25 of, I think, a million two or something like that -- a

1 million. They have only had 500 -- and I don't mean that  
2 bad, because if you're the guy that got his car stolen --  
3 but if there's 566 stolen vehicles, but their recoveries  
4 are out the wazoo, because most cars stolen in -- I mean,  
5 in New Mexico, in Albuquerque, are trying to be crossed  
6 in -- through El Paso. So they do a significant business  
7 of trying to stop those vehicles.

8 We'll talk -- I have another chart later that  
9 will talk about the recoveries that they're making way  
10 outside their scope. In other words, the size of that  
11 agency, their recoveries are quite astounding.

12 So I guess the main thing -- I don't really  
13 have a motion for this part about how you would determine  
14 ahead of time if the statute says it's primarily based on  
15 the incidence of motor vehicle theft, motor vehicle  
16 burglary and fraud-related motor vehicle crime, but I need  
17 y'all to think about -- and if you have questions, that we  
18 talk about what other things that should be included in  
19 our evaluation and scoring criteria, as we move forward.

20 Kind of, going to the -- go ahead.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So there is a -- some -- two  
22 registration forms filled out --

23 MR. WILSON: On this issue?

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- on this issue.

25 MR. WILSON: Okay.



1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I'm going to allow them to  
2 speak.

3 MR. WILSON: That's a good idea. Thank you.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That way -- and then we can  
5 have a conversation amongst us, and then we can have  
6 input. Commander Bass from Dallas County?

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Sheila Carter?

8 CPT. CARTER-BASS: I don't want to speak.  
9 Thank you.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: You don't want to speak on  
11 this? Okay.

12 We've got Tommy.

13 LT. HANSEN: I've already said my piece. Thank  
14 you very much.

15 MR. WILSON: I didn't know we were getting  
16 economy.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All right. So now I'll open it  
18 up for the Board members to ask questions to you.

19 Lieutenant Gonzalez, any questions for the  
20 Director?

21 LT. GONZALEZ: No, sir.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gause?

23 MR. GAUSE: None at the moment.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. And I want to, you know,  
25 follow up on the issue with the border, since -- you know,

1 on that. These numbers are a result of target hardening  
2 of these areas. And I can tell you that these numbers,  
3 you know, are good numbers for those communities, just  
4 because they're low, very low numbers for the amount of --  
5 the population that each of these communities have.

6 But I do want to say that the reason for these  
7 low numbers is also because every city that -- every  
8 county that is mentioned here has multiple resources to  
9 attack the problem that we have at the border, and with  
10 our task forces there, the one thing that they look after  
11 is the nexus to auto theft. So you've got -- I want to  
12 say, you've got DPS in the perimeters. You've got  
13 sheriff's office in the perimeters.

14 You've got city police officers inside the area  
15 of responsibility, attacking the problem, either --  
16 whether it's drugs, whether it's auto theft, whether it's  
17 burglary of a vehicle. But everyone in those communities  
18 has multiple resources, and I'm talking, federal and state  
19 resources to attack this problem.

20 But it doesn't -- the fact doesn't go away that  
21 a lot of these vehicles are being -- are coming from  
22 Dallas, from Houston, from San Antonio, from Austin. And  
23 that's something that we need to find a solution to,  
24 because at the end of the day, the theft happens here, and  
25 when it gets to Laredo, they get charged there, and the

1 resources are used there.

2 But it makes a difference, because when they're  
3 using these vehicles to smuggle bodies, the operation of a  
4 stash house is a Class A misdemeanor, as opposed to  
5 unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, which is a felony, or  
6 motor vehicle theft. So it's -- there's a difference.

7 Smuggling of persons is also -- it's harder to  
8 have probable cause to arrest for smuggling of persons,  
9 when the person runs and does, you know, all other things  
10 along the border. As opposed to finding somebody with a  
11 stolen vehicle or a clone vehicle and arresting them for  
12 that offense. So sometimes when we encounter those with  
13 Homeland Security that are doing the same investigation as  
14 the sheriff's office or -- I'm sorry -- with DEA or FBI,  
15 they'd rather get him on a stolen vehicle charge and then  
16 continue the investigation as to what organization is  
17 bringing those vehicles, stolen vehicles, to do that  
18 crime.

19 So there's a lot of work that happens, but I  
20 want to say, we do need to sit down and find out how we  
21 can attack the problem in the major cities, Austin,  
22 Houston, Dallas, you know, where all these vehicles -- and  
23 then the major problem is right now -- and I want to --  
24 I'll repeat it again. I've said it before. The  
25 Panhandle, Lubbock, Odessa, Amarillo. You know, those are

1 bigger problems that we have with this -- with stolen  
2 vehicles.

3 So there's a lot to talk about, and I want to  
4 say that, yes, numbers do say a lot, but when it comes to  
5 the work that the commanders here and the task forces are  
6 doing, it is very different. So we've got to look at all  
7 those issues in those specific communities and make sure  
8 that we fund them with whatever we -- what we have right  
9 now.

10 Whether it's 14 million or 15 million, we fund  
11 them as much as we can, so we can help in the support and  
12 trying to bring -- and reduce the numbers of stolen  
13 vehicles.

14 MR. WILSON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Mr.  
15 Chairman. This is Bryan Wilson for the record. If I --  
16 may I go ahead and move on to the next item? It's an  
17 action item.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Please go ahead.

19 MR. WILSON: All right. So in this next  
20 section that's in your book, starting on page 21 and 22,  
21 for the last -- so I guess it was 2014, right before I  
22 started. The Board adopted a needs scale to determine and  
23 to discharge certain grant applications that was based at  
24 the time entirely on DPS data.

25 So this was the portion of our -- or a big part

1 of this needs scale had both objective and subjective  
2 criteria. And so -- but through changes that -- ordered  
3 by the federal government in NIBRS, the county-wide data  
4 in a lot of places is no longer available.

5 One of the things that we moved away from was  
6 the local jurisdictions providing their own information  
7 and their own content and context for that grant award  
8 review. And so we went to part context.

9 In other words, a grantee could write their  
10 section about what they thought was important, but it also  
11 provided a place where we could go to DPS and have  
12 ironclad data that these jurisdictions -- and remember.  
13 Who's reporting, right? It's -- who's reporting to DPS.  
14 DPS isn't sitting there just making up numbers. The local  
15 agencies, as they arrest, are reporting to DPS.

16 But the federal government has made some pretty  
17 big changes in the National Incident-Based Crime Reporting  
18 System. And what they did is, they declassified or -- and  
19 Major Jones, you can help me out.

20 But they de-prioritized a lot of lesser crimes  
21 to really focus on more severe crimes, as we have -- most  
22 people that are in criminal justice or know about criminal  
23 justice -- there are six major index crimes. And I'm not  
24 going to try to name them, even though I used to work on  
25 them all the time in graduate school. It's been a few

1 years for me.

2 So -- but there's six major index crimes. And  
3 then there's other crimes that the government focuses  
4 on. The federal government directs states and provides  
5 funding and assistance to focus on for -- because of their  
6 importance.

7 Maybe they're not a major crime. Human  
8 trafficking is one of them, I think, recently added to DPS  
9 crime in Texas. I think rape was -- it was part of  
10 assault. It was pulled out as kind of a separate count.  
11 So those are just some examples.

12 So this bigger system that's going on around  
13 us. And so what I'm asking in this next -- these next two  
14 pages is for -- at least, the needs section, because  
15 remember, that first thing I showed you, that we issue  
16 funds primarily based on the incidence of certain kinds of  
17 crime that are under our statutory authority.

18 So for the needs section, I'm asking this Board  
19 to consider allowing me to modify the previously adopted  
20 schedule, to change -- we will rely on motor vehicle  
21 theft, because that's the hard data. That's an index  
22 crime, and that's what we can get from DPS by county, to  
23 make sure that that is available to us.

24 But on the others, what we're going to rely  
25 more on is what's reported in the grant application

1       itself, and the context. So what you see here on, like,  
2       the -- page 21 is what's there now. There's four, five,  
3       six and seven.

4               And what I'm asking us to switch to is the -- I  
5       apologize. There's two sections missing out of here. So  
6       what -- the other part of this was the statute had  
7       provided -- since we adopted the standard, fraud-related  
8       motor vehicle crime was added.

9               And I see that that's now out of the book, and  
10       I apologize for that. Is it there?

11              MR. PRICE: [inaudible].

12              MR. WILSON: Okay, okay. All right. Sorry.  
13       Over-60 eyes. Okay. So right. The four -- number four  
14       would be changed to a subjective item. Number five would  
15       still rely on motor vehicle theft, DPS county-wide data,  
16       as an objective measure.

17              Number six would allow the grantee to provide  
18       context, contextual responses or information about the  
19       significance. So what Chairman Rodriguez just said a  
20       minute ago -- where, well, we might have a lower auto  
21       theft rate today, but there's a whole -- another nexus of  
22       things going on with stolen vehicles, and that was my  
23       point.

24              That was my point. And then that's where -- so  
25       then in this case, we would also -- so that six, where

1 they would put the explanation about the other things that  
2 are going on in their jurisdiction with the motor  
3 vehicle -- stolen motor vehicles.

4 And then number seven would be adding the motor  
5 vehicle -- fraud-related motor vehicle crime. I'm sorry,  
6 guys. I'm still getting used to that. After a year, it's  
7 still a tough one to spit out. We need to come up with a  
8 good -- what do you call it -- acronym for that, but when  
9 I read the letters out, it doesn't sound good.

10 So all right. So this is an action item. I'm  
11 requesting -- since the Board had adopted the previous  
12 needs schedule, I'm asking for the authority to change the  
13 needs schedule in the -- this is -- I just want to say,  
14 this is programmed into our grant analysis and review  
15 system.

16 So if we don't make the -- if the Board doesn't  
17 approve the change, then we can't do it in the online  
18 system. So --

19 MR. GAUSE: Mr. Wilson -- is it okay for  
20 questions now, Chair?

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Yes. Go ahead.

22 MR. GAUSE: All right. Thank you. So I  
23 certainly follow the idea of change, the benefit here. A  
24 couple of questions on page 22, and the first one is  
25 Section 5 on motor vehicle thefts, and it's a 21 scale.



1 Is that just a typo on the 10 points from jurisdiction for  
2 a section?

3 MR. WILSON: Yes. I'm sorry. That -- we were  
4 adjusting the score, and that was -- I'm sorry. I missed  
5 that. But yes. So 20 points is the category or the -- I  
6 guess, the box. And then it should say, 20 points, if the  
7 jurisdiction is in the top 20 counties.

8 MR. GAUSE: Got it.

9 MR. WILSON: So --

10 MR. GAUSE: And then the other question is  
11 really where -- sorry, where there is a range of points  
12 available. So zero to 15, zero to four. Does that help  
13 in the scoring, having such variation, or is it --

14 MR. WILSON: Well, that's a really good  
15 question, because under the current adopted schedule, if a  
16 jurisdiction is at the lowest end of the -- I'm just going  
17 to pick on the one that will -- you know, like, if you  
18 look over the next page, and let's just look at -- I  
19 think -- what's the last -- if you'll look on page 28,  
20 you'll see the little, old Loving County is at a 546 theft  
21 rate.

22 MR. GAUSE: Okay.

23 MR. WILSON: So -- but if you'll look to the  
24 column for how many vehicles were stolen in FY '20, the  
25 per capita theft rate is one of the highest in the

1 state. They're in the top 20, almost probably the top 10,  
2 for Loving County, but how many vehicles were stolen?

3 So if Loving County comes in and applies for a  
4 \$200,000 grant, they would not qualify for a \$200,000  
5 grant. They would qualify for zero, because anything  
6 below 15, under the current Board system, would be  
7 automatically excluded from being considered for a grant.

8 So that's kind of a perverse example, but  
9 that's what the -- when the Board was trying to adopt the  
10 scale, they were trying to kick out the ones that you  
11 really shouldn't even consider. I mean, we've literally  
12 had people that have, in the past -- that had two burglary  
13 of a motor vehicle that resulted in about \$1,000 worth of  
14 damage and loss, and they asked us for \$60,000 to buy  
15 carts to patrol the school district parking lot.

16 So we're trying to -- the reason those -- once  
17 you get below a certain threshold, it's intended -- or at  
18 least, the current system is intended to just exclude  
19 people below 15. So it doesn't matter if you've got zero,  
20 one or 15; it's not a grant that we should be looking at.

21 MR. GAUSE: So it would be easier just to have  
22 one score or the other?

23 MR. WILSON: It could be, but it just -- you  
24 could just -- I could just say, let -- I was following the  
25 template and obviously not very well, if I -- you already

1 found a typo, but that aside, I was just trying to follow  
2 what -- and remember, this got adopted before I got here.

3 So I was just trying to, kind of, follow the  
4 pattern, making as few changes as possible, and the  
5 pattern is already programmed into our system. Again,  
6 that's -- there's a whole bunch of programming behind  
7 this.

8 So I don't want to throw curve balls at the  
9 program or at the last minute. So these are pretty easy  
10 changes. He's actually already done the programming.  
11 We're ready to move forward. If y'all approve it, then  
12 we'll turn it on before the grants start coming in.

13 So --

14 MAJOR JONES: Sharon Jones, for the record.  
15 The scoring system, where did that come from? How was it  
16 developed?

17 MR. WILSON: It was before I got here. It  
18 was -- I believe that Mr. Richards might have recollection  
19 of it, but I think it was a process when there was some  
20 negative audit findings and some process with the previous  
21 administration.

22 They went through DMV, and the Board at that  
23 time went through a process to examine how the grant score  
24 was developed. They developed some templates with some  
25 mathematicians, some little layers there that we've worked

1 through with the Board over the years.

2 But the scoring system was built off of that,  
3 prior to my coming here. So --

4 MAJOR JONES: And is it effective for today's  
5 usage? I don't want us to use just because it's been here  
6 forever. I want to make sure that it's fair and it works.

7 MR. WILSON: Okay. I think, given the  
8 statutory authority, this is the one part of the scoring  
9 system I've always advocated for. There's always room for  
10 discussion around the margins about where the cut-off  
11 should be.

12 I mean, I think most of us would say -- and  
13 again, I was just making up a really wild example. But if  
14 Loving County came in and asked for \$200,000 for one motor  
15 vehicle theft, I think all of us would agree that that  
16 really shouldn't be a serious consideration. And the  
17 system shouldn't spit that out.

18 It should say, that's not necessary. The  
19 problem is when you get into some of these others, in that  
20 same list, that you go, wow. That's a pretty good  
21 jurisdiction.

22 Now, in the case of Midland or Odessa, as  
23 Chairman Rodriguez pointed out a few minutes ago, they're  
24 really high. And there's lots of vehicles stolen. But  
25 they haven't applied.

1           So there's nothing I can do about that,  
2 right. I mean, we can't address that. What I tried to do  
3 in this system was provide -- I've tried to make sure that  
4 this is as fair as possible, to keep from excluding people  
5 who are -- or grantees, agencies that are applying, that  
6 meet the statutory requirement. That it's primarily  
7 based.

8           And so this is 40 of about 100. Dan, did we  
9 ever nail down the number of points? One hundred and --

10           MR. PRICE: 120, I think.

11           MR. WILSON: 120 points. So, one-third.

12 Again, there's not a definition of "primarily based on" in  
13 the statute. There's not a hard definition.

14           But if I have 120 points available, and 40  
15 points are one thing, the need of that jurisdiction, I  
16 think it's pretty comfortable, in my mind, as a grant  
17 administrator and professional grant administrator that  
18 that's close to where "primarily" would fit in. So it's  
19 one factor, 40 points.

20           The other really important thing is budget.  
21 That carries, like, 25 or 30 points. So between those  
22 two, you're well over halfway on getting a grant.

23           So, yes, thank you. That's a great question,  
24 because I don't want to do things just because we did it  
25 that way in the past. But I don't have a replacement for

1 "primarily based on" the incident of motor vehicle theft.

2 MR. SALINAS: For the record, Gilberto Salinas,  
3 Mr. Wilson. And I agree with what's down as far as the  
4 fairness of -- I gather this is more -- allows for more  
5 flexibility to be able to just make that playing field a  
6 little bit more level. As far as representing communities  
7 [indiscernible] correctly?

8 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I mean, it's just making  
9 sure that the board has some -- what this really is about  
10 is making sure that the board has -- remember that little  
11 section out of the Comptroller's thing, that it's -- what  
12 was it? That there's transparency, objectivity, and  
13 integrity in determining the selection of grantees.

14 That's what we're always working on, on your  
15 behalf, is making sure that -- look, people can argue all  
16 day long about how you ought to give out \$14.9 million or  
17 whatever we give out. This board is charged with actually  
18 implementing that. If somebody wants to come pick us  
19 apart later, they're always welcome to do that.

20 But what we've tried to do is make sure that  
21 there's an open, integritable and honest process to have  
22 these discussions, to assign the values. And then  
23 ultimately, the board has to make the awards. The board  
24 has to make selections, regardless of what the points are.

25 And that's going to hurt, but Chairman

1     Rodriquez has been there. Sometimes you don't look at the  
2     points. You say, this is what the facts are. Here is  
3     what's going on.

4             This is what we need to do for the -- you know,  
5     because there are other considerations we don't currently  
6     take in. Like, Dan correct me -- \$5 million worth of  
7     assets currently sitting in jurisdictions from bait cars  
8     to scanners to LPRs to -- I mean, every kind of piece of  
9     equipment that you can have for auto theft.

10            We don't take into consideration whether  
11    there's points assigned, whether we have ever given  
12    equipment. We have investigators. I daresay there's  
13    probably a half a century -- no, that'd be only 50  
14    years. A half an eon full of experience, just in this  
15    room right here. Not even counting all the 237 officers  
16    that are outside somewhere.

17            So we don't actually put a value on points on  
18    that issue, about how many decades and literally centuries  
19    of work we have invested in training skills and  
20    opportunity within our communities currently -- that we've  
21    trained them. I mean, we've funded them. We train  
22    them. We caused them to be there, and we don't give very  
23    much, currently.

24            So that's why the board will ultimately have to  
25    decide, saying, well, we'll throw out such and such

1 grantee, and replace them with this one. But now you've  
2 just lost, you know, 200 years' worth of experience to  
3 take on a new grant that looks better on paper,  
4 right. It's, like, wow, this is really cool. They're  
5 promising a lot of stuff.

6 So therein lies our problem. So --

7 MAJOR JONES: Sharon Jones again. Is there a  
8 reason why, or a known reason why Odessa and Midland would  
9 not apply?

10 MR. WILSON: Well, we've had a long -- we used  
11 to have a grant in that area. I don't know if some of  
12 y'all knew, Sheriff Painter passed away. The grant -- for  
13 whatever reason -- a lot of it's politics within a local  
14 community.

15 That grant went away a decade or more --

16 MR. CANADY: Odessa.

17 MR. WILSON: So that grant went away. They  
18 have reached out to us numerous times. Chairman Rodriguez  
19 has asked me to reach out to them. I've had numerous  
20 conversations. But in the current environment, we've not  
21 been able to connect to the people that could actually  
22 make an application.

23 Chairman, you remember -- I guess it's been  
24 over four years now -- when we had a grant with Texas  
25 Department of Criminal Justice, Office of Inspector



1 General, and we would -- every time there would be a spike  
2 in Odessa, we would ask the prison system to go out there  
3 and do a parolee roundup, which we paid for all the  
4 overtime and the expenses and all, and that was very  
5 effective to causing temporary drops in their theft rate.

6 But we lost that. The Legislature deemed us --  
7 the \$100,000 that we gave to TDCJ, they turned -- the  
8 Legislature at that time said, well, gosh, if you've got  
9 that much money to throw away that you're giving the  
10 prison system money, then we'll just take that \$104,000  
11 away from you.

12 So that ended up biting us. It was very  
13 effective, but it really hurt us in the process. So no, I  
14 don't know why, but we've done what we can and we -- and I  
15 don't know. We have Lubbock here today. They've been  
16 trying to coordinate better with them.

17 I know El Paso has done some case work with  
18 them. So it's not like they're out there on their own.  
19 We're communicating. We've trained their officers in our  
20 training sessions.

21 So we're doing what we can, but we can't make  
22 somebody apply for a grant.

23 LT. GONZALEZ: Mr. Chairman, can I speak?

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Go ahead.

25 LT. GONZALEZ: Can you hear me?

1 MR. WILSON: Yes.

2 LT. GONZALEZ: Okay. So Director Wilson,  
3 essentially what we're doing is that, I guess, Section 6  
4 is going from 10 points to 20 points in valuation. That's  
5 kind of the main factor we're --

6 MR. WILSON: I think it's -- on page 22, it  
7 should be Section 5 -- should go -- the objective section  
8 of the points.

9 LT. GONZALEZ: Okay. But we're essentially  
10 making it from 10 points to 20 points --

11 MR. WILSON: Right.

12 LT. GONZALEZ: Correct? And so my question is,  
13 I guess, how did we come to the 18 point of valuation for  
14 the top 40? I guess, kind of, just my thought was, if  
15 we're doubling it, why didn't each, I guess, category in  
16 there just double accordingly?

17 MR. WILSON: There's another section that's  
18 really complicated, in the math section, that the Board  
19 adopted at that time. They were using a statistician from  
20 MIT or Stanford or Sanford or something like that.  
21 Sanford and Sons, I think, but I'm not --

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. Sanford --

23 MR. WILSON: -- sure what it was. But this  
24 page 31 is an excerpt from a very complicated spreadsheet  
25 that that statistician did. And in the system, if you'll

1 notice, that almost -- over on -- again, this was just an  
2 excerpt.

3 I just plugged in fake numbers. But I wanted  
4 to show you that a lot of grantees, using that standard,  
5 just plugging in numbers -- again, please do not take this  
6 as -- I should have marked it better as a draft. But I  
7 was just trying to show you that this is the system that  
8 this stuff feeds into, and it spits out -- do you see many  
9 of the grantees wouldn't even qualify for the grant under  
10 the system? That's why I have to come back to the Board.

11 So what I've done is, I've -- if you're in the  
12 top 20, if you're in the -- I'm sorry, what is it -- top  
13 20, top 40, top 60, or in the case of, like, Burnet and  
14 some of the other jurisdictions, Lubbock, they can combine  
15 their coverage areas.

16 So you see what I'm saying? So you can --  
17 there's two ways to get into the top 60 on this scoring  
18 system. One is you're Dallas or Houston. Right? Because  
19 I mean, I was trying to explain to staff the other day. I  
20 mean, people don't realize.

21 I've been doing this for a long time and doing,  
22 you know, formula grants for the courts, criminal courts,  
23 and people don't realize that, as big as Dallas and San  
24 Antonio are, they're half the size of Houston. I mean,  
25 you know what I'm saying?

1 I mean, we don't -- when you're trying to do  
2 something like we're trying to do, and you know, Hidalgo,  
3 I think, is -- and Cameron together make up an MSMA, a  
4 metropolitan area of almost 2 million people, now.

5 I think -- do you know?

6 MR. SALINAS: Yeah. It's about 1.6, I think.

7 MR. WILSON: Yeah, 1.6, 1.7, and that's --  
8 again, that's two counties together, but then they don't  
9 even come up to the -- half of the size of somebody like  
10 Dallas or San Antonio. So you know, that's the problem,  
11 is when you're -- the scale that we have to deal with in  
12 grants administration.

13 So I'm not trying to get complicated. But in  
14 response to your question, I'm trying to make number five  
15 become an objective measure, that everybody just takes  
16 their hands off, and that if you qualify in that upper  
17 region, either through -- because you're Dallas or  
18 Houston, or you've put together a group of counties to  
19 meet that requirement, you get -- you still make it into  
20 the threshold, and stay out of the -- the math that the  
21 Board adopted pretty much cut off -- as a matter of fact,  
22 we lost Del Rio on the first round, applying this system.

23 We lost Del Rio. Border -- we didn't -- at  
24 that time, we didn't have border security, but the Board  
25 didn't override it. And we lost Missouri City, again, a

1 pretty big hot spot within Harris County, and Ft. Bend --  
2 and that was part of our Ft. Bend coverage.

3 Ft. Bend is, I think, the sixth or seventh  
4 largest county. We had Missouri City. We lost them  
5 through this system.

6 So part of this is, I'm trying to manage the  
7 needs score, but still have a result that is predictable  
8 and consistent. So there's lots of ways to assign  
9 points. We could always scrap this system, but I've tried  
10 to just manage what the Board adopted before I got here  
11 and make it relevant today.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any other questions from the  
13 members?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. WILSON: This is a requested action item,  
16 Mr. Chairman.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, I will now entertain  
18 any motions, but before doing so, please remember to  
19 clearly state your name for the record and your motion.  
20 Do we have any motions from the members?

21 MS. WHITEHILL: Mr. Chairman, this is Kit  
22 Whitehill, for the record. I move that the MVCPA adopt  
23 the needs section scoring changes for the grant review  
24 process, to be based on the priority of motor vehicle  
25 theft, and to include fraud-related motor vehicle crime,

1 as proposed by staff in the MVCPA meeting Board book.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion by Member  
3 Whitehill. Do I have a second?

4 MR. GAUSE: Mr. Chairman, Shay Gause. I  
5 second.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. A motion by Member  
7 Whitehill and a second by Member Gause. Members, when I  
8 call your name, please state your name for the record and  
9 whether you support the motion or do not support the  
10 motion.

11 Member Salinas?

12 MR. SALINAS: Gilberto Salinas. I support the  
13 motion.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jones?

15 MAJOR JONES: I support. Sharon Jones.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

17 LT. GONZALEZ: Julio Gonzalez. I support the  
18 motion.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gause?

20 MR. GAUSE: Shay Gause. I support the motion.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

22 MS. WHITEHILL: Kit Whitehill. I support the  
23 motion.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I, Mike Rodriguez, support the  
25 motion. Motion passes. Do I have a second -- do I have

1 another motion?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. We have two -- we have B,  
4 which passed, and we have E.

5 MR. WILSON: That was just the one that we  
6 needed to confirm.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So do we -- so does he --

8 MR. WILSON: I'll lay out those other ones now,  
9 Mr. Chairman.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

11 MR. WILSON: So that takes care of the needs  
12 section. I have -- that's under B, and then Section C, I  
13 won't need a motion on this. I just want to make sure the  
14 Board understands that currently we have multi-agency  
15 jurisdictions.

16 Currently, we have single-agency jurisdictions.  
17 Some of them, in the past, we had that as a priority in  
18 the grant cycle. This time, I wanted to remind the --  
19 again, before we get to the vote in a month or so from  
20 now, that we do not have multi-agency or single-agency as  
21 a priority.

22 So because it was done in the past, I wanted to  
23 make sure that the Board was aware of that, and so for  
24 that reason, I wanted to show you -- I mean, we were  
25 playing around with, you know, what that would look like

1 on reimbursements rates. So you have jurisdictions like  
2 Laredo. You have jurisdictions like El Paso.

3 They are physically, geographically isolated  
4 from other jurisdictions. It just would not make sense to  
5 have a task force -- I mean, I suppose that Laredo, with  
6 over a quarter million people in the city, and the county  
7 just a little bit bigger, would -- could go to the  
8 Sheriff's Office, but I don't know what the economy would  
9 be to be that.

10 And the same with El Paso, that most of the  
11 people in El Paso actually live in the city, and the  
12 county's just a little bit larger. So they're all working  
13 together. They're currently working together.

14 So I just want to make sure that we understand  
15 that, at this time, we're not allocating awards or not  
16 proposed in the request for applications that's currently  
17 pending, to make a distinction between single entities --  
18 single jurisdiction grants and multi-, as you have in the  
19 past.

20 That's all I have to say about that, unless  
21 anybody has any questions.

22 (No response.)

23 MR. WILSON: Okay. Then I'll move on D. Well,  
24 first, I just want to draw your attention to page 29.  
25 We -- I wanted to show you an example on page 29 that



1 currently our reimbursement rates have been, for several  
2 years, a lot lower than what our standard -- is adopted in  
3 the rules.

4 Our rules say that the reimbursement rate is a  
5 minimum match of 20 percent. That means the State would  
6 provide 80 percent of whatever amount. So, again, just to  
7 make sure that if it's a \$100,000 grant request, that the  
8 jurisdiction would put up a minimum of \$20,000, for a  
9 total of 120-.

10 And so just to make sure that that's what the  
11 current standard is, adopted in the Texas Administrative  
12 Code by this agency, previous boards. So at the current  
13 rate, we're giving out \$12.5 million at the bottom of page  
14 29, the blue on the left-hand side.

15 If everybody were to apply for a grant at the  
16 full 80 percent-20 percent split, we would need \$16.1  
17 million. Now, according to our statute, we were supposed  
18 to be appropriated 20 percent of \$100 million; that would  
19 have been 20 million. We would have had other items to  
20 spend.

21 So I just want you to be aware before we get to  
22 this next grant award meeting that we're going to be not  
23 able to give everybody an 80 percent. Now, we don't know  
24 what the awards are. We don't know what the applications  
25 are.

1           But I just want you to know we've already  
2           calculated what it would have been at FY21 -- is that  
3           right, Dan? '21 award -- that we will -- if everybody  
4           comes in at 80 percent, we'll be short, and we'll have to  
5           make choices. That's all I wanted to show. It's not an  
6           action item.

7           I just wanted -- again, I'm just making sure  
8           that, as you're thinking about this and getting ready for  
9           the next meeting, that there could be a disparity between  
10          what the Legislature appropriated and what we have a  
11          responsibility to issue, and our rules that we've  
12          published. Okay?

13          One of the things that we've never looked at in  
14          the past, that this board has never considered, on page  
15          30. Again, this is not an action item. There'll be no  
16          vote, unless -- it's open for discussion.

17          But here's an example of just -- you know, we  
18          just randomly pulled four jurisdictions and said, what is  
19          the award that we've given them in '21. And then we  
20          looked at how many vehicles they recovered and how many  
21          vehicles and the average cost per vehicle stolen did that  
22          represent.

23          So again, I want -- the far right column is,  
24          for instance, in El Paso, there were 566 vehicles  
25          stolen. And if you just take the DPS average for that

1 year, of the number of vehicles stolen, which was 16,000-  
2 something, and you multiply 566 -- I mean, obviously, a  
3 car can be stolen that has \$500 value; one can be stolen  
4 that's got \$80,000.

5 We just use the statewide average for the  
6 calculation. And so, as a result of that, we'll show that  
7 the cost-benefit for these jurisdictions more than pay for  
8 the grant; okay. So whatever standard you use in the  
9 fifth column, the value of the actual recovery reported by  
10 that jurisdiction was way in excess of what was the grant,  
11 or the assumed -- what they call -- Major, there's a term  
12 for that -- assumed value, or something like that, in  
13 NIBRS.

14 I can't remember what that's called. Anyway,  
15 does that make sense? So, again, not something that we've  
16 got published in our rules, not something that we have  
17 adopted right now.

18 It's something that every two years we bring  
19 up, you know, other ways that you can consider for  
20 determining, as a guide. Again, just as a guide to make  
21 sure that you don't actually give out money greater than  
22 the value.

23 I mean, there was a couple times when early on  
24 we gave out money, and quite honestly, I know this offends  
25 some people, but it probably would have been better to

1 give the victims \$10,000 -- at least more efficient, not  
2 better. But more efficient to give the victims \$10,000,  
3 because there were so few victims.

4 You know what I'm saying? So that's the  
5 thing. That's never going to happen in downtown Dallas,  
6 never going to happen in San Antonio, but in small  
7 jurisdictions, that's one of our setbacks.

8 It's not hard to get where you could give out  
9 more. It might be more efficient to actually pay the  
10 victim for the loss than to carry on the department.

11 Okay?

12 So then on 31 is -- this might be open for  
13 debate, but I think because we've got -- I'm trying to be  
14 careful, with Major Jones' comment earlier, just because  
15 we've done it this way. But we are pretty heavily  
16 invested in the programming that supports our grant  
17 application system.

18 But I think we should continue to calculate,  
19 and what I'm asking y'all to do is direct us to go ahead  
20 and use the current system and calculations to award -- to  
21 prepare our documents for the awards session, using the  
22 existing system. You'll be able to override; you'll be  
23 able to make transparent, objective determinations on your  
24 own.

25 But I think we should go ahead and use the

1 system that we have in place in the calculations for  
2 presenting the information to you. So that's what I'm  
3 asking you to vote on. This is an action item that the  
4 Director is asking you to use the current calculations to  
5 present to you at the next award meeting.

6 I guess, the current methodology is probably a  
7 better phrase.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a motion?

9 LT. GONZALEZ: Julio Gonzalez. I move that the  
10 MVCPA be able to retain the current scoring practice and  
11 process prior to making July 22 grant awards, Mr.  
12 Chairman.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion from Member Gonzalez.  
14 Do I have a second?

15 MR. SALINAS: Member Salinas. I second.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion from Member Gonzalez and  
17 a second from Member Salinas.

18 Members, when I call your name, please state  
19 your name for the record and whether you support the  
20 motion or do not support the motion.

21 Member Salinas?

22 MR. SALINAS: Gilberto Salinas. I support the  
23 motion.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jones?

25 MAJOR JONES: Sharon Jones. I support.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

2 LT. GONZALEZ: Julio Gonzalez. I support.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gause?

4 MR. GAUSE: Shay Gause. I support.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

6 MS. WHITEHILL: Kit Whitehill. I support.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I, Mike Rodriguez, support.

8 Motion passes.

9 At this time, I think we're going to take a 15-  
10 minute break, and we'll come back. It's 10:47 a.m. We'll  
11 come back in 15 minutes.

12 (Whereupon, there was a short recess.)

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It's 11:06, and we're resuming  
14 our MVCPA meeting.

15 Members, we will now move on to Agenda Item No.  
16 4, Consider approval for Texas DMV to extend on behalf of  
17 the MVCPA the multi-year interagency contract with the  
18 Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to facilitate  
19 collections with the MVCPA fee from insurers.

20 Director Wilson?

21 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the  
22 record, my name is Bryan Wilson. As you are aware, that  
23 is part of the statutory duties, because everybody signed  
24 the training acknowledgment form and has been trained --  
25 so part of the statutory duties of this agency is to

1 collect a \$4 fee on every motor vehicle covered by  
2 insurance, any form of insurance.

3 We do not keep little cardboard boxes over at  
4 the office, with checks -- full of checks like we -- I'm  
5 sure, some agencies used to do, back in the day, when I  
6 was a young man. What we do instead is, we have an online  
7 web file system we just became part of through an  
8 interagency contract with the Texas Comptroller of Public  
9 Accounts.

10 All insurers have to pay a maintenance and  
11 retaliatory tax. All insurers have other kinds of taxes  
12 that they have to pay, franchise taxes, things like  
13 that. We -- they have programmed our system into that tax  
14 system.

15 We have an interagency contract. We pay them  
16 about \$10,000 a year to maintain that, updates and things  
17 like that. We will -- so this is a multi-year interagency  
18 contract with another State agency, the Comptroller.

19 And so what we do is, ask the Board each  
20 year -- remember, I told you earlier that all the  
21 statutory functions are by and through, according to our  
22 statute. So you're appointed by the Governor to operate  
23 the duties of this agency, but it's by and through the  
24 Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

25 So this request is to notify DMV to request the

1 extension of your contract through them with the  
2 Comptroller to collect this money. And this is an action  
3 item, asking -- requesting your authority to reach out and  
4 fulfill this contract.

5 Otherwise, I'll start getting shoeboxes.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, would anyone like to  
7 make a motion?

8 MS. WHITEHILL: Chairman, this is Kit  
9 Whitehill. I move that the MVCPA request the Texas  
10 Department of Motor Vehicles to send notice to the  
11 Comptroller of Public Accounts to extend the current  
12 collections contract for one year, fiscal year '22, for an  
13 amount not to exceed \$10,000.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is there a second?

15 LT. GONZALEZ: I second the motion. Member  
16 Gonzalez.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is there any further  
18 discussion?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I will call for  
21 the question. Members, when I call your name, please  
22 state your name for the record and whether you support the  
23 motion or do not support the motion.

24 Member Salinas?

25 MR. SALINAS: Gilberto Salinas. I support the



1 motion.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jones?

3 MAJOR JONES: Sharon Jones. Support.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

5 LT. GONZALEZ: Julio Gonzalez. I support the  
6 motion.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gause?

8 MR. GAUSE: Shay Gause. I support the motion.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

10 MS. WHITEHILL: Kit Whitehill. I support the  
11 motion.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I, Mike Rodriguez, support.

13 The motion passes.

14 Members, we will now take up Agenda Item No. 5,  
15 Consider authorizing MVCPA Director to develop  
16 recommendations to update and revise Title 43 of the Texas  
17 Administrative Code, Part 3, Chapter 57 rules including  
18 but not limited to collections, refunds, penalties,  
19 interest, auditing, and reimbursement of audit expenses  
20 based on passage of HB 3514, 87th Legislature, Regular  
21 Session.

22 Mr. Wilson will present on this agenda item.

23 Mr. Wilson?

24 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the  
25 record, my name is Bryan Wilson. Here to talk to you

1 about the -- we had asked for the Legislature -- we had  
2 asked DMV to submit items on our behalf to make some  
3 changes in our statute, our enabling statute.

4 One example is, we had a requirement under  
5 TxDOT to report every year to a report that really had  
6 nothing to do with anything that we did. I mean, we did  
7 it. It was okay, but it was just an issue that was --  
8 when this agency, MVCPA, was attached to TxDOT, we were  
9 part of their reporting system.

10 There was something in the law. It didn't make  
11 sense. We weren't able to -- I mean, the rest of the  
12 report is, like, airports and the number of miles driven  
13 and things like that, and it's, like -- and then how many  
14 grants, you know?

15 And it was, like, what does that have to do  
16 with airports and miles driven and all that? So anyway,  
17 we -- the Legislature pulled us out of that TxDOT law.  
18 The other thing that they did was -- we asked them to  
19 clarify for authority -- when we started working closely  
20 with TDI and the Comptroller, we realized that there was a  
21 tax code.

22 We learned that there was a tax code out there,  
23 and when somebody didn't -- when an insurer didn't pay the  
24 fee, they had to pay a penalty. And we started seeing  
25 numerous times where we didn't have a penalty on our

1 statute, but insurers were paying the fee and the penalty.

2 What we did was, first off, I told the -- I  
3 asked the Comptroller to stop collecting the fee and the  
4 penalty, because we had no legal authority. David was in  
5 the meeting, and we said, stop doing that, right? Just,  
6 you don't have the -- we don't have any authority to do  
7 that.

8 But we want to make it consistent with the  
9 other fees and taxes that are collected, right? So we  
10 asked the Legislature for permission to make it the same  
11 as what the other taxes and fees are. That way -- again,  
12 I told you that the Comptroller is -- the contract we just  
13 talked about -- the Comptroller is programming our system  
14 into theirs.

15 So now it's -- we're trying to be cohesive and  
16 consistent with what they're trying to do, and the tax  
17 code that's around all the other fees except ours. So at  
18 the end of the day, we also have -- we've seen numerous  
19 times where this Board has been asked to refund huge  
20 amounts of money to an insurer, and we think that that  
21 amount is ridiculous or not substantiated.

22 At this -- we've always had a rule that said  
23 that we could collect -- if we had to hire an auditor, we  
24 could collect that back, but there was really no statutory  
25 authority. So we've now, again, lined up the law to give

1 us what we had the authority to pass by rule. So it's  
2 just a clean-up.

3 But part of the -- part of this penalty and  
4 interest thing that we wanted to get lined up requires the  
5 Board to modify some rules. Now, what I'm asking you is  
6 to give me the authority to get busy on that. If the  
7 Texas DMV General -- the assigned General Counsel and I  
8 can work with the stakeholders and try to get that done,  
9 we also want to assign the Insurance -- delegate the  
10 Insurance Committee of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention  
11 Authority to assist.

12 And if that's -- this is an action item  
13 requested. And then if DMV does not have the capacity to  
14 help us, I think it's a pretty easy lift. Mr. Richards  
15 might disagree, but I don't think it's going to take  
16 massive rule changes.

17 We're not a regulatory authority. We will  
18 submit any ideas that we have to the Governor's Office  
19 ahead of time. But at this point, we want to be able to  
20 reach out to the Attorney General if we can't get  
21 sufficient legal help for a fairly straightforward rule.

22 The law goes into effect on September 1. We're  
23 not -- nobody's going to fall over and crater. You know,  
24 the whole insurance economy is not going to collapse if we  
25 don't have our rule in place. But as a rule, my history

1 with different rulemaking authority is -- it's a pretty  
2 easy lift.

3 We need to clarify the penalty, and then set  
4 the penalty so that the Comptroller can program it into  
5 their system in time for our next collection cycle. We  
6 only collect once every six months, so we have a running  
7 start, but we do need to get it done quickly. And it's a  
8 very straightforward rule or set of rules that we'll have  
9 to adopt.

10 So any questions? And I request a motion.

11 (No response.)

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: If none, Members, are there any  
13 motions?

14 MAJOR JONES: Sharon Jones. I move that the  
15 MVCPA Director be authorized to take action to develop and  
16 update Title 43 of the Texas Administrative Code, Part 3,  
17 Chapter 57, as required by House Bill 3514, 87R, to meet a  
18 September 1 implementation date or as soon as practical.

19 I further move that the MVCPA Insurance  
20 Committee is delegated to assist the Director by providing  
21 guidance, developing draft rules from industry stakeholder  
22 input, to consider for publication at the next meeting.  
23 And I further move that the Director and Insurance  
24 Committee work with the MVCPA General Counsel or Attorney  
25 General's Office to provide draft rules and preamble from

1 public comment.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. I have a motion from  
3 Member Jones. Is there a second?

4 MR. GAUSE: Shay Gause. I second.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second by Member Gause. I have  
6 a motion from -- is there any further discussion?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: When I call your name, please  
9 state your name for the record and whether you support the  
10 motion or you do not support the motion.

11 Member Salinas?

12 MR. SALINAS: Gilberto Salinas. I support the  
13 motion.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jones?

15 MAJOR JONES: I support the motion. Sharon  
16 Jones.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

18 LT. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez. I support the  
19 motion.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gause?

21 MR. GAUSE: Shay Gause. I support the motion.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

23 MS. WHITEHILL: Kit Whitehill. I support the  
24 motion.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Mike Rodriguez,

1 support. The motion passes.

2 Members, our next agenda item is No. 6, Review  
3 and Consider a grant award to Texas A&M University to  
4 continue Taskforce operational support and data collection  
5 efforts for the Grant Management Tracking System.

6 Mr. Wilson?

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

9 As many of you have known, seen from your  
10 training or have been advised in the past, currently the  
11 entire application system, the entire reporting system for  
12 all the grantees, was developed under a contract between  
13 Texas A&M University and the Texas Department of Motor  
14 Vehicles -- or MVCPA by and through DMV.

15 So once we -- I guess it was last year, we had  
16 finally completed the development of the process and the  
17 scoring and all that, and so the entire process, like I  
18 said, is online. We don't have files like we used to.  
19 All the records -- if it's a payroll record that the local  
20 jurisdiction wants to get reimbursed, all of that is  
21 loaded up into the system. It's managed through State  
22 requirements and cybersecurity requirements with the Texas  
23 A&M University.

24 So what we did a couple years ago, partly  
25 because the Legislature dinged us for that contract that I

1 was telling you about with Texas Department of Criminal  
2 Justice, where we could order officers to go out and do  
3 parolee roundups or coordinate with them. We didn't order  
4 them. We coordinated with them and DPS.

5 So part of that -- to keep from being dinged,  
6 we turned this into a grant. And it also provides the  
7 authority for this Board to -- because the one thing you  
8 can do on your own that's not "by and through" is the  
9 issuance of grants. So this is an action item.

10 I'm requesting -- you see a draft application  
11 in here. We'll finalize it, but A&M University has agreed  
12 to continue this program for -- it's \$30,000 for the  
13 maintenance and evergreening of our system.

14 We're able to call them. Like, if one of you  
15 called in and said, you know, hey, I'd like to have an ad  
16 hoc report about what are the percentages of this -- we  
17 can do that, because we have reporting, ad hoc reporting  
18 as part of our contract.

19 And then there's \$5,000 in new development  
20 money that's always -- that doesn't get spent unless we  
21 have something we want developed. So if I want -- for  
22 instance, we're talking about Rapid Response Strikeforce  
23 later. Right now, that's a, what, it's an Excel process  
24 or kind of a -- you know, it's -- I mean, I didn't -- but  
25 once we do a couple of these, I'll be able to turn that



1 over to Texas A&M, and we can create that window as just  
2 part of the online process.

3 That's additional development that we're  
4 allowed. If we don't develop anything, we don't spend the  
5 \$5,000. So it's a total of \$35,000 as a grant.

6 This is an action item, and I request the  
7 authority to issue an FY '22 grant from the -- an FY '22  
8 grant for Texas A&M University to -- for our Grant  
9 Tracking -- GMTS, Grant Management Tracking System.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Any questions?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will now entertain a motion.

13 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chairman, Gilberto Salinas.

14 I move that the MVCPA award a fiscal year '22 grant to  
15 Texas A&M University in the amount of \$35,000 for the  
16 operation, maintenance and improvement of the Grant  
17 Management Tracking System, or GMTS, to support the law  
18 enforcement teams funded by the MVCPA.

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

21 MAJOR JONES: Second. Sharon Jones.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second, Member Jones. Members,  
23 is there any further discussion?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: If there is none, I will call

1 for a vote. Members, when I call your name, please state  
2 your name for the record and whether you support the  
3 motion or whether you do not support the motion.

4 Member Salinas?

5 MR. SALINAS: Gilberto Salinas. I support the  
6 motion.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jones?

8 MAJOR JONES: I support. Sharon Jones.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

10 LT. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez. I support the  
11 motion.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gause?

13 MR. GAUSE: Shay Gause. I support the motion.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

15 MS. WHITEHILL: Kit Whitehill. I support the  
16 motion.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Mike Rodriguez,  
18 support. The motion passes.

19 The next agenda item we'll take up is Agenda  
20 Item No. 7, Review and consider status report by MVCPA  
21 Director on the implementation of the Rapid Response  
22 Strikeforce Grant program.

23 Mr. Wilson?

24 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Chairman. For the  
25 record, my name is Bryan Wilson. This is -- it's going to

1 be a little bit of a heavy lift again. I apologize for  
2 having two of these in one meeting. I think that y'all  
3 have a moratorium on -- a maximum of one per meeting.

4 But because of that \$200,000 we talked about  
5 earlier in the meeting and the \$200,000 you budgeted in  
6 February from the unexpended balance process, we need to  
7 increase our flexibility to respond to several things that  
8 are going on around the state.

9 And I know Chairman Rodriguez has worked very  
10 closely with me, as well as traveling around to many task  
11 forces around the state to work on mechanisms to improve  
12 the coordination that we have as an agency with our  
13 grantees, across -- that it's not just about, oh,  
14 congratulations, here's your grant. Just call us in a  
15 year or two whenever you're done, and that we should be  
16 operating.

17 We have the skill set. We provide the  
18 training. We have the equipment that's being bought, and  
19 then it's being somewhat siloed, and we are trying to  
20 prevent that from occurring.

21 So in this process, what I have first -- I'll  
22 take it -- like eating an elephant, we'll take it a bite  
23 at a time. And there are going to be some need for some  
24 recusals and some clarification to make sure that we're  
25 being careful to operate.

1           So the first thing on the Rapid Response  
2 Strikeforce is this -- in February, you adopted a policy  
3 for certain thresholds. I probably should have put it in  
4 this book, but I apologize. I didn't. But it was certain  
5 purposes to do a Rapid Response Strikeforce. And also,  
6 along with that, there were certain values of money that  
7 could be authorized.

8           So the first one I did a few weeks ago was the  
9 Motor Vehicle Fraud Unit -- Theft Fraud Unit in the city  
10 of Houston PD. It was for \$4,999. I provided that  
11 directly under your authority to provide overtime, for  
12 them to use to do takedown units. And they're here to  
13 answer any questions, if you'd like -- if you have any  
14 questions. But that's not necessary.

15           I just want you to know that that was a  
16 particularly designed unit, when they're getting hit  
17 really hard. Dealers all over the Houston area were  
18 getting hit by fraudulent and fictitious IDs and people  
19 stealing cars directly from the dealer with false  
20 purchases.

21           So this was a way to meet the criteria set by  
22 the Board in February under the Rapid Response  
23 Strikeforce. What we have today is beyond my threshold to  
24 authorize, and they're -- and I talked to Chief Rodriguez,  
25 and we talked about these additional funds, and that we

1 needed to try to reach out to commanders, and especially  
2 the border communities to make sure that they're aware of  
3 this fund.

4 I mean, I've sent out numerous emails to all  
5 the grantees, giving them the opportunity to request  
6 this. In addition, I've reached out to specific ones.

7 So what we have here is the first one is on --  
8 starting on page 50, and it's a request from the Dallas  
9 Police Department. Now, one of the things -- I don't  
10 know.

11 Some of y'all remember when Obama found out,  
12 and during the American -- what was it -- the American  
13 Restoration and Recovery Act or whatever, and he said,  
14 what, and somebody asked President Obama what he  
15 learned? And he says, I learned there are no such things  
16 as shovel-ready projects. So do y'all remember that, them  
17 trying to, you know, get the economy going on? And it's,  
18 like -- it turns out to be a little harder than we  
19 thought.

20 Well, we kind of learned something recently  
21 about shovel-ready projects, that we have a chicken-or-egg  
22 dilemma. Which came first, the chicken or the egg? The  
23 jurisdictions often -- the police departments need these  
24 resources, but the cities and the counties often can't  
25 coordinate how to ask for something that -- without having

1 the authority being granted.

2 So I want to say, as we're moving through this,  
3 when we talk about regular grants, our -- the grants that  
4 are in our process, like what we're getting ready to do  
5 next meeting, those are pretty solid. We've got a whole  
6 set of rules around those, that the resolution has to be  
7 in place, and there has to be a request up front from the  
8 city with some -- with specific conditions.

9 In this one, we left it more open. So not all  
10 of these three requests that we're dealing with have gone  
11 all the way through their City Council at the time that  
12 this request is being considered. I will not allow me or  
13 my staff to issue an award that we don't meet, with  
14 General Counsel, all the conditions required before we  
15 actually issue a reimbursement or a statement of grant  
16 award. I want to be clear about that.

17 So if somebody wants a grant, their police  
18 department wants a grant, but the city won't come behind  
19 it, so we say, okay. Well, we see that there's a need for  
20 a grant. We're going to give the grant based on the  
21 identified need in the Rapid Response Strikeforce request.

22 But I want to be clear to this Board that my  
23 commitment, and I know David Richards, General Counsel --  
24 we will not issue a statement of grant award unless we  
25 have the proper documentation from the city and county,

1 that they'll use it for the statutory purposes, that they  
2 will issue the return if they misuse or lose any of the  
3 money -- even after we've reimbursed their costs, if it  
4 turns out that we find that they misused it or lost it, we  
5 would get the money back under state law.

6 And then the third thing is that they designate  
7 specific officials through the city or county to work  
8 with. If they don't meet those three criteria -- even  
9 though we say we're awarding it today, if they don't meet  
10 those criteria, they're not getting a statement of grant  
11 award. I'm just telling you right now. That's not going  
12 to happen out of this office.

13 So with that said, this request from Dallas PD  
14 is for \$50,000. They are not -- it's not a border --  
15 we're going to talk a minute about changing some of the  
16 criteria for the existing policy. But for this one, it's  
17 a straightforward request at 80 percent and 20 percent  
18 match rate, using other resources.

19 So the city -- if we award this and the city  
20 council agrees, then we -- they will provide a match for  
21 this program. It's laid out on page 50 and 51, and the  
22 top of page 52, \$50,000. It's identified as an immediate  
23 need for the Rapid Response Strikeforce, and the money  
24 will be directed entirely to overtime, and the match will  
25 be additional -- two additional officers that will work on

1 these cases with the unit, that will be receiving the  
2 overtime.

3 So the two new officers may get overtime, in  
4 addition to the unit. They also have the ability to bring  
5 in specialized resources when needed to assist them to  
6 interrupt this crime.

7 Are there any questions? I recommend that you  
8 approve this, and again, with the caveat that I've  
9 expressed and put into the record, that I will not issue a  
10 grant award statement until it's legally authorized by the  
11 City.

12 (No response.)

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Are there any motions?

14 MS. WHITEHILL: Kit Whitehill. I move that the  
15 MVCPA award a Rapid Response Strikeforce grant as proposed  
16 in the application shown on page 50 of the MVCPA Board  
17 book to Dallas PD in the amount of \$50,000.

18 MAJOR JONES: Second. Sharon Jones.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member  
20 Whitehill and a second from Member Jones. Is there any  
21 further discussion on this item?

22 LT. GONZALEZ: Mr. Chair, if I can recuse  
23 myself from this vote?

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Let the record reflect  
25 that Lieutenant Gonzalez, Member Gonzalez, has recused



1 himself.

2 Members, when I call your name, please state  
3 your name and whether you support the motion or whether  
4 you do not support the motion.

5 Member Salinas?

6 MR. SALINAS: Gilberto Salinas. I support the  
7 motion.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jones?

9 MAJOR JONES: Sharon Jones. Support.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez has recused  
11 himself. Member Gause?

12 MR. GAUSE: Shay Gause. I support.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

14 MS. WHITEHILL: Kit Whitehill. I support.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I, Mike Rodriguez, support.

16 Motion passes. Okay.

17 We'll go to the next item, or is it --

18 MR. WILSON: So the next item that I have is --  
19 the Laredo Police Department has requested \$29,531.52.  
20 Don't do that. Some accountant got a hold of a police  
21 officer. That's all I can say.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Terrible.

23 MR. WILSON: Terrible. So -- but we're going  
24 to make that -- for the record, we're just going to make  
25 that \$29,532. So if you don't mind, it's because it's

1 very difficult for calculating in the State system for  
2 change.

3 So -- oh, 39,000 -- oh. Okay. So at the  
4 bottom -- there it is, \$39,032. So the -- so what this  
5 is, is the -- there's two items on this particular  
6 request.

7 One is that the Rapid Response Strikeforce, the  
8 emergency exigent need is that stolen vehicles from around  
9 the state are being moved into Laredo and being used to  
10 transport illegal aliens, as well as drugs and other  
11 contraband. This system is going to allow for additional  
12 overtime for these task force officers to work, and those  
13 assigned to the unit.

14 It's also going to provide some resources to  
15 upgrade generators that are used to manage skycams and  
16 that are used to monitor high traffic corridors. So it's  
17 a two-part request for a total of \$39,032.

18 The MVCPA Director and staff recommend that you  
19 approve this.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a motion?

21 LT. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez. I move that  
22 the MVCPA award a Rapid Response Strikeforce grant, as  
23 proposed in the application shown on page 53 of the MVCPA  
24 Board book to Laredo PD in the amount of \$39,033 --

25 MR. WILSON: Thirty-two dollars.

1 LT. GONZALEZ: Thirty-two dollars.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is there a second?

3 MR. GAUSE: Shay Gause. I second the motion.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: At this time, I'm going to  
5 recuse myself from the -- from voting, but I will call  
6 your name. When I call your name, please state your name  
7 and whether you support the motion or whether you do not  
8 support the motion.

9 Member Salinas?

10 MR. SALINAS: Gilberto Salinas. I support the  
11 motion.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jones?

13 MAJOR JONES: Sharon Jones. Support.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

15 LT. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez. I support.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gause?

17 MR. GAUSE: Shay Gause. I support.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

19 MS. WHITEHILL: Kit Whitehill. I support.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I will recuse myself. The  
21 motion does pass.

22 Third item, Mr. Wilson?

23 MR. WILSON: Yes. For the record, Bryan  
24 Wilson.

25 This third item is Eagle Pass auto burglary and

1 theft prevention -- or task force. This is one of the  
2 groups that does not have identified license plate  
3 readers. They're really critical to identifying stolen  
4 vehicles moving in the area. They're, again, same kind of  
5 deal where they're being used to transport illegal aliens  
6 and -- as well as other contraband, drugs, and other  
7 contraband.

8 This is a pretty small task force, and they've  
9 been stretched pretty thin, so this would be, I think,  
10 very helpful. But they're seeing the same kind of effect  
11 along the border that we read about in the paper. This  
12 would be very helpful to making sure that they have two.

13 They will use it within their city. They'll  
14 move it around, out to the outer edges of their city, in  
15 other places in Maverick County. In this case, this is a  
16 little different, because I'm asking you to fund it at --  
17 in the amount of \$48,900, but as Chief Rodriguez -- and  
18 this is not the policy of this Board, but I'm -- we're  
19 asking you to do two parts, to fund it at 100 percent,  
20 because that is not what we have published as a policy.

21 So I want you to be aware of that, but the --  
22 but we think that this is -- because of what's going on in  
23 the state and in the country right now, that this is  
24 really important to go ahead and fund this at 100  
25 percent. I don't think that Eagle Pass would be able

1 to -- for a small city like that could be able to pick  
2 this up.

3 And we have the funds available to do this. So  
4 this is an action item, and I recommend that we fund it,  
5 49,000 -- \$48,900 at 100 percent.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is there a motion?

7 MR. GAUSE: Chairman, Shay Gause. I move that  
8 the MVCPA award the Rapid Response Strikeforce grant, as  
9 proposed in the application shown on page 55 of the Board  
10 book to Eagle Pass PD in the amount of 48,900.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a second?

12 MR. SALINAS: Gilberto Salinas. I second.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I've got a motion from Member  
14 Gause, and second from Member Salinas. Is there any other  
15 further discussion?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I will call for  
18 the question. Members, when I call your name, please  
19 state your name and whether you support the motion or  
20 whether you do not support the motion.

21 Member Salinas?

22 MR. SALINAS: Gilberto Salinas. I support the  
23 motion.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jones?

25 MAJOR JONES: Sharon Jones. Support.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

2 LT. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez. I support.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gause?

4 MR. GAUSE: Shay Gause. I support.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

6 MS. WHITEHILL: Kit Whitehill. I support.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Mike Rodriguez,  
8 support. Motion passes.

9 And we're going to move on to Agenda Item No.  
10 8, MVCPA Director's report.

11 MR. WILSON: I'm sorry. We've got a couple  
12 more items here, Chief, on the Rapid Response Strikeforce  
13 I want to report on. I apologize if I dropped them.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Let's go back to  
15 those --

16 MR. WILSON: All right. This first item, I  
17 want to tell you what I did, and if y'all get mad about  
18 it, you can let me know right here in front of everybody,  
19 God and everybody else.

20 So -- but I've done, in talking -- after  
21 talking to Chief Rodriguez, and specifically about this  
22 border security issue, I reached out to Lieutenant  
23 Gonzalez. I've reached out to pretty much every commander  
24 on the border.

25 So what we've been doing for years, and the

1 Board has been okay with it, as we've done training, we  
2 spend about 20,000 a year -- I mean, we've budgeted about  
3 20,000 a year for travel, for our training -- to get our  
4 professional task force folks to different locations  
5 around the state, to conduct training. And this was a  
6 process that I worked with DMV several years ago, I kind  
7 of brought over from the state court system, that if  
8 somebody is doing something for the MVCPA, like conducting  
9 a training session through one of our training sessions,  
10 we will pay them at the State rate.

11 So their department might have a system to  
12 reimburse them, but we will pay them directly from the  
13 Comptroller's Office at the State rate. And so what we --  
14 what I've reached out to the DMV -- the Chief Financial --  
15 or Acting Interim Chief Financial Officer, and we've met  
16 with several of the purchasing folks.

17 And what I've been able to get them to agree  
18 to, and we're ready to go with this, unless this Board  
19 objects -- we will use some of the Rapid Response  
20 Strikeforce money and our existing travel dollars for any  
21 agent that wants -- in other words, one of our trained  
22 auto theft investigators to go to the border and provide  
23 assistance in Brownsville, McAllen, any of the locations,  
24 as long as that sworn -- and it's only for sworn officers.

25 I only made arrangements for sworn officers to

1 go to jurisdictions, and they work out ahead of time with  
2 those task forces. In other words -- so if they're going  
3 to come to Laredo, they're going to have to call Ruben  
4 Yañez, the lieutenant, and say, I'd like to come on, you  
5 know, Thursday and Friday and Saturday, or whatever. And  
6 they can come, as long as they've worked it out ahead of  
7 time.

8 We're staying out of the jurisdictional  
9 issues. That's up to the two police departments, to work  
10 out anything that needs to be coordinated with.

11 It's just -- but our intent is to put more  
12 bodies on the bridge to keep stolen vehicles from going  
13 into Mexico. That's what our statutory purpose on this  
14 is. Under this guideline, we can -- I've talked to  
15 Finance in DMV.

16 We can just extend when they request to us to  
17 reimburse the travel ahead of time, and they've told us  
18 that they've coordinated that with the local officer  
19 that's coming, and that's okay. They've received  
20 approval. Then we'll reimburse their travel for 100  
21 percent of the travel, but the cap is for \$5,000.

22 So I don't think anybody's going to go down  
23 there for that long, but you kind of wonder about that  
24 officer, if he's going to be gone for four or five  
25 weeks. But it's not paying overtime. The local



1 department or -- it could include travel, in other words,  
2 they're going to take their personal car, go down there as  
3 an officer, that we could reimburse it.

4 We can't reimburse agency cars, things like  
5 that. So it gets a little sticky, but my staff and I will  
6 work with the individual officers.

7 So unless there's any objection, I'm going to  
8 go ahead and implement that process. It's within my  
9 authority, less than \$5,000, that we're currently doing  
10 for training, but we're going to open it up for officers  
11 to be directly reimbursed by the department.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I would like to add to  
13 that. Director Wilson, we've been talking to DPS on this  
14 matter, in regards to the support that they might need  
15 down in the border, specific to areas where we have no  
16 task force members.

17 And I want to say, Del Rio is one where they're  
18 having a lot of issues, and there's no one there to  
19 support them. Again, we're the only ones left as subject  
20 matter experts when it comes to confidentials and things  
21 like that.

22 The other thing that I also conveyed to DPS,  
23 and talking to Major Jones here, and you know, talking to  
24 Regional Director of Region 3, which covers the border,  
25 you know, talking to him, I said, you know what? This is

1 something that -- you know, to supplement, augment your  
2 investigations, because when you get an investigator from  
3 these jurisdictions, they already know how to write an  
4 affidavit.

5 And you know, here we are getting, you know,  
6 troopers from Florida, and you know, other states, but  
7 when you get an investigator from Texas, and knowing what  
8 to write in the affidavit or the complaint, to get arrest  
9 warrants, or what to look for, it just makes it a lot  
10 easier when supporting, when augmenting those  
11 investigations.

12 So one of the things that I would like to  
13 implement during this process is to make sure that we just  
14 don't send somebody to the border without having a  
15 strategic plan or what they're going to be doing. I want  
16 to say, the commanders are very, you know, organized, and  
17 you know -- and when it comes to the whole planning as to  
18 what operation is going to take place, they do a very good  
19 job.

20 But we do have to be careful in just sending  
21 somebody without any guidance as to what they're going to  
22 be doing or who they're going to be reporting to. So in  
23 talking to Major Jones, you know, we're trying to get  
24 something going where we have a plan in place as to how  
25 this will take place.

1           And also in the matter, you know, sending it,  
2 you know, to the Regional Director of that area, through  
3 DPS executives, this is what's going to happen, and this  
4 is how it's going to go. Because I think that the  
5 investigator has to report to somebody.

6           There's going to be another supervisor to him  
7 that has to be reporting to somebody, and saying, okay,  
8 here we are. What are we going to do?

9           So I think that we need to tweak a little bit  
10 as to how this is going to take place, and then, you know,  
11 getting together with DPS and the jurisdictions along the  
12 border, having to talk to them. And first talk to them  
13 and then see how we can we implement this, and then we can  
14 move along.

15           But I do want to approve this, and see how we  
16 can move forward with this. So do I --

17           MR. WILSON: Can I respond?

18           MR. RODRIGUEZ: Sure.

19           MR. WILSON: Bryan Wilson, for the record. So  
20 I'm fixing to get into that second piece right there. I  
21 just wanted to let you know that this direct  
22 reimbursement -- there's a second piece that I was going  
23 to talk about, the Rapid Response Strikeforce. It's -- I  
24 think might be a little bit more in line.

25           So in this case, this would be, like,

1 Lieutenant Gonzalez has an officer that, you know, like,  
2 just -- I'm just making up an example that really don't  
3 need -- they don't -- they're not able to go to city  
4 council and do a lot of that, but that officer really  
5 comes to Lieutenant Gonzalez, and says, I'd like to go to  
6 Del Rio.

7 I mean, it's not like an all-expense-paid  
8 vacation. I mean, this is just actual, you know, working  
9 time. So what if -- I think, Lieutenant Martinez in  
10 Brownsville says, yes, Bill can come for three days, that  
11 Bill will go down there and get directly reimbursed.

12 It's not -- really, it's just trying to get  
13 exposure from people from Dallas, from Houston and  
14 different places. It's not the best way to go, because  
15 following the State guideline is not -- right -- is not  
16 the best way to get reimbursed.

17 So there's not a lot of incentive, other than  
18 if somebody really wants to go to see what's going on at  
19 the bridge and wants to do that. So that's what I was  
20 talking about, is a direct reimbursement, where we would  
21 pay you.

22 Now, the second part of this that I was going  
23 to talk about, on page --

24 MAJOR JONES: Can you wait, please --

25 MR. WILSON: Here.

1 MAJOR JONES: Before you go to the next --  
2 Sharon Jones. So Bill is going to do what? You say he's  
3 going to go for three days. What is he going to do, that  
4 we're going to reimburse him for?

5 MR. WILSON: They're going to work on the --  
6 and that's why I said at the beginning, this is just to  
7 do -- prevent motor vehicles from going into Mexico. So  
8 they're going to work with the officers on the bridge in  
9 Laredo or down in Brownsville, or wherever they're going  
10 to go.

11 And I was trying to stay out of the  
12 jurisdictional issue and cross -- because if DPS steps in,  
13 then you -- it becomes a whole different ball game, right,  
14 if you're working with DPS or part of some organized  
15 system. But this was just to give some of our officers  
16 that are somewhat remote, maybe Lubbock or Amarillo, that  
17 they want to have some exposure about what's going on at  
18 the border, to learn how they can improve their game in  
19 their local jurisdictions.

20 They've contacted Martinez or Yañez or Porras  
21 on the border, and say, yes, you can come for three days  
22 to work with us doing bridge operations and inspecting  
23 vehicles going into Mexico. That was supposed to be very  
24 limited and not getting into jurisdictional issues for  
25 direct reimbursement for that officer. That's approved,

1 A, by his local jurisdiction, and B, by the officer who's  
2 on the border, the task force commander that's on the  
3 border.

4 That was all that was about. Not a police  
5 operation, but giving our task force agents the ability at  
6 their supervisor's discretion -- it's always -- I mean,  
7 it's not just, like, people making stuff up.

8 So in this other method that I was going to  
9 next was where the department, the city, the county, says,  
10 I want to send three officers on a Rapid Response  
11 Strikeforce. We agree to allow the local jurisdiction to  
12 work out directly from some operation, investigations,  
13 support DPS on riding affidavits, whatever that task is on  
14 the Rapid -- defined by both DPS, by Laredo, by the  
15 requesting agencies.

16 So there's a Rapid Response Strikeforce  
17 element. Why is it needed? What's going to be done?

18 That one's more formal, and then when the  
19 person gets reimbursed -- so if they do it for \$4,999,  
20 there might be three officers, but they're going to Laredo  
21 to do whatever Lieutenant Yanez says there needs to be  
22 done, or working with DPS. That's a different ball game,  
23 and that's constructed under the Rapid Response  
24 Strikeforce for a police operation, investigation, or  
25 support.

1           Am I making any sense? We don't have to use  
2 the first one. I just worked that out, because it's  
3 already under my wheelhouse, and I can -- I figured out a  
4 way to do that if somebody needed to go, and they were --  
5 had something to do.

6           In other words, I've called each lieutenant in  
7 our funded jurisdictions, and they said -- they checked  
8 with their chief, and as long as they know ahead of time  
9 that they're coming and for what purpose, then they can  
10 work out with those individuals.

11           MAJOR JONES: You're making sense. Sharon  
12 Jones. But when it comes to writing paper, they're going  
13 to have to be prepared to write a paper and to have to go  
14 back at some point in time in the future for court. So  
15 that's another traveling back.

16           MR. WILSON: That's why I was trying to limit  
17 it to just looking at cars, and then say, if Mike's  
18 standing there with our officer from Dallas, then they  
19 would say, oh, that looks like a stolen car based on that  
20 VIN. Hey, Mike, or hey, Yañez, or whatever.

21           I was trying to keep -- in the direct  
22 reimbursement system, I was trying to make clear that it  
23 was very limited in just being able to see a vehicle  
24 that's on a public bridge, in a public place, and then  
25 notifying our -- that local partner that that's their

1 case.

2 MAJOR JONES: I understand, but you brought up  
3 affidavits, so I just wanted to --

4 MR. WILSON: Oh, I mean, I was --

5 MAJOR JONES: -- make sure --

6 MR. WILSON: -- going with what Mike said on  
7 the other process.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So what you're saying, there's  
9 two parts in this. Correct? There's one for the \$5,000,  
10 and then the other one is for rapid response?

11 MR. WILSON: Right. So the first part is, as I  
12 was just informing the Board, and then again, you can  
13 object, and I don't -- I will stop it right here. But  
14 that is -- if an officer who has permission from his local  
15 jurisdiction wants to travel to look at cars and identify  
16 stolen vehicles in a public place, on a public bridge,  
17 then we would -- with the proper permission from the  
18 receiving and the administrative agency, we'd say, I'll  
19 pay Bill's travel just to go look at cars, no  
20 investigations, no police work, just to go see what's  
21 going on at the border. If that -- again, this is real  
22 easy to stop, because I didn't -- I don't have to do this,  
23 and it's a lot of work, so I don't mind not doing this.

24 The second one is just following your own Rapid  
25 Response Strikeforce process. But all I'm asking is, in



1 the second one, the one on page 57, the Rapid Response  
2 Strikeforce method would still do exactly what we've  
3 already adopted as a policy. If we were going to  
4 reimburse that agency, again, that -- in that case, the  
5 agency is being reimbursed.

6 The Rapid Response Strikeforce can't come from  
7 a person. It can only come from an agency, a funded task  
8 force agency.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Chairman Rodriguez, for the  
10 record. The -- can we combine both?

11 MR. WILSON: We can do both, but no, I can't  
12 combine them. One is a direct reimbursement from the  
13 State of Texas, if somebody were to authorize that. And  
14 I'm okay. I think we should quickly -- just based on the  
15 questions, we should just jettison that. We don't need --  
16 we don't have to have both.

17 I was trying to respond to your question the  
18 other day, of trying to make sure we could provide the  
19 assistance. But the safest one for us is the policy we've  
20 already adopted as a Board, that an agency asked to  
21 send -- an agency identifies a need and sends a group, one  
22 or more officers, to a location to perform a police  
23 operation under our Rapid Response Strikeforce, whether  
24 it's overtime, whether it's bridge inspection, whether  
25 it's affidavits, whatever it is.

1           It's already -- we already have a policy in  
2 place, and it requires an operation description before  
3 we'll fund it.

4           MR. RODRIGUEZ: But it also covers the lodging  
5 and --

6           MR. WILSON: It would, yes --

7           MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah.

8           MR. WILSON: -- but it would be -- like, if --  
9 so if Dallas or Lubbock or somebody -- Lubbock will  
10 reimburse them for that amount, not us.

11           The first one was the State of Texas was going  
12 to directly reimburse. Again, we need probably just to  
13 set that aside, just to reduce the complexity.

14           The Rapid Response Strikeforce, we have a  
15 policy. They would be -- they would tell us, and it would  
16 go to the Grants Committee, that hey, here's what I'm  
17 going to do as a police department. I've already talked  
18 to Yañez or Porras or whatever, and then we would decide,  
19 okay, is that a reasonable request for that agency, to  
20 send two people down there?

21           The reimbursement goes to the department, not  
22 to the individual officers, and the operation plan has to  
23 be established by the department.

24           MAJOR JONES: Sharon Jones. I don't  
25 automatically want to drop the first one just because we

1 have questions --

2 MR. WILSON: I know. I'm just --

3 MAJOR JONES: -- because there are other Board  
4 members who may have input. So we're going to ask  
5 questions that we feel are appropriate, but not just --  
6 don't drop something just because we're asking questions.

7 MR. WILSON: Sure. My point was, it was a lot  
8 of work, and I was just trying to come up with a  
9 process. The policy we have, that this Board has adopted,  
10 is actually the most reliable. It's what I -- it's what  
11 we had already agreed to, that that's how we would fund,  
12 when officers were going to go do something.

13 That's all I was saying. It's, like -- I just  
14 kind of did this on the side. You know what I'm saying?

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Uh-huh.

16 MR. WILSON: I was, like -- I don't even know  
17 if I really should do it, because it works really well for  
18 training. But this is -- I recognized from the get-go, as  
19 I was putting it together, that I was, like -- oh, what  
20 about jurisdiction?

21 I know I talked to Martinez down in -- you  
22 know, like, what are we going to do? I mean, like, what's  
23 going to happen? Well, if I have a Rapid Response  
24 Strikeforce, I have a place to put the description of what  
25 the operation is.

1           That's -- so I want to say, I was kind of  
2           queasy coming into this meeting, whether that was really a  
3           good way to do it, because it works great for training,  
4           because if I ask Mike to send so-and-so to Dallas to do a  
5           training, there's not much behind that, right?

6           I mean, he's going to go. He's going to  
7           present the class, and then I reimburse him. It's done.

8           But this one was -- from the get-go, I was,  
9           like, oh, man, how am I going to deal with this, like you  
10          said, return to court? What happens if they want to --  
11          he's down there looking at -- the person is down there  
12          looking at cars, but then, all of a sudden, they ask him  
13          to help them on this case, or do some investigation on  
14          this stash house or something.

15          And now, all of a sudden, because I've got a  
16          direct relationship with the person, the officer, as a  
17          reimbursement tool, I didn't really plan for that, or I  
18          don't have a mechanism to capture that in the State direct  
19          reimbursement.

20          MAJOR JONES: And they will be named as a  
21          witness, regardless.

22          MR. WILSON: Yeah. Even if they're just  
23          standing there saying, hey, Mike, come look at this car.  
24          I think it's stolen. There's still going to be the person  
25          who saw it. Right?

1 MAJOR JONES: If there's six kilos of cocaine  
2 in that stolen vehicle, they're going to be named as a  
3 witness.

4 MR. WILSON: That doesn't happen, does it?

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Well, I think, you know, this  
6 is something good for anybody to go down and see for  
7 themselves what's happening at the border, even if he goes  
8 for two days, three days. You get to sit down on an  
9 interrogation of a cartel member, and you get to learn a  
10 lot from that interrogation, a lot.

11 You get to see, you know, a spectrum of work  
12 vehicles being cloned. You know, you get to see Border  
13 Patrol vehicles being cloned. And you get to see the  
14 operation that is happening at the border. So when you  
15 take that, because -- let me just be very clear.

16 You know, Lubbock, Amarillo, you know, all  
17 these other jurisdictions, you're not immune from cartel  
18 activity. You know, they're working in those  
19 jurisdictions. So having a little bit more input as to  
20 how it comes through our border and gets to your city,  
21 it's a win-win, you know, when you're sitting -- when your  
22 investigators are there sitting down and knowing how these  
23 people operate.

24 So I'm not opposed of sending people to get to  
25 know this type of operation, and then taking that. And

1 for example, I can see Montgomery County -- taking that to  
2 Montgomery County and saying, you know what, guys? You  
3 know, we need to start looking at this, because this is  
4 what's happening.

5           Anyway, we're probably missing it in our  
6 jurisdiction. You know, or Lubbock or Amarillo, those  
7 areas where, you know, the exposure is there, but at the  
8 same time, it's already, you know -- at that point, it's  
9 already, you know, far gone.

10           So I think it's good that we're doing this, and  
11 I'm not opposing it at all.

12           MR. WILSON: Okay.

13           MR. RODRIGUEZ: I mean, if we can do it, I  
14 mean, I'm in agreement to do it.

15           MR. WILSON: Well, so what the -- again, that  
16 first item is a system that I worked out for reimbursing  
17 at the State rate for travel, but it's not very  
18 comfortable for most people. I mean, our -- some of our  
19 travel guys don't like it. They get a 1099 at the end of  
20 the year from the Comptroller.

21           So there's not a lot of benefit, other than  
22 just having it in our pocket for when we need to do it.  
23 But let's talk about the Rapid Response Strike -- oh,  
24 sorry.

25           MR. GAUSE: I did just have a quick question.

1 Shay Gause. Mr. Wilson, is there an after-action that  
2 that individual officer will put together, much like the  
3 task forces do in their operations. But I went down -- I  
4 inspected --

5 MR. WILSON: Uh-huh.

6 MR. GAUSE: -- 30 vehicles or anything to that  
7 extent?

8 MR. WILSON: In the direct travel  
9 reimbursement, I don't have the mechanism for doing  
10 that. I just have the reasons that they went, and that  
11 they went, and I reimbursed them. So again, that in  
12 itself is another reason to try to probably depend more on  
13 our Rapid Response Strikeforce.

14 Look. I set the process up with DMV, so we can  
15 use it when we really need to, or if it comes to it,  
16 but --

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: But I think in the --

18 MR. WILSON: -- more important --

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- after-action -- sorry for  
20 the interruption, Bryan. Chairman Rodriguez, for the  
21 record.

22 I think for the after-action, Member Gause,  
23 they can report to their commander, and their commander is  
24 going to say, you know what? This is good or this is not  
25 good. You know, he can make the --

1 MR. WILSON: Yeah.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- phone calls to --

3 MR. WILSON: They would put it --

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- and say, hey --

5 MR. WILSON: -- on the progress report.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- you know what? This is a  
7 waste of time, you know --

8 MR. WILSON: I thought about that.

9 MR. GAUSE: And I think that's kind of the  
10 check and balance that --

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

12 MR. GAUSE: -- I'd be looking for is, we're  
13 going -- or I'm going, and I did this. Right? And to  
14 your point, I may be expected to go back for these three  
15 things or whatever the case may be.

16 MR. WILSON: That's a good point. I forgot.  
17 That would go on the progress report. So if we sent a  
18 task force member, we would expect that we reimburse them.

19 I didn't have an after-action. But if we did  
20 that, we would expect them to report on the quarterly  
21 progress report. We do it by quarter for each month.

22 They would need to tell us what happened on  
23 that event. So -- but again, I'm going to go back to what  
24 I'm -- the motion that I was going to present to you today  
25 was that you authorize us to do 100 percent reimbursement



1 for travel requests under the Rapid Response Strikeforce  
2 for border security.

3 So that's -- that was actually the request that  
4 we were -- that if they were going to the border security,  
5 meeting the criteria that you and Major Jones have  
6 established, that I would request that you allow a  
7 department, a task force, a currently-funded task force  
8 who wants to send -- to develop a Rapid Response  
9 Strikeforce with a border community, and respond  
10 accordingly, then we would pay, again, as I said earlier  
11 in the meeting -- we adopted an 80/20 standard.

12 This, I'm recommending. It would be available  
13 for 100 percent funding if it's for this border and port  
14 security.

15 So if Houston wants to send five officers down  
16 there, 10 officers, whatever they've got, they could  
17 get -- they would fill out a Rapid Response. What are we  
18 going to do? What are we -- who do we coordinate with?  
19 DPS Region 3, Major da, da, da, da, da. And you're going  
20 to explain that.

21 It will go to the Grants Committee, and they'll  
22 be considered for reimbursement.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Any more discussion?

24 LT. GONZALEZ: So Member Gonzalez. I just want  
25 to say, I think that -- from an intelligence perspective,

1 I think that this program could be very fruitful. You  
2 know, I'm just thinking about it from my task force.

3 And I think it would be great for them to be  
4 able to, one, receive what could be a whole lot of  
5 training with respect to see VINs and whatnot. And so  
6 that repetition, I think, would be incredibly valuable.

7 But also from an intelligence-gathering  
8 perspective, I think that, you know, we know that these  
9 cars are moving, you know, across the border, but where  
10 they're coming from. And so I think that the  
11 intelligence-gathering aspect of it is -- would be very  
12 valuable to it.

13 I would ask that, you know, with respect to the  
14 court, whatever expenses are incurred in the future  
15 related to court, we need to figure a way to reimburse  
16 those as well, if they have to go back to the border, to  
17 do that.

18 So that would be my caveat to you, Director  
19 Wilson.

20 MR. WILSON: And maybe that's our ace in the  
21 hole, is when we're doing -- I'm sorry. This is Bryan  
22 Wilson, for the record.

23 When we're doing the two-prong approach that I  
24 was presenting to you, maybe the issue is the Rapid  
25 Response Strikeforce for moving the officer down to do

1 this kind of work should be the -- you know, the Rapid  
2 Response Strikeforce to the agency, and if they have to go  
3 back, we could use the travel mechanism that I proposed as  
4 the way to get them to -- directly reimbursed.

5 So we can work on that. Just -- I recommend  
6 that we modify our policy to include 100 percent  
7 reimbursement for Rapid Response Strikeforce in response  
8 to border security issues.

9 MAJOR JONES: Okay. I'm going back to your  
10 first point, because you put it on paper. So we're not  
11 going to just brush it off. Sharon Jones.

12 The training portion, that's an actual --  
13 actually very valuable. They can learn, gather  
14 intelligence, go back to the area, and actually implement  
15 what they learned. Education is very valuable. With  
16 Texas DPS, we literally have other state agencies who come  
17 to Texas and learn interdiction.

18 So it's not -- I think you're kind of giving up  
19 a little bit too easy, because we're asking  
20 questions. We're asking questions because we want to make  
21 sure that we do the right thing, and also that if we're  
22 ever questioned or audited, we had these discussions.

23 And so I believe you're giving up a little bit  
24 too easy. You put it on paper. We're not going to skip  
25 it.

1 So do we need to make a motion, sir?

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a motion?

3 MAJOR JONES: Yes.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is there any further  
5 discussion?

6 (No response.)

7 MAJOR JONES: Okay. You have thrown me off,  
8 Mr. Wilson.

9 MR. WILSON: I'm aggravating, too.

10 MAJOR JONES: I move that the MVCPA Rapid  
11 Response Strikeforce grant process for strikeforce  
12 approval and funding be modified to allow 100 percent  
13 reimbursement for travel expenses to any MVCPA-funded task  
14 force that sends officers to support border security and  
15 prevent stolen motor vehicles from entering Mexico or  
16 being used to commit other crimes.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a second?

18 MR. SALINAS: Gilberto Salinas. I second the  
19 motion.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member  
21 Jones and a second from Member Salinas. Is there any  
22 further discussion?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I will call for  
25 the question. Members, when I call your name, please

1 state your name and whether you are in support of the  
2 motion or whether you do not support the motion.

3 Member Salinas?

4 MR. SALINAS: Gilberto Salinas. I support the  
5 motion.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jones?

7 MAJOR JONES: I support. Sharon Jones.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

9 LT. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez. I support.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gause?

11 MR. GAUSE: Shay Gause. I support.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

13 MS. WHITEHILL: Kit Whitehill. I support.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I, Mike Rodriguez, support.

15 Motion passes. And we'll go to the next item.

16 Do I have a motion on the following item?

17 MAJOR JONES: I got this. I move that the  
18 MVCPA Rapid Response Strikeforce grants process for  
19 strikeforce approval and funding be modified to increase  
20 the approval authority of the Grants, Budget and Report  
21 Committee for Rapid Response Strikeforce in the amount up  
22 to 30,000.

23 I further move that the same procedures be  
24 modified to include acceptance of Rapid Response  
25 Strikeforce application for license plate readers, funded

1 at 100 percent reimbursement for any jurisdictions that do  
2 not currently have MVCPA-funded license plate readers.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member  
4 Jones. Do I have a second?

5 MS. WHITEHILL: Kit Whitehill. I second.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Motion from Member  
7 Jones, second by Member Whitehill. Is there any other  
8 further discussion?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I will call for  
11 the question. Members, again, when I call your name,  
12 please state your name and whether you are in support of  
13 the motion or whether you do not support the motion.

14 Member Salinas?

15 MR. SALINAS: Gilberto Salinas. I support the  
16 motion.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jones?

18 MAJOR JONES: I support. Sharon Jones.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

20 LT. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez. I support.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gause?

22 MR. GAUSE: Shay Gause. I support.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

24 MS. WHITEHILL: Kit Whitehill. I support.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I, Mike Rodriguez, support.

1 Motion passes. Okay. Members, we're going to move to  
2 Agenda Item No. 8, MVCPA Director's report. Mr. Wilson?

3 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the  
4 record, my name is Bryan Wilson. I will -- the first time  
5 you've heard that today, I'm sure.

6 So I'll go through these fairly quickly. Just  
7 as far as personnel issues, I just wanted to introduce Joe  
8 Canady. Joe has been in motor vehicle theft for many  
9 years, 33 years in law enforcement, and we're grateful to  
10 have him on board. Chairman, you and Major Jones helped  
11 interview. So I at least get to share the blame if things  
12 go really bad.

13 No, no, I'm just kidding, because he's already  
14 been an asset to the program and pulling this meeting off  
15 and reaching out. And it's -- he's just got a really deep  
16 level of understanding about what we do. And so it's nice  
17 to be able to -- and so I encourage you Board members, if  
18 I'm not available, he probably knows more about auto theft  
19 than I do. Not probably, certainly.

20 But feel free to reach out when you have  
21 questions. But it's been nice, as he's helped me work  
22 through the different Rapid Response issues, trying to  
23 bring it home. So there's a little bio about him in  
24 there, and we're glad to have him aboard, and we  
25 appreciate it.

1           Just to let you know that -- so the Legislature  
2 turned down our three full-time FTEs for the -- collecting  
3 the \$100 million. We thought it was pretty reasonable. I  
4 will be looking to work with DMV to either reclassify  
5 positions regarding personnel, because we still have \$100  
6 million to collect and we still have identified the  
7 potential for at least \$5 to \$8 million that's remaining  
8 uncollected from different insurers.

9           It's -- we're -- you know, the reason we wanted  
10 the FTEs was because we're pretty tapped out as far as  
11 resources. So I'm just giving you a heads-up. I'll be  
12 working with the Chairman and DMV on trying to consider  
13 contract positions till we get another shot at the  
14 Legislature, because I don't know how else to move forward  
15 if we can't collect the money.

16           And people ask me all the time, well, hell, if  
17 you're not going to get the money, why are you working on  
18 it? Just like it's your job to decide when and where  
19 grants go, it's your job to make sure that this money gets  
20 collected, regardless.

21           We're going to do the right job no matter what  
22 the Legislature and the Governor does. We're going to do  
23 our job, and we're going to do it well. So that's my  
24 commitment. So to let you know that I'll reach out to  
25 some of you to work through how to get this position -- to



1 get that money in here for the state.

2 So as far as -- Dan, do you want to go over the  
3 budget real quick?

4 MR. PRICE: This is Dan Price, for the record.

5 So we have two budgets to present today. The first one  
6 is FY '22. You know, the last time we met, the final  
7 payments hadn't been made yet. The budget that we wound  
8 up spending was \$11,814,293.

9 There's a breakdown of how those expenditures  
10 were made in your Board books. The rest of the money from  
11 that budget was carried forward under UB authority, and  
12 we're getting the final numbers in. So those will go into  
13 the final -- the next set of reports that you receive.

14 On the next page, page 62, we had an FY '21,  
15 and that one is in process. We have almost completed the  
16 Q2 payments. Q3 payments were due today. The budget  
17 currently is at 12,573,823, and we've expended 4,296,231,  
18 which is not unusual at this point.

19 We have purchase orders and encumbrances that  
20 are upcoming of 7,840,104, and we have an available budget  
21 at this point of 437,488. That will, once again, get a  
22 couple of adjustments made based on what the Legislature  
23 has done that we will be able to report to you at the next  
24 meeting.

25 Any questions?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. WILSON: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I'll move on  
3 to the next -- just kind of a high level grant activity  
4 and analysis. Joe Canady.

5 MR. CANADY: Joe Canady, MVCPA. On this page,  
6 you see the recovery rate of stolen vehicles, 8,448. The  
7 clearance rate of vehicle burglaries, the number of  
8 vehicle burglaries, and the increased number of persons  
9 arrested.

10 The big two -- or two of big things on here  
11 that are done are 68(a) inspections, the confidential VIN  
12 inspections. These are conducted by task forces that are  
13 trained in doing these and providing these for citizens,  
14 along with NICB agents and other persons across the state  
15 and law enforcement agencies that have been trained.  
16 These are the only people that can do these inspections.

17 Some of these task forces and some of the  
18 smaller ones are conducting lots and lots of these  
19 inspections. And all of these inspections would not be  
20 done if not for these trained personnel that we have  
21 trained or NICB has trained, and the citizens will be at a  
22 loss on what to do, on how to get their vehicles titled  
23 and registered.

24 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Quick question for Joe.

1 MR. WILSON: Yes. Go ahead.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: This is year-to-date numbers?

3 MR. CANADY: Yes.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Do you know the  
5 jurisdiction that had the most --

6 MR. CANADY: I do not, but I'll get back with  
7 you -- I'll get back to you on that and send it to the  
8 entire Board.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

10 MR. WILSON: Go ahead.

11 MR. AJALA: Tessie Ajala, for the record. The  
12 next page I would like to talk about is 64 through 65,  
13 which is the grant adjustment report. Prior, you can see  
14 that there are two sections. The one on the -- on page 65  
15 are the ones we gave prior to last Board meeting.

16 You can see those are a total of five budget  
17 adjustments. The most recent ones are on page 64. Those  
18 are a total of about 13 different budget adjustments.

19 Like Bryan always tries to say, that these are  
20 changes to our statement of grant award grantees, and so  
21 we're careful to document them to let you see how much  
22 changes each task force is requesting to their projects  
23 every year.

24 And below, on page 65, we have a yearly  
25 tabulation of budget adjustments. You can see, in 2018,

1 2019, '20 and '21 -- you can see, in 2019 and then '20, we  
2 have a little bit of a higher rate of adjustments.

3 On the next page, 66, these are a high-level  
4 summary of our public education and public awareness  
5 programs and activities. And you can see our numbers on  
6 analytics and Facebook. We've reached about over 6,000  
7 people over 990 post engagements.

8 And we see an unusually high level of media  
9 traffic about catalytic converter thefts across the state,  
10 and as well as across the country. And it's generating a  
11 lot of traffic on social media. Houston did quite a bit  
12 on that, and Houston's activities were also featured on  
13 Facebook and other media outlets.

14 Twitter, we also featured news of Henry Canales  
15 that was -- that we lost on the job. And we also featured  
16 catalytic converters. Our Twitter activities have been  
17 progressively getting higher, as well.

18 And you can see that we also collaborate with  
19 other theft prevention associations across the country,  
20 and we get materials -- promo materials that we produce  
21 for all the task forces to be able to use across the state  
22 for auto theft cases. And those are two summaries of some  
23 of the media stories we have on social media, about  
24 catalytic converters and fraud-related motor vehicle  
25 crimes.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. WILSON: Moving along, are there any  
3 questions about that?

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Just a quick question.  
5 Chairman Rodriguez, for the record. On the Twitter  
6 account, we have 45 active followers?

7 MR. AJALA: Yes, sir.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: What about Facebook?

9 MR. AJALA: On Facebook, we have -- I believe  
10 we have about -- I don't have it highlighted here, Mr.  
11 Chairman, but I can get the number of active followers on  
12 Facebook for you. We've had about 6,146 people, thus far,  
13 that are actively participating as of the last analytics  
14 that was produced by Facebook -- 990 post engagements.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Are we boosting this post?  
16 When we post, do we boost and do those kind of things with  
17 Facebook?

18 MR. AJALA: Yes, I do, but -- I do try to do  
19 repetitive shares. Boosting entails subscription and  
20 payments and so on that I've not gone into, which is  
21 something I plan to discuss with Dan, as well, because  
22 each of those boosts will have paid additional fees for  
23 them to be able to kick in. So --

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So can we find a way to  
25 increase the amount of followers on Facebook and also on

1 Twitter? Just because 45 active followers -- is that what  
2 we spend our money on?

3 MR. WILSON: Well, if you want to talk that  
4 guy. So what -- I brought these because we've been  
5 working on it, thinking about that a lot. This is Bryan  
6 Wilson, for the record.

7 I -- so these are some of the items that we  
8 bought and we wanted to give away for people who liked it  
9 and put it into a drawing or things like that. We can't  
10 do that as a State -- I'm picking on David, but I knew --  
11 I know that provisions of the Constitution -- that we  
12 can't even buy you food and drink when -- you know, like,  
13 for meetings and things like that.

14 So there's lots of provisions in the Texas  
15 Constitution that prohibit people generating or getting  
16 something from the State. But the local jurisdiction -- I  
17 mean, one of the things I've talked to in the last meeting  
18 was -- this is a steering wheel lock that we had, you  
19 know -- in the local jurisdictions to increase, to use as  
20 a drawing item or whatever.

21 So we've been trying to figure out ways to  
22 improve our ability to get people to like us on  
23 Facebook. You know, that's what Whataburger does. If you  
24 like them on Facebook, you enter them into a free drawing  
25 for, you know -- or get a free Whataburger or whatever.

1           We just can't do stuff like that, so we either  
2 have to buy it, which you know, in the last few years,  
3 we've been kind of tight, so our officers -- our money is  
4 going to our officers, and that's our priority. And I  
5 think that's appropriate, but at some point, we've got to  
6 figure out how can we generate -- either buy likes or -- I  
7 don't know what it's called, but I mean -- I'm sorry.

8           I'm the last guy to do Facebook any time in  
9 this century. And I say this century, not the last one.  
10 So anyway, we need to move forward, but we're working on  
11 that, working with the strategies.

12           What I've tried to -- like, with this -- you  
13 know, like, the posts that you see on the catalytic  
14 converters. Houston got on national TV. We liked that  
15 one, to generate -- to attract and generate information.

16           So those kind of things, are we really good at  
17 cohesive between -- like, Laredo has a -- they have a  
18 page. And Victoria has a page. But we're not quite there  
19 yet in making sure that we actually generate the kind of  
20 activity on that, so.

21           MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I'm just saying, because  
22 you know, Twitter, it's very popular. Facebook, you know,  
23 it's kind of changed a little bit. You know, and now,  
24 it's more Instagram and all those other social media  
25 platforms.

1           But at the same time, you know, you've got your  
2 Senators, your Representatives, everybody with an account,  
3 and you know, doing what we do and what we do best, it  
4 doesn't hurt tagging them, and you know, them following  
5 us.

6           And we can say our story through there, you  
7 know. Sometimes they don't even know what we do. So I  
8 think it would be important for that to happen, I mean,  
9 that engagement with -- not only with the public, but  
10 with, you know, every person that has an interest in what  
11 we do.

12           For example, our Reps and our Senators that are  
13 very, very active in social media platforms. So putting  
14 in the good word that the task forces do around every  
15 jurisdiction in the state of Texas. It's always good to  
16 be able to do that, and tagging those important people  
17 that, you know, at the end of the day, they decide what  
18 comes our way.

19           So if we can implement some sort of strategy to  
20 grow that number of followers within Facebook and Twitter,  
21 I think it would be very helpful for us. And also, you  
22 know, once you have those followers tagging and sharing  
23 from other task forces around the state, you know, it's an  
24 excellent tool to have.

25           MR. WILSON: Yeah, we'll keep working on



1 getting better. I mean, it's probably something we might  
2 bring in to you in the future about hiring an outside  
3 consultant. This is Bryan Wilson, for the record. Sorry.

4 But we'll see about doing that next time. I  
5 did want to show you real quick on one thing that Tess  
6 shared. I'm moving on, if that's okay, Chairman.

7 The thing on page 65, at the bottom -- I just  
8 wanted to show you that, you know, part of our  
9 responsibility is, you know, to protect the best interests  
10 of the State on your behalf, right. And so the programmer  
11 sent me this little table the other day, and I went, oh,  
12 put that in the Board book. Because if all we ever do is  
13 agree to everything that everybody tells us, then we're  
14 not doing our job.

15 But this table kind of shows that we do turn  
16 some down. We turn -- we administratively close them,  
17 because we're trying to make sure that we're taking care  
18 of what we're supposed to take care of on your behalf.

19 So -- and anyway, so I'm just going to finish  
20 these out real quick, if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman. I  
21 know there's other people kind of -- well, Joe, go ahead  
22 and do the training real quick.

23 MR. CANADY: This is Joe Canady, MVCPA. In  
24 March of this year, MVCPA held investigator training in  
25 Houston. Approximately, a little more than 50 attendants,

1 26 in remote attendants, and 33 in person.

2 In June of this year, I presented at the NICB  
3 conference. Out of the attendees, there were, I believe,  
4 five from ABTPA task forces in different areas of the  
5 state. In August, there will be the International  
6 Association of Vehicle Theft Investigators in Colorado.

7 NICB will have a course in Bastrop. In  
8 September, we will be presenting the intermediate training  
9 during the TAVTI conference, the last week of September.

10 MR. WILSON: Okay. Any questions on  
11 training? Okay, so --

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Major has a question.

13 MR. WILSON: Yes, go ahead.

14 MAJOR JONES: Sharon Jones. Are you going to  
15 disseminate that information so we can --

16 MR. CANADY: Yes, we will, and we will be  
17 sending out -- not only will TAVTI be sending out for  
18 their registration, we will be sending out for  
19 registration for the intermediate training. And part of  
20 it will be -- rather than duplicating some training, they  
21 already had an asset restoration class scheduled during  
22 that week as part of the TAVTI training for their members.

23 Part of the intermediate training will be asset  
24 restoration, as well. So rather than duplicating that  
25 class, on the day of the asset -- for the intermediate

1 training people, they will come together with the TAVTI  
2 people for the asset restoration training.

3 LT. GONZALEZ: Why only 20 students?

4 MR. CANADY: Because of the number of TAVTI  
5 membership. You know, the investigators from TAVTI will  
6 be attending. It's unknown how many of those that will be  
7 attending that asset restoration class.

8 So when you combine the two on teaching the  
9 asset restoration, that could present problems with a very  
10 high number of students at one time.

11 MR. WILSON: We'll be getting a new schedule.  
12 Now, just to remind everybody, so this Board adopted the  
13 curriculum years ago. I keep it alive through Texas DMV  
14 TCOLE Advisory Board that I'm chairman of.

15 So what we do is, we have the two classes,  
16 intermediate. Sharon Jones, Major Jones, and Fred Lohmann  
17 and myself make up the core of that work group. And then  
18 I take that class -- that we agree to the class structure,  
19 and then we -- when we make changes, it goes back to Fred,  
20 who controls the ISO access for all officers in the state,  
21 Major Jones, because the original curriculum came from DPS  
22 when DPS used to do it, and myself to manage the TCOLE  
23 approvals.

24 And so when we make changes, which we haven't  
25 in a long time -- but I think you and Fred and I met one

1 time. So that issue is -- we're managing it on behalf of  
2 the Board. And then Joe will be conducting the training  
3 or coordinating the training.

4 With COVID, we just had one training last year,  
5 one training this year. We're going to try to get back to  
6 our three a year around the state. We do it in Dallas,  
7 Houston and then one other place every year. So trying to  
8 get back on schedule.

9 The Governor's ordered everything returned to  
10 normal, so we'll hopefully we can get that going again  
11 quickly. As far as -- thanks again for everybody doing  
12 cybersecurity and the approval that Chairman Rodriguez  
13 mentioned earlier.

14 So at the bottom of page 70 is the -- Governor  
15 has ordered to return to normal, but as normal now  
16 includes telecommuting for staff many days, if not most  
17 days, but everybody's obligated, just like they're here  
18 and their smiling faces today, to be here to take care of  
19 business. That's what we do.

20 There's going to be, kind of -- in bottom of  
21 page 70 -- this is just for your information. There are  
22 reports that I have to do on your behalf for the  
23 Legislative Budget Board. There are key and non-key  
24 performance measures that I report.

25 And I just -- I asked Dan to go ahead and

1 update these. We'll be preparing them over the next few  
2 weeks to turn in, towards the end of the year, I guess.  
3 Our reports are only done once a year, because auto theft  
4 rates from DPS only come out once a year, and most of our  
5 stuff is calculated on that.

6 The Virtual Command Center that we set up a  
7 couple years -- I guess almost two years -- ago with the  
8 FBI is up and running. Joe is now full-time tasked with  
9 getting that. On behalf of Chairman Rodriguez, a couple  
10 weeks ago I sent two emails out to tell individuals -- to  
11 thank individuals who are participating and posting  
12 information that we need to use for -- this is a law  
13 enforcement secure website with double-factor -- two-  
14 factor authentication.

15 But Chairman Rodriguez is committed to making  
16 sure that our task forces operate more cohesively, and so  
17 we've been supporting that mission. And so as part of  
18 that, they will post suspects, missing vehicles, and other  
19 information that's helpful to identify and reduce motor  
20 vehicle crime among officers.

21 So the last thing is, as far as -- Joe went to  
22 Brownsville to do a site visit a few weeks ago, while he  
23 was doing the training that he mentioned earlier. We'll  
24 continue to work on different collaborations, making sure  
25 that we're communicating and helping people do their jobs.

1 MR. GAUSE: Mr. --

2 MR. WILSON: Yes. Go ahead.

3 MR. GAUSE: Mr. Wilson, Shay Gause. Just on  
4 the Virtual Command Center, is -- do you have deeper level  
5 of data, number of task forces participating, number of --

6 MR. WILSON: I think right now there's about  
7 40 active users. We sent an email to the -- we sent -- we  
8 had about 20 inactive users, people that are registered  
9 with the FBI, and they could have access, but they've  
10 fallen off for not using over 90 days.

11 That's the ones I sent saying, you know, that  
12 the MVCPA has -- you know, the Chairman is requesting that  
13 you stay active in the system. It was -- we trained all  
14 the commanders.

15 But right now, I think we're right at around 40  
16 active users, and we also sent it out to NICB and other  
17 partners that are already in the FBI system that can have  
18 access to it. And NICB has assured us that they will  
19 begin using and providing more leads and information on  
20 that system.

21 But we'll make a note, and next time, we'll  
22 give you the rundown. And this -- I mean, Chairman  
23 Rodriguez had mentioned -- and I appreciate the question,  
24 because he had mentioned that if we're going to work at  
25 having some level of cohesiveness and working together as

1 our -- both our strategic plan and our mission statement  
2 says that something that might be considered in the  
3 future, that -- you know, I'm not -- we're not setting it  
4 today.

5 But that we might look at making it a condition  
6 of the grant. Right now, participation in the Virtual  
7 Command Center is not a requirement of that grant.

8 MR. GAUSE: Well, and just thinking back to the  
9 struggles we had with scoring earlier and participation,  
10 this is not good evidence of participation. Right?

11 MR. WILSON: Right.

12 MR. GAUSE: Not for what it could be.

13 MR. WILSON: Right. That concludes my report,  
14 Mr. Chairman.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Thank you to the  
16 staff. And welcome, Joe.

17 MR. CANADY: Thank you.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, we'll move on to  
19 Agenda Item No. 9, public comment.

20 Yessenia, do we have anybody signed up?

21 MS. BENAVIDES: No.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: No one?

23 MR. RICHARDS: Nothing.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. We do not have any  
25 comment sheets from the public, so we'll move to Agenda

1 Item No. 10. Executive session?

2 MR. WILSON: You'd have to look at that guy.

3 MR. RICHARDS: No, sir, none.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I thought we were.

5 MR. RICHARDS: Nah, not today.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: No executive session. Okay.

7 Is there any -- unless there are any other -- if there's  
8 any other further business, I would like to entertain a  
9 motion to adjourn.

10 LT. GONZALEZ: Second the motion.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. Someone needs to make a  
12 motion.

13 MR. GAUSE: He's entertaining --

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I'm entertaining it.

15 LT. GONZALEZ: I make a motion to close this  
16 session. Member Gonzalez.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Have I got a second?

18 MR. GAUSE: Shay Gause. I second.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All in favor?

20 (A chorus of ayes.)

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the record reflect that the  
22 vote is unanimous. It is now 12:37 p.m. We are  
23 adjourned.

24 (Whereupon, at 12:37 p.m., the meeting was  
25 adjourned.)



C E R T I F I C A T E

1  
2  
3 MEETING OF: Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority

4 LOCATION: Austin, Texas

5 DATE: June 30, 2021

6 I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,  
7 numbers 1 through 137, inclusive, are the true, accurate,  
8 and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording  
9 made by electronic recording by Elizabeth Stoddard before  
10 the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

11  
12 DATE: July 7, 2021  
13  
14

15  
16  
17 /s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
18 (Transcriber)  
19

20 On the Record Reporting  
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