

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION AUTHORITY

GRANTS, BUDGET AND REPORTING (GBR)
COMMITTEE MEETING

4000 Jackson Avenue
Building 1
Lone Star Room
Austin, Texas 78731

1:00 p.m.
Tuesday,
June 7, 2022

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Julio Gonzalez, Chair
Sharon Jones (absent)
Gilberto Salinas

STAFF:

Bryan Wilson, Director
David Richards, General Counsel

ON THE RECORD REPORTING
(512) 450-0342

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. GONZALEZ: Good afternoon. My name is
3 Julio Gonzalez, and I'm pleased to open the Grants, Budget
4 and Reporting (GBR) Committee meeting of the Motor Vehicle
5 Crime Prevention Authority.

6 It is now one o'clock p.m., and I am now
7 calling the committee meeting for June 7, 2022, to order.

8 I want to note for the record that the public notice of
9 this meeting, containing all items on the agenda, was
10 filed with the Office of Secretary of State on May 27,
11 2022.

12 I want to welcome those who are with us for
13 today's committee meeting. Face coverings and social
14 distancing are not required at this meeting, and each
15 individual attending the meeting has the right and
16 responsibility to decide for themselves based on their
17 personal circumstances. It is your choice, and you are
18 welcome here at this meeting of the GBR Committee of the
19 MVCPA.

20 And before we begin today's meeting, please
21 place all cell phones and other communication devices in
22 the silent mode and, please, as a courtesy to others, do
23 not carry on side conversations or other activities in the
24 meeting room.

25 If you wish to address the committee or speak

1 on an agenda item during today's meeting, please complete
2 a speaker's sheet at the registration table. Please
3 identify the specific item you are interested in
4 commenting on, your name, address and whether you are
5 representing anyone or just speaking for yourself. If
6 your comment does not pertain to a specific agenda item,
7 we will take your comment during the general public
8 comment portion of the meeting.

9 We are recording audio and broadcasting audio
10 and video on publicly available links that were posted
11 with this meeting. Comments to the MVCPA committee are
12 limited to three minutes. Anyone who comments must fill
13 out a comment sheet. Comments must be pertinent to the
14 issue listed on the comment sheet. Everyone who wants to
15 address the committee must be recognized and always state
16 your name and affiliation for the record.

17 There are few things that will assist in making
18 the meeting run smoother and assist the court reporter in
19 getting an accurate record: ask the chairman to proceed
20 and be sure to get recognized before speaking; identify
21 yourself before speaking; speak clearly and do not speak
22 over others.

23 I would also like to thank our court reporter
24 who is transcribing this meeting. To make sure we have an
25 accurate recording of this meeting, it is very important

1 that committee members and anyone presenting today
2 identify themselves before speaking and speak clearly and
3 slowly.

4 Before we begin today, I'd like to remind all
5 presenters and those in attendance of the rules of conduct
6 at our committee meetings. The committee chair has the
7 authority to supervise the conduct of meetings. This
8 includes the authority to determine when a speaker is
9 being disruptive of the meeting or is otherwise violating
10 the timing or presentation rules that I just discussed.

11 And now I'd like to have a roll call of the
12 committee members. Please respond verbally when I call
13 your name.

14 Member Jones?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Salinas?

17 MR. SALINAS: Here.

18 MR. GONZALEZ: And let the record reflect that
19 I, Julio Gonzalez, am here too. We have a quorum.

20 Please all stand and honor our country and
21 state with the pledges of allegiance. I will now turn it
22 over to Member Salinas to lead us in the Pledge of
23 Allegiance.

24 (The U.S. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

25 MR. GONZALEZ: And I will lead us in the Texas

1 Pledge.

2 (The Texas Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

3 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you, Member Salinas, for
4 leading us in the pledge.

5 Going to action item 1.D, is that on page 25?

6 MR. WILSON: It's just if you have any
7 comments, if you have any statements on how you want this
8 meeting to go, general statements, 1.D is just your
9 comments and then the members' comments, if you want them.

10 MR. GONZALEZ: I don't have any comments.

11 Members, we will now take up briefing and
12 action items. Bryan Wilson and designated staff will
13 present the items. The cover pages in the MVCPA Board
14 book reference both this committee agenda item number and
15 the MVCPA Board meeting agenda item. As we move through
16 our discussion, the staff will indicate the page number to
17 help us stay on the same page.

18 Members, we will now hear Bryan Wilson and some
19 staff to begin the meeting. I call agenda item 2.,
20 Discuss and consider recommendations on the FY21 and FY22
21 budget.

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

23 I want to call everybody's attention to page
24 25, and I'd like to just make sure it's clear. If you'll
25 look at page 25, there's a table with blue and white lines

1 as we move through the book, and you'll see that we're
2 using one book for both the board meeting tomorrow as well
3 as this committee meeting today.

4 So on the first box it says Board agenda item,
5 second box says GBR Committee item, so as we move through,
6 we're doing 2, 3, 4, 5, et cetera. So I just wanted to
7 let you know that this same book is the book that we'll be
8 using tomorrow as well, and we've tried to indicate to
9 help you keep your noggins together about what we're on.
10 Tomorrow it's going to be the same page, but it's going to
11 be a different agenda item. Okay?

12 So the first thing we're going to do before we
13 can do any of the following actions is to talk about the
14 budget, and I've provided on the top of page 26 a
15 statement of what our FY21 -- I'm sorry -- our current
16 FY22 budget is.

17 A lot of the money has just been allocated.
18 After last year's budget cuts we tried to do a major
19 purchase with DMV. We had issued a procurement several
20 years ago that was supposed to last multiple years to be
21 able to obtain a lot of the items that our task forces
22 hand out.

23 We've got all new procurement staff, and so
24 when we went through the process, we got shut down by the
25 Comptroller's Office, as the procurement was too large to

1 go out for bid even though we'd gone out for bid. So it
2 was just too many people, new people. So there was a lot
3 of things that we were going to spend money on but that
4 we're not going to spend money on now.

5 So even though at the March meeting we only set
6 aside \$250,000 for some of the things we were going to do
7 today, there's a lot more money available because we're
8 going to -- if you'll look at the top you'll see there's a
9 lot of money allocated for certain things.

10 We were going to hire a full-time contractor to
11 help us manage our insurance program, but due to the
12 director's capacity to take on new projects, we won't be
13 spending that \$110,000 that we had allocated.

14 So my recommendation will be to you for the
15 remainder of this year is to allocate all of these funds
16 into grant program funds, and let's get money where we can
17 make the most hay, if you will, from a rancher's
18 perspective.

19 So that's what you'll see on the middle of that
20 page, Proposed FY22 Budget. I'll be asking you today to
21 reallocate all those categories back into the grant
22 program so that we can have discussions in a little bit
23 about the kinds of grants and the amount of grants we'll
24 be issuing out.

25 And then the reason you're sitting there

1 scratching your head, Why on earth did that man put FY21
2 in this year, surely we're done with that. Well, no,
3 we're not, because one of the strategies, as we've gone
4 through six years now of budget cuts and reductions and
5 different things, is that we always allocate grant funds
6 before we leave the year so that we don't leave anything
7 in the previous year.

8 So as long as we do it before the end of the
9 year and the obligation is made and we issue -- poor
10 Yessenia has to work her tail off to get those POs and
11 obligations cut -- then that money, even though it's
12 previous year's money, is still obligated.

13 So what we do is when we have these meetings is
14 make sure we catch you up on where we are on expenditures.

15 The City of Houston, we allocated \$300,000 of their
16 roughly \$1 million grant out of '21 funds, which that
17 should be about used up, and then we have the Texas A&M
18 grant that we'll talk about later that was obligated out
19 of FY21 funds. So until we finish using those funds, we
20 will always keep reporting them to you.

21 Now, under state law, this board and DMV cannot
22 obligate any further from any funds that remain in '21;
23 that's been swept into the state budget, but whatever
24 obligations we made before the end of the year will
25 continue on until either the purchase order is closed or

1 until the funds have been expended, whichever happens
2 first.

3 Okay. So with that, this is an action item
4 that staff is recommending that you adopt or recommend
5 that the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority adopt
6 this proposed FY22 budget tomorrow.

7 Remember, the actions we're taking today are
8 committee recommendations for the board meeting tomorrow,
9 and so I would ask the committee to adopt the proposed
10 budget that I have laid out here in the middle of page 26.

11 MR. GONZALEZ: Are there any questions for Mr.
12 Wilson and the staff?

13 MR. SALINAS: Member Salinas. So again,
14 similar to the previous committee meeting, today is a
15 recommendation, and then at tomorrow's board meeting is
16 when we actually take the action to adopt.

17 MR. WILSON: Correct.

18 MR. SALINAS: Thank you.

19 MR. GONZALEZ: Yessenia, are there any public
20 comments for this agenda item?

21 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

22 MR. GONZALEZ: Does anyone else wish to speak
23 on this item?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. GONZALEZ: Members, at this time I will

1 entertain a motion.

2 MR. SALINAS: Member Salinas. I move that the
3 MVCPA GBR, the Grants, Budget and Reporting Committee,
4 recommend to the MVCPA to adopt the proposed fiscal year
5 '22 budget shown on page 26 of the meeting book.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: I have a motion from Member
7 Salinas to adopt the proposed budget on page 26, and I
8 will second that motion.

9 Members, a motion has been made and seconded.
10 Is there any further discussion?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. GONZALEZ: Hearing none, I will now call
13 for a vote. Members, all those in favor say aye.

14 (A chorus of ayes.)

15 MR. GONZALEZ: The motion passes. And let the
16 record reflect that I, Julio Gonzalez, support the motion.
17 Motion passes.

18 I call agenda item 3.A., Discuss and consider
19 recommendations to Rapid Response Strike Force Grant
20 Program, a policy change regarding travel for grantee
21 officers and agencies conducting MVCPA-sponsored TCOLE
22 training.

23 Director Wilson.

24 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

25 This item is a recent revelation. I get tired

1 of coming back for little bites on this policy, but
2 remember, the Rapid Response Strike Force was just fairly
3 new, the first pilot program was done in 2019, didn't have
4 any in '20, so as we've learned different things about how
5 task forces, cities, and counties operate.

6 We've had to come back several times to ask for
7 some slight revisions to the policy, but because this
8 policy does give some discretion to both the director to
9 implement it, as well as the Grants, Budget and Reporting
10 Committee for anything \$30,000 or less, it's important
11 that we keep a very solid written policy.

12 So I apologize, we saw this in March, we made
13 an adjustment that Chairman Rodriguez had wanted to do in
14 coordination with some of the tax assessor-collectors, but
15 we also do a lot of TCOLE training, and we also coordinate
16 TCOLE training related to this business of auto theft and
17 motor vehicle crime prevention or law enforcement
18 training.

19 So what we've learned from our task force
20 partners is that when an officer that we're wanting to
21 conduct a training for us in this area of law enforcement
22 is that if -- say you're an officer and you're going to do
23 an individual contract, because under the current policy
24 we can issue a current contract with an officer to conduct
25 the training, but a lot of the larger departments would

1 require that officer to take leave to conduct that
2 training if he's not on department-reimbursed travel.

3 So all this policy is asking to do is when we
4 have -- and we often use the trainers for doing certain
5 kinds of training, say this new fraud training that we
6 told you about at the last board meeting -- well, that
7 officer, if he's going to do that training, we're trying
8 to replicate that.

9 We went up to Dallas, we're going to do it in
10 San Antonio, we're going to do it in Austin, and so that
11 officer has to take leave from his job even though he's
12 performing law enforcement training because the department
13 is not going to reimburse his travel.

14 The exact same officer doing the exact same
15 program where we give the travel money to the department
16 or the grantee, he gets paid under this travel, and he's
17 authorized to use his agency car and not have to take
18 leave. So it would be compensable other than we've made a
19 private contract with him through DMV to reimburse his
20 travel; that's the problem.

21 So what we're doing is many of our trainers, we
22 have a couple of retired trainers -- we're not doing away
23 with any policy because for the retired trainer we'll
24 still sign an individual contract, but if you're in a
25 department or in a task force and you want to do a

1 training, your city or your county can ask for a Rapid
2 Response Strike Force Grant, if you allow this policy, and
3 then we would reimburse the department for whatever travel
4 that you undertook while you were doing this training.
5 And it's our training; I want to be clear about that. All
6 of these trainings are approved by MVCPA.

7 MR. GONZALEZ: I have a question. So the Rapid
8 Response, that's 20 percent cash match also?

9 MR. WILSON: Well, thank you for bringing that
10 up. We're asking for this particular type -- our general
11 grant rule says all grants that we do are 20 percent cash
12 match, but the board has made exceptions along the way.

13 One of the exceptions is in this policy is when
14 it's a border or port security; we'll be talking about
15 that in just a minute. So last year the board said
16 because of the priority the legislature has placed on us
17 for border or port security, even though they didn't
18 provide any additional funds, this board decided that part
19 of the policy is that we will reimburse border and port
20 security efforts at 100 percent.

21 So even though we have a grant rule in the
22 Texas Administrative Code, you've adopted a policy that
23 you're going to waive that for each transaction here.

24 MR. GONZALEZ: So using that example with
25 Houston, we're going to reimburse them at 100 percent, not

1 at 80 percent.

2 MR. WILSON: That's correct. The policy that
3 we're requesting on page -- the edit that we're asking is
4 that it would be at 100 percent, and I see I didn't put
5 that in the policy, but it's in the motion.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: Members, are there any questions
7 for Director Wilson?

8 MR. WILSON: It is in the policy. I'm sorry.

9 MR. GONZALEZ: Excuse me?

10 MR. WILSON: It is in the policy; it is there.

11 MR. GONZALEZ: Yessenia, are there any public
12 comments for this agenda item?

13 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir. I didn't receive any.

14 MR. GONZALEZ: Members, at this time I will
15 entertain a motion.

16 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chair, Member Salinas. I
17 move that the GBR Committee recommend to the MVCPA to
18 amend the RRS policy to allow task force grantees to apply
19 for the travel at 100 percent reimbursement for their
20 officers to conduct TCOLE or TAC training approved by the
21 MVCPA director.

22 MR. GONZALEZ: I have a motion from Member
23 Salinas for the GBR Committee to recommend to the MVCPA to
24 amend the Rapid Response Strike Force policy to allow task
25 force grantees to apply for travel at 100 percent

1 reimbursement for their officers to conduct TCOLE or TAC
2 training approved by the MVCPA director. I will second
3 the motion.

4 Members, the motion has been made and seconded.
5 Is there any further discussion?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. GONZALEZ: Hearing none, I will now call
8 for a vote. Members, all those in favor of the motion say
9 aye and all opposed nay.

10 (A chorus of ayes.)

11 MR. GONZALEZ: Let the record reflect that I,
12 Julio Gonzalez, support the motion. The motion passes.

13 I now call agenda item 3.B., FY22 Rapid
14 Response Grant to Corpus Christi.

15 MR. WILSON: I'll defer to Joe Canady on this
16 one. Thank you.

17 MR. CANADY: For the record, my name is Joe
18 Canady, MVCPA.

19 The City of Corpus Christ Police Department has
20 applied for funding for a Rapid Response Strike Force
21 Grant for equipment and overtime. They've experienced a
22 20 percent increase in unauthorized use of vehicles from
23 2021, and their theft of motorcycles has nearly doubled.

24 There's been an increase in crimes being
25 connected to aggravated incidents, including robbery and

1 murder, as is occurring through a lot of jurisdictions
2 across the state.

3 Law enforcement units currently equipped with
4 LPR systems do not have the time, due to caseloads and
5 demand, to be able to target areas known for hotspots
6 where these stolen vehicles are located in order to
7 recover them and prevent further crime with them.

8 They are requesting to use \$39,925 in MVCPA
9 funds for the purchase of automatic license plate reader
10 equipment and \$18,000 in funds for overtime operations to
11 complete the objectives of the grant.

12 Any further questions?

13 MR. GONZALEZ: I thought the maximum amount for
14 Rapid Response was \$50,000.

15 MR. CANADY: I have the policy right here. I
16 think anything over \$25,000 has to be approved by the
17 board.

18 MR. WILSON: I don't know that we had a
19 maximum, but we certainly had \$30,000 as what was required
20 for the board.

21 MR. GONZALEZ: Members, are there any questions
22 for Director Wilson and staff?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. WILSON: Commander Tuley is here if there's
25 any questions for the grantee.

1 MR. GONZALEZ: Yessenia, do we have any public
2 comments?

3 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

4 MR. CANADY: And I'm sorry; it's Joe Canady
5 again. They are requesting a waiver for the cash match,
6 as Director Wilson discussed a few minutes ago in another
7 area, since they are designated as a border and port
8 security area.

9 MR. GONZALEZ: All right. Members, at this
10 time I will entertain a motion.

11 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chairman, Member Salinas. I
12 move that the MVCPA GBR Committee recommend to the MVCPA
13 to fund the City of Corpus Christi PD Rapid Response
14 Strike Force Grant application in the amount of \$57,925
15 and waive the cash match requirement.

16 MR. GONZALEZ: I have a motion from Member
17 Salinas to recommend to the MVCPA to fund the City of
18 Corpus Christi PD's Rapid Response Strike Force Grant in
19 the amount of \$57,925 and waiving the cash match
20 requirement. I second the motion from Member Salinas.

21 Members, the motion has been made and seconded.

22 Is there any further discussion?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. GONZALEZ: Hearing none, I will now call
25 for the vote. Members, all those in favor of the motion

1 say aye and all opposed nay.

2 (A chorus of ayes.)

3 MR. GONZALEZ: Let the record reflect that I,
4 Julio Gonzalez, support the motion. The motion passes.

5 I call agenda item 4., Discuss and consider
6 recommendations FY22 Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention
7 Authority Auxiliary Grant applications and recommend
8 awards.

9 Director Wilson.

10 MR. WILSON: This is Bryan Wilson, for the
11 record. Call your attention to please turn to page 39.

12 So the board authorized us to look at this new
13 kind of grant to talk about different ways to fight motor
14 vehicle crime. I mean, our task forces do an incredible
15 job, they're wonderful at what they do, but the reality is
16 we've been limited to be able to reach out to parts, and
17 many of you have been in meetings and other discussions
18 outside of meetings where we've been very concerned about
19 some of the highest theft per capita areas, like Midland
20 and Odessa, and also some of the outlying areas of Houston
21 and Dallas that we don't really seem to be able to get a
22 handle on being able to expand our footprint or our reach
23 to help those communities.

24 So this is really been about a five-year or
25 four-year effort to try to get a better support to all law

1 enforcement, even outside of our existing reach, so what
2 we did this year is with the little bit of money that the
3 legislature appropriated -- we went from 12.7- to \$14.9
4 million -- so like I said, we were going to try to catch
5 up on buying stuff and things like that, but the reality
6 is when we authorized this back in March, the board set
7 \$250,000. Well, at \$20,000 apiece it's 12.5-; I don't
8 know, some crazy director or something came up with that
9 number.

10 But what the board ordered me to do was go out
11 and see what the interest was. Well, guess what, there's
12 a lot of interest. We ended up, as you can see on the
13 table, 62 organizations requested for us to set up an
14 account in our law enforcement grant management tracking
15 system, 59 of those 62 actually created an account within
16 our system because it's the same grant system that we
17 have, and then 43 submitted an application.

18 Now, we've looked at these; we've compared them
19 with DPS data. We pointed out that there's three that
20 you'll see we need a special requirement before we can
21 actually extend a grant, because the board said -- when I
22 asked them back in March to authorize me to do this, the
23 grant is for \$20,000 and what we agreed to was that the
24 loss reported by the jurisdiction to DPS had to be at
25 least three times the value of the grant. It's not a

1 magic number, it's not scientific based, but we were
2 trying to make sure.

3 A few years ago we had some organizations apply
4 for grants where they were asking for grants that were
5 much larger than the losses that they had. One
6 jurisdiction applied for \$60,000 to pay for golf carts to
7 drive around the school parking lot to cover about 6- or
8 \$800 worth of lost CDs. I mean, it's just our basic
9 accountability.

10 When we have 20,000 cars stolen in Houston and
11 11,000 in Dallas, it doesn't make a lot of sense to go out
12 and start throwing money to \$300 losses or less than the
13 value of the award.

14 Again, this is kind of a pilot project for us,
15 this is our first time out the gate, but that was one way
16 we thought we could control the process, or we could
17 control who qualified, right, so you have to set a minimum
18 threshold.

19 So I have on page 41 a list of grantees I would
20 like you to consider recommending to the MVCPA to award
21 tomorrow, but three of them need further research by the
22 director and staff before we can actually issue an award
23 to make sure that they reported losses to DPS greater --
24 in other words, that they met the criteria set by this
25 board.

1 So I'm going to ask you to go ahead and award
2 all 43 of them, but three of them have a special condition
3 or a requirement, I should say, it's a requirement that I
4 get documentation that they hit the \$60,000 or more
5 threshold.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: Director, can you speak about
7 the systems that they intend to utilize, the ALPR systems?

8 MR. WILSON: Yeah. On the fourth column on
9 page 41, now again, these are local governments that
10 already have their own law enforcement strategies, and so
11 what we proposed to them -- in other words, what we said
12 we would fund -- it's a one-trick pony, right; I mean,
13 it's only LPRs, but what we did is said you can have a
14 blue one or you can have a pink one but you can only have
15 one pony and you can only have one or the other.

16 Sorry for the euphemisms, but the reality is
17 we're only doing ALPRs, and you can only buy or you can
18 lease; you can't do both. You can only do one, and you
19 get to pick based on your law enforcement strategy in your
20 community what you think would best suit your local needs.

21 So what you see there in the fourth column is
22 the ones, of the 43, I think 15 or 16, I counted it
23 yesterday, are leasing, so that's likely to be Flock but
24 this is not a vendor-driven grant; it's not like this is
25 what you have to do, but 15 or 16 of them say that they're

1 going to lease a program that's probably Flock.

2 And then the rest of them said that they're
3 going to buy an ALPR, but we don't know if they're
4 stationary or if they're mobile. If they're mobile, if
5 they get the Vigilant system, they'll probably be spending
6 more money than the \$24,000 in this program.

7 I mean, if they go out and spend \$36,000, we're
8 still going to pay them \$20,000 -- I want to be clear
9 about that -- if they spend \$40,000 or \$24,000. But the
10 ELSAG program is tied to the HYDA [phonetic]; many of them
11 are likely to use that. They can probably get within the
12 \$24,000.

13 But regardless, say they're a lease company and
14 they decide to go out and buy 100 cameras, we're still
15 going to pay \$20,000. I want to be clear about that:
16 Whatever decision they make locally, whether it's the ten
17 cameras that we think that they can buy with this grant or
18 if they go out and buy 100 cameras, they're going to show
19 us an invoice and they're going to say, look, we paid
20 \$240,000 for our system, and we go congratulations, here's
21 your \$20,000; that's all we're paying.

22 MR. GONZALEZ: So I think this is fantastic. I
23 think that with this we are adding a whole lot more, many
24 more stakeholders to the MVCPA and many more parties that
25 are interested in the success of this organization.

1 And I also think that for our existing task
2 forces, adding LPRs and the intelligence sharing that we
3 can get from that would be incredibly useful. You know,
4 I'm seeing quite a bit of these cities that are around the
5 border and around the ports and so it will be incredibly
6 useful for the existing task forces to be able to access
7 that LPR data.

8 Members, are there any questions for Director
9 Wilson and the staff?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, can I say one more
12 thing?

13 MR. GONZALEZ: Sure.

14 MR. WILSON: I do want to call your
15 attention -- and I'll call tomorrow as well in the board
16 meeting -- this column on the far right. One of the
17 things that we said we wanted to do was to support our
18 existing task forces by providing direct expenditures,
19 because right now participating agencies get funds from
20 the grants directly or indirectly, the coverage agencies
21 don't.

22 And so I wanted to point to you that when the
23 board authorized this, one of my main drives in the
24 webinars that followed in March was that our task forces
25 needed to take responsibility to get their coverage

1 counties signed up for this program and get that
2 intelligence that you were just talking about and getting
3 their partners, their coverage counties to partner with
4 them more directly.

5 And so I think it's going to be important as we
6 move forward in this year and the next funding cycle that
7 we pay close attention to this particular column about
8 who's able to engage their coverage counties and cities to
9 participate in this program.

10 I agree with what you just said a minute ago,
11 but it's also about fighting motor vehicle crime in your
12 area and all around, and I think it's going to be really
13 critical for future funding.

14 MR. GONZALEZ: I would like to see next time
15 that we meet -- I don't know if we can get some
16 information on how Texas is going to compare to other
17 states regarding the number of LPRs deployed versus
18 elsewhere. Of course, I would like to have Texas have the
19 most LPRs in the country to fight motor vehicle theft, but
20 I think with this right here, we'll be definitely up
21 there.

22 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

23 MR. GONZALEZ: Yessenia, are there any public
24 comments?

25 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir. I don't have any.

1 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. Members, at this time I
2 will entertain a motion.

3 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chairman, Member Salinas. I
4 move that the MVCPA GBR Committee recommend to the MVCPA
5 to award fiscal year '22 Motor Vehicle Crime Auxiliary
6 grants, or MAG grants, in the amount of \$20,000 to each
7 jurisdiction listed on page 41 of the MVCPA meeting book.

8 Further, the MVCPA director is directed to
9 confirm that the stolen vehicle loss values reported to
10 DPS by the jurisdictions exceed the minimum set by the RFA
11 with the three applicants indicated in the special
12 requirement column in the table on page 41 prior to
13 issuing an award to those jurisdictions.

14 MR. GONZALEZ: I have a motion from Member
15 Salinas to recommend to the MVCPA to award the MAG grants
16 in the amount of \$20,000 in each jurisdiction listed on
17 page 41, and that the MVCPA director is directed to
18 confirm that the stolen vehicle loss value reported to DPS
19 by the jurisdiction exceed the minimum set by the RFA of
20 the three applicants indicated in the special requirement
21 column in the table on page 41 prior to issuing an award
22 to those jurisdictions. I will second the motion.

23 Members, a motion has been made and seconded.
24 Is there any further discussion?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. GONZALEZ: Hearing none, I will call for
2 the vote. Members, all those in favor of the motion say
3 aye and all opposed nay.

4 (A chorus of ayes.)

5 MR. GONZALEZ: Let the record reflect that I,
6 Julio Gonzalez, support the motion and the motion passes.

7 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, can we take about a
8 three-minute break?

9 MR. GONZALEZ: Sure. We will now take a ten-
10 minute recess at 1:36 p.m.

11 (Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)

12 MR. GONZALEZ: We are now back from break at
13 1:45 p.m.

14 I call agenda item 6., Discuss and consider
15 recommendations for the FY22 MVCPA MAG statement of grant
16 award, including standard and special conditions.

17 Director Wilson.

18 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bryan
19 Wilson, for the record. I direct your attention to page
20 42, 43, and then on.

21 So this is the statement of grant award that
22 we'll use for this particular grant. I know you reached
23 out to me a while back, Mr. Chairman, and asked about
24 making sure that if we find something like this we have
25 kind of an open communication threshold as much as

1 possible.

2 I don't know if we can drive that, for
3 instance, if somebody goes with a proprietary system on an
4 ALPR. We can't necessarily have full access to every read
5 that they get, but if it's with Flock or possibly ELSAG
6 that they'll have some method for other law enforcement
7 agencies to access that.

8 In addition, the state law requires -- the
9 General Appropriations Act requires that, because we are
10 designated as a border and port security agency and these
11 funds are tied to border and port security, that if a
12 jurisdiction meets the threshold, that they'll have to do
13 the additional reporting requirements to meet that, which
14 mostly is reporting on us.

15 So in other words, we report to the legislature
16 directly every three months about how many vehicles were
17 recovered with the programs that are along the Texas
18 border or along the Intracoastal Waterway, so we'll take
19 care of that.

20 But just be clear that the governor or the
21 state leadership might require additional reporting from
22 these jurisdictions, so we're kind of putting them on
23 notice that that might be required.

24 So with that, I would recommend that you adopt
25 the statement of grant award. If there's any other

1 conditions that you want that I'm not aware of -- but this
2 is what I've taken input and looked at our other
3 standards, had legal counsel review it, this is
4 consistent.

5 The standard conditions that we're adding that
6 are a little bit different is that they met the program
7 requirements and that whatever capacity that they have
8 under the agreement that they made with the ALPR vendor
9 that it is available to other law enforcement agencies
10 within their area and across the state.

11 MR. GONZALEZ: No, that's great, and I think,
12 again, going back to we're essentially establishing this
13 very large network of LPRs across the state and so it's
14 important that our existing task forces, if they have
15 Flock or whatever system it is, be able to get read data,
16 because as we know, vehicles are stolen in one location
17 and they end up traveling very far distances, and so now
18 that we are putting all these LPRs throughout the state, I
19 think it's going to be a huge benefit to our existing task
20 forces.

21 Any questions from the committee?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. GONZALEZ: Yessenia, are there any public
24 comments?

25 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

1 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. I will entertain a
2 motion.

3 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chairman, Member Salinas. I
4 move that the MVCPA GBR Committee recommend to the MVCPA
5 to approve the MVCPA MAG statement of grant award,
6 including standard and special conditions.

7 MR. GONZALEZ: All right. I have a motion from
8 Member Salinas, and I will second that motion.

9 Members, a motion has been made and seconded.
10 Is there any further discussion?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. GONZALEZ: Hearing none, I will now call
13 for a vote. All those in favor of the motion say aye and
14 all opposed nay.

15 (A chorus of ayes.)

16 MR. GONZALEZ: The motion passes.

17 All right. I call agenda item 7., Discuss and
18 consider recommendations for the FY22 Public Education and
19 Public Awareness Grant applications and recommend awards
20 or other actions.

21 Director Wilson.

22 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bryan
23 Wilson, for the record. I call your attention to page 46
24 and following.

25 We issued a request for applications consistent

1 with the vote that the board took in March. We've been
2 talking about this and planning this particular RFA for
3 quite some time. The last time we did this was in 2019.
4 It carried over into 2020; I talked to you about
5 obligating of funds.

6 So what we do -- and I didn't say this on the
7 eGrants, but under state law any agency that issues grants
8 has to file the grant notice on the Texas eGrants system.

9 In addition, what we've always done is we've sent it to
10 stakeholders.

11 In other words, all we legally have to do it is
12 put it on the Texas eGrants system; we're done. We put it
13 on our website, we send it out to any agency -- so we did
14 this for the MAG and we did it for PEPA -- that we know it
15 already exists in this space.

16 Now, one of the things that we don't want to do
17 is have private vendors contacting us, marketing firms,
18 things like that, in response to this grant, because this
19 particular grant was only open to nonprofit corporations
20 who were in existence at or before the day that this RFA
21 was issued, and so you had to already be doing this,
22 operating in this space to even qualify.

23 So we put it on the eGrants, like we're
24 required to by state law, and then we sent it to every
25 known agency that is operating some level of public

1 awareness campaign in Texas related to our work.

2 So that was the Chiefs of Police, they have
3 programs about officer safety and other kinds of statewide
4 programs, CLEAT, TMPA, Texas Sheriffs Association, all of
5 those do some sort of -- NICB, Insurance Council of Texas.

6 So we put it on the state website, like we're
7 required. We've put it on our website; not required but
8 we do it anyway, and then we sent it to people that we
9 think might be interested.

10 So out of this grant, whereas I showed you
11 earlier on the MAG grant we had 63-something responses and
12 then two of them didn't qualify, but this one I only got
13 one response.

14 And this response, because I didn't realize on
15 the day that I sent my closing date was on May 27, and I
16 extended the MAG grant, but I forgot to extend this one
17 but I was intending and I just didn't get the notice sent
18 out in time for the eGrants system, so it came in two days
19 after the due date, so I want to be clear. But it's the
20 only response we have and the response was consistent with
21 what we expected.

22 There's some kind of screwed-up language on one
23 of the boxes that I'll have to clean up, but those are
24 things we work out in any contract, because, as Chairman
25 Gonzalez, you've seen some of the writings that come in on

1 the task force grants, and we're like, okay, that's not
2 good; we'll do something else.

3 So I don't want you to think that necessarily
4 we just automatically take everything that comes in. We
5 have to clean up the actual application.

6 But it is kind of cool. On page 57 of their
7 proposal, they weren't required to do this at the
8 application but they've already shown you what they're
9 planning on doing, it's called "Lock it down, Texas,"
10 which is kind of cool, and so they've kind of laid out the
11 strategy.

12 Again, there are some things I'll have to work
13 out, but at this point, since they are operating in this
14 space and they already worked with -- I know Corpus has
15 relied several times on State Farm. Right, Mark?

16 I know, Dallas, didn't y'all do last year,
17 Bryan Roden, isn't that right? Dallas did a press
18 conference with one of the insurance companies to do the
19 Hide, Lock, Take.

20 So the Insurance Council of Texas is already
21 coordinating these kind of events around the state,
22 working directly with our task forces, so I'm recommending
23 that we go ahead and fund this.

24 Now, just like all state grants and under Texas
25 law, these have to be reimbursement grants. We do not

1 have statutory authority to give out money before somebody
2 does something, and so we only reimburse. So because of
3 that I'm recommending that you waive the bond, I'm asking
4 that you allocate money from this year, FY22, \$175,000,
5 and then also -- we'll talk later about the budget for
6 FY23 -- we'll allocate \$175,000 from FY23 funds.

7 I did check with the financial services
8 director here at DMV to make sure that we could go ahead
9 and vote on this and then come back and do the budget as
10 long as we did it in the same meeting.

11 And then they are requesting not to give a 20
12 percent cash match, but they're going to do about \$17,000
13 in in-kind match for costs that they're going to incur
14 internally within their own organization for time that
15 they're going to dedicate, and that is consistent with
16 other things we've done. Two years ago we funded NICB and
17 we waived the match requirement altogether, but we will be
18 paying for most of this anyway.

19 And then finally, that any issues that need to
20 be resolved that the director can't resolve will be
21 referred to the Grants, Budget and Reporting Committee to
22 resolve without having to have another MVCPA meeting.

23 Does that make sense? We've asked the full
24 board to delegate to the committee issues to resolve. If
25 I can't resolve it, then I don't have to call a board

1 meeting; I can just go to you individually, as you've seen
2 we've done on trucks and things like that over the
3 threshold.

4 So with that, that's my recommendation, Mr.
5 Chairman. Are there any questions?

6 MR. GONZALEZ: Do any members have any
7 questions?

8 MR. SALINAS: Member Salinas. So is it unusual
9 to just get like one response? Because I know like in the
10 other program there was like 60-plus responses.

11 MR. WILSON: There's not very many people
12 operating in this space. We did lock it down to say what
13 we weren't interested in is Billy Bob seeing this
14 response, going out and quickly creating a nonprofit and
15 then saying, hey, I've got a nonprofit and I'll do this
16 work for you. It's like, well, have you ever done this
17 work? Oh, yeah, I have Billy Bob's Marketing Firm, but
18 now I'm organized as a nonprofit to get this grant.

19 I had that happen early in my career where we
20 were issuing an RFA for grants, request for applications
21 for grants for substance abuse treatment around the state,
22 and all of a sudden all these private companies organized
23 as nonprofits or created a nonprofit wing of their
24 for-profit agency to apply for the substance abuse grant.

25 So we did this on purpose, knowing that there's

1 only -- I'm not saying I know everything about every nook
2 and cranny in the state, but I would daresay there's only
3 eight or ten people operating in this space of public
4 awareness and public education for a state purpose. Like
5 I said, I named some of them. So no, I wouldn't have been
6 surprised that we would only have one in this space.

7 MR. SALINAS: Thank you. And Insurance Council
8 of Texas, that's a trade association. Correct?

9 MR. WILSON: It is a trade association of
10 insurance companies.

11 MR. SALINAS: No further questions, Mr. Chair.

12 MR. GONZALEZ: And so I guess the media
13 awareness would start on or about July of 2022, like the
14 campaigns themselves?

15 MR. WILSON: I don't think that the media
16 campaigns will, because they still have to develop the
17 content in English and Spanish, so I think between now and
18 the end -- they might launch before September, but I think
19 in the first few months it will just be setting up the
20 content, doing the recordings, and getting the media.

21 We have quite a bit of media that we're working
22 in over the years that are labeled Automobile Burglary and
23 Theft Prevention Authority and other things that we're
24 going to turn over to them to see if they can redo the
25 commercials.

1 And the nice thing about this one, the last
2 contract with NICB pretty much relied exclusively on radio
3 and television, but if you notice in this proposal,
4 they're doing influencers, they're doing social media,
5 Pandora, Netflix, Facebook advertising buys, so this is an
6 all-of-the-above program.

7 Once we have the content nailed down, we'll be
8 doing all the above, and they'll still be buying some of
9 our material for the task forces to pass out.

10 MR. GONZALEZ: And is there like an after-
11 action review of what they did that they'll be submitting
12 to the board?

13 MR. WILSON: Oh, absolutely. I mean, we
14 regularly report. But one of the things that's missing --
15 like I was saying, there's some things that need to be
16 worked out in the contract -- is we don't have
17 deliverables and milestones.

18 Or in my mind, in my reading of this proposal,
19 we do not have clear deliverables and milestones, and so
20 before I would sign a grant award statement, I would have
21 the grantee propose clear deliverables and milestones,
22 because remember, again, this is a reimbursement grant. I
23 can't just hand out money, you know, hey, it's August,
24 give me some money.

25 Under state law we're not allowed to do that,

1 so we would have to have you hit this threshold: You've
2 issued the commercials, you've created the content, you've
3 delivered specific items to us that we can pay on.

4 MR. GONZALEZ: And I mean, for those
5 deliverables it would be great if you could get an after-
6 action review that has, okay, so we reached -- since it's
7 doing a lot of social media, how many people we have
8 reached, all those kinds of things, just so that the board
9 can get an idea of what we're paying for.

10 MR. WILSON: Absolutely. So yes, two things.
11 The RFA calls for a progress report just like we do for
12 our task forces, anything, so we'll have that identified
13 clearly before the contract is signed. We don't do that
14 after; the process is that you have to identify what the
15 progress measurements are before you issue the grant.

16 MR. GONZALEZ: Are there any other questions
17 for Mr. Wilson and the staff from the committee?

18 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chairman, Member Salinas.
19 Just a comment. Yeah, the proposal is pretty thorough as
20 it pertains to marketing communication and the influence
21 outreach. That definitely hits a certain demographic,
22 that is important. That's all.

23 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

24 MR. GONZALEZ: Yessenia, are there any public
25 comments for this agenda item?

1 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

2 MR. GONZALEZ: Members, I will now entertain a
3 motion.

4 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chairman, Member Salinas. I
5 move that the MVCPA GBR Committee recommend to the MVCPA
6 to fund the Insurance Council of Texas for \$350,000 for
7 the development and implementation of the media campaign,
8 with all the proposed elements recommended on page 46 of
9 the board book.

10 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. I have a motion from
11 Member Salinas, and I second the motion.

12 Members, a motion has been made and seconded.
13 Any further discussion?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. GONZALEZ: Hearing none, I will now call
16 for a vote. Members, all those in favor of the motion say
17 aye and all opposed nay.

18 (A chorus of ayes.)

19 MR. GONZALEZ: The motion passes.

20 Moving on, I call agenda item 8., Discuss and
21 consider recommendations for the FY23 budget.

22 MR. PRICE: This is Dan Price with the MVCPA. I
23 normally handle finance and grants auditing. Please go to
24 page 60 and 61 of your board books.

25 On page 61 of the board book is the proposed

1 grant for FY2023. At the top are the proposed budget and
2 at the bottom are the expected obligations that will be
3 met. Currently the administration and operating of the
4 grant program is \$884,000.

5 We currently have \$13.6 million in task force
6 grants. We're proposing to have the same amount next year
7 in FY23. Y'all just approved the PEPA grant for 175-, and
8 we're going to take the other 175- to get to the \$350- our
9 of '23, so you allocated that. There is \$20,000 for TCOLE
10 training funding, and that would leave \$300,605 as
11 undesignated right now, probably going into other grant
12 programs.

13 So we have some UB that will be being brought
14 forward, but we won't know what that is until after the
15 end of the year probably, and so we're asking you to go
16 ahead and approve the proposed budget going forward.

17 MR. GONZALEZ: Members, are there any questions
18 for Mr. Price?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. GONZALEZ: Yessenia, are there any public
21 comments on this?

22 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

23 MR. GONZALEZ: Members, I will now entertain a
24 motion.

25 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chairman, Member Salinas. I

1 move that the MVCPA GBR Committee recommend to the MVCPA
2 to approve the fiscal year '23 budget and obligation table
3 as shown on page 61 of the board book.

4 MR. GONZALEZ: All right. I have a motion from
5 Member Salinas and I will second that motion.

6 Members, a motion has been made and seconded.
7 Is there any further discussion?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. GONZALEZ: Hearing none, I will now call
10 for a vote. Members, all those in favor of the motion say
11 aye and all opposed nay.

12 (A chorus of ayes.)

13 MR. GONZALEZ: And the motion passes.

14 All right. I call agenda item 9., Discuss and
15 consider requests for modifications to the FY23 continued
16 task force grants.

17 Director Wilson.

18 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

19 So we issued a request for applications also
20 related to the continued task force grants, the ones that
21 we funded last August that began September 1. What we
22 said last year in the request for applications is we would
23 carry forward the exact same grant that we funded in
24 August, that began September 1, into the second year.

25 When I got here many years ago, every single

1 year they applied for a grant, and every single year they
2 had to re-justify even though we had pretty much the same
3 officers, the same trucks, the same equipment, the ALPRs.

4 So what we've done is fixed it where we get
5 funding on a biennium so we fund our grant programs, but
6 since there's a state law that says you can only obligate
7 one year at a time, we have to do it twice; that's because
8 we can't obligate multiple years and future years of
9 budget.

10 So what we do first is when we've gone back out
11 to the grantees and said, okay, it's time to re-up your
12 last year's grant, sometimes they have different cost
13 structures or different drivers they need to ask for less
14 match or whatever, so if somebody had 46 percent match
15 this year, their county or city says they can only do 40
16 percent match or whatever, so if you're going to change
17 something, it has to come back.

18 So the first thing we're going to do is talk
19 about the changes, and then once we've identified whether
20 you're okay with the changes that they're asking for, then
21 we'll take up the awards for next year or the
22 recommendation for the awards.

23 So this section is about the changes. I'll let
24 Joe explain what happened when we asked them to fill out
25 the grant application that was supposed to be the same as

1 last year.

2 MR. CANADY: Joe Canady, MVCPA.

3 As Director Wilson mentioned, the grantees were
4 all given instructions to, if they could, submit their
5 applications for continuation with the same grant award
6 amount and the same cash match.

7 There were certain situations, and one
8 exception was from Lubbock. They are still submitting the
9 amount of cash match from last year but adding an
10 additional amount that they want to put into the program
11 to buy equipment, so that will be an increase of their
12 cash match by just a few percentage points, not much; it's
13 \$5,000 -- \$5,432.

14 There are a couple of grantees, such as Smith
15 County and Burnet County, where there's a dollar
16 difference. I mean it's a rounding issues is what it is.

17 So that is the only two from the ones that had been
18 submitted for continuation that we were aware of.

19 We've given the grantees a deadline of Friday
20 to submit any changes, any significant change or
21 substantial changes or change in amounts so that it could
22 be recommended for approval and approved in the board
23 meeting tomorrow so that there didn't have to be another
24 board meeting called, a special board meeting called
25 specifically for approving a grant request that was not

1 awarded in tomorrow's meeting -- if that makes sense.

2 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman?

3 MR. GONZALEZ: Yes.

4 MR. WILSON: So this issue of renting/leasing
5 and what-have-you has been a particular concern of
6 Chairman Rodriguez, so what I'm going to ask you to do is
7 since this is the City of Dallas request, I'm going to ask
8 you to just pass on this issue about their exception and
9 let's take that up tomorrow at the full meeting. And then
10 let's just vote to recommend the slate of continued grants
11 which is not making any difference between what we had
12 already agreed to when we issued the RFA in 2021.

13 MR. GONZALEZ: So right now what we would be
14 voting on is just to continue the same amounts.

15 MR. WILSON: Right. The issue that I was about
16 to present, and I'm saying either table or just not take
17 it up. Since you're already conflicted, we should just
18 not take it up.

19 MR. GONZALEZ: Right.

20 MR. WILSON: I just don't like to table a
21 motion. You'd be voting on tabling the motion, so that's
22 what I'm asking is just pass, just a total pass. We'll
23 deal with it tomorrow in the meeting, and then let's just
24 deal with the slate, which is just everybody applied for
25 the same thing, one made an exception to put in more money

1 but again, that's not an exception, I want to be clear
2 about that.

3 The only time is if they would have asked for
4 less match, or in the case of we had two grantees three or
5 four years ago that asked for less grant award money and
6 so the board would have to give them less grant award
7 money. Does that make sense?

8 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. So we're moving on to
9 agenda item 10?

10 MR. WILSON: Yes, sir.

11 MR. GONZALEZ: So I call agenda item 10.,
12 Discuss and consider FY23 MVCPA task force grant amounts
13 and recommend the award amounts and any standard and
14 special conditions.

15 MR. CANADY: Joe Canady, MVCPA.

16 Chairman, the staff recommends that the MVCPA
17 award the FY23 continued task force grants in the same
18 amounts for 2022 shown on page 67.

19 Any questions on this from the committee?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. GONZALEZ: Yessenia, are there any public
22 comments on this one?

23 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

24 MR. GONZALEZ: Members, I will entertain a
25 motion.

1 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chairman, Member Salinas. I
2 move that the MVCPA GBR Committee recommend to the MVCPA
3 to award fiscal year '23 continued task force grants in
4 the same amounts for fiscal year '22, as indicated in the
5 recommended fiscal year '23 task force grant awards table
6 shown on page 67 of the board book.

7 MR. GONZALEZ: All right. I have a motion from
8 Member Salinas, and I will second the motion.

9 Members, I have a motion with a second. Is
10 there any further discussion?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. GONZALEZ: Hearing none, I will now call
13 for the vote. Members, all in favor of the motion say aye
14 and all opposed nay.

15 (A chorus of ayes.)

16 MR. GONZALEZ: Motion passes.

17 I call agenda item 11., Discuss and consider
18 recommendation to authorize an additional payment to Texas
19 A&M for the development and implementation of the online
20 MAG application, report and financial process.

21 Director Wilson.

22 MR. WILSON: Bryan Wilson, for the record.
23 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I call your attention to page
24 69 of the board book.

25 So what happened was the board in March told us

1 to issue this request for applications, and we were
2 scrambling about how to put together a paper process to do
3 this, and we already have a \$5,000 authorization built
4 into the statement of grant award for Texas A&M PPRI,
5 Public Policy Research Institute, to develop additional
6 programming for us.

7 But I didn't follow the rules exactly like the
8 contract is laid out, because I was supposed to deliver
9 them a statement of work and features, but I asked them to
10 say could you even do this, and they worked through the
11 process and sent us some user acceptance testing, and we
12 were already way down the road before I realized, well,
13 they can do it, but I didn't write the statement of work
14 in front.

15 So I'm asking for this committee and also the
16 board tomorrow -- there was a huge amount of work. We did
17 test it out, our grantees tested it out; you know, 62
18 agencies in the state of Texas tested it out.

19 As you can see, it delivered the product
20 exactly as intended. It was an amazing feat to set up a
21 process where we could quickly authorize a city. In some
22 of these cases they applied in less than 24 hours from the
23 time we opened their account.

24 So I'm recommending that we go ahead and
25 take -- again, this is money that's already obligated;

1 it's already under the grant award -- and authorize me to
2 extend the payment to them for developing the MAG program.

3 Sixty-nine is just some of the features that
4 they did program into our existing GMTS and saved us a
5 fortune of work of having to do paper applications all
6 over the state of Texas, so I'm very grateful to them for
7 having stepped up and helped us as good partners.

8 MR. GONZALEZ: Any questions from the
9 committee?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. GONZALEZ: Yessenia, any public comments on
12 this item?

13 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

14 MR. GONZALEZ: Members, I will entertain a
15 motion.

16 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chairman, Member Salinas. I
17 move that the MVCPA GBR Committee recommend to the MVCPA
18 to authorize the director to approve an additional payment
19 to Texas A&M in the amount of \$5,000 under the current
20 contract and budget for the additional features and new
21 user interface development for the MAG grant application,
22 award and payment process.

23 MR. GONZALEZ: Members, I have a motion, and I
24 will second that motion.

25 Members, I have a motion that is seconded. Is

1 there any further discussion?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. GONZALEZ: Hearing none, I will now call
4 for a vote. All those in favor will say and all opposed
5 nay.

6 (A chorus of ayes.)

7 MR. GONZALEZ: Motion passes.

8 So I think it just makes sense to go through
9 business before we get to the grantee reports, so I'm
10 going to skip ahead and call agenda item 13, the
11 discussion of the MVCPA reports.

12 Director Wilson.

13 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I call
14 your attention to page -- let me get lined up here, I
15 apologize; I should have been ready.

16 I want to call your attention to page 77. So
17 agenda item number 13, is that the one you just called?
18 I'm sorry.

19 MR. GONZALEZ: Yes, sir.

20 MR. WILSON: This is kind of the primer. This
21 is the reporting committee; I don't have a page to talk to
22 you about other than since your last meeting as a
23 committee and this board on March 2, we did issue -- and I
24 realize you've received emails, but I think it needs to go
25 onto the public record.

1 We've issued the statutorily required activity
2 and funds report that was mislabeled originally with
3 certain members being attributed to the wrong category,
4 but we've fixed that and reissued it on our website, and
5 we made sure that we understand fully which members
6 represent which industries.

7 The other one is that at the meeting last week,
8 there's a report that took place that we discussed that
9 the statute requires DMV to report on a strategic plan
10 every other year prior to session.

11 I reported to the Education and Legislative
12 Committee that DMV has put in certain sections into that
13 report that we shared with them, and I just wanted you to
14 know about it. It's not really a report from us; it's a
15 report about us, and so just letting you know, go on the
16 record of saying that's out there. We've shown the text,
17 and is it in the board book later? It is in the beginning
18 under the Education and Legislative information.

19 And then the final thing to give this committee
20 a heads-up is our number-one task between now and the next
21 legislative session is a statutory requirement for the
22 Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority to develop and
23 submit a plan of operation to the Lieutenant Governor and
24 the Speaker of the House on or before December 1.

25 So I don't need information or commitments

1 today, but if you have input. In the past we've done a
2 strategic planning session where we started in February
3 and did that with all of our stakeholders and industry and
4 others.

5 Two years ago when we did it, we sent out a
6 survey to the chiefs of police and sheriffs throughout the
7 state of Texas and our grantees, and that was very helpful
8 and informative.

9 So I need y'all to kind of think about what
10 you're going to expect for us, but basically there's four
11 statutory requirements that you have to provide an
12 assessment of the current situation of motor vehicle
13 crime. You have to talk about what you've done to combat
14 that crime, you have to determine what you need to
15 continue fighting that into the future, and you have to
16 provide an analysis of the funds or resources needed.

17 So that is the only opportunity that you get to
18 speak directly to the legislature about our business,
19 everything else we talked about in March that it goes
20 through the DMV.

21 So this is our one shot to talk about us
22 directly to the legislative leadership. Don't need
23 anything today, but I'll certainly need some input later.

24 MR. GONZALEZ: Any questions from the
25 committee?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. GONZALEZ: Yessenia, any public comments on
3 this one?

4 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

5 MR. GONZALEZ: All right. I call agenda item
6 14., Review and discuss FY24-25 grant scoring and award
7 determination process.

8 MR. WILSON: For the record, Bryan Wilson. Now
9 I'll direct your attention to page 77 of the board book
10 and then on to 78.

11 So just a quick history. When I got here in
12 2014, the board, in my first meeting on October 13, had
13 developed what was called the redesign project, and in it
14 they had set up very specific standards that we still use
15 today as the method to review and to score the grant
16 applications for the task force grants. Not one time in
17 the seven, almost eight years that I've been here, has the
18 board accepted the results of those awards.

19 So the way the system is supposed to work, it's
20 supposed to take the amount that they ask for, apply the
21 score to the system, and then it spits out a specific
22 amount.

23 So if you're a very small county or small city
24 and you ask for \$2 million, you will totally destroy every
25 jurisdiction that just asked for the same amount, because

1 you won't get \$2 million but you'll get \$1.8 million, and
2 everybody below you would have gotten cut to make up your
3 \$1.8 million. So you could have 20 auto thefts and ask
4 for \$2 million and you would get about 1.8-, \$1.5 million
5 under that scoring system.

6 I've asked the board for numerous years -- this
7 is not a whine; it's just stating a fact -- to either let
8 me either stop reviewing the system altogether and just
9 use some sort of subjective system, or to allow us to just
10 revamp it.

11 So it's on us. We have to issue the RFA in
12 January, no later than March of 2023 -- sounds like a long
13 time away, but if we're going to redo it, you know, our
14 current system is they turn in the application online, the
15 scoring system is online, all of our programming, the way
16 the calculations are all done all online.

17 So if we want to make a change, then the board
18 needs to start -- especially this committee needs to start
19 giving some direction so we could be ready to go to the
20 board by no later than November to make a wholesale change
21 and then still have time for our A&M partners to rewrite
22 the coding to support whatever we do.

23 So just kind of a heads-up, taking some input.

24 I did put in there the statutory requirement. You know
25 the statute clearly, at the bottom of page 78, says that

1 you have to use performance measures. The statute says
2 that the awards have to be primarily based on the
3 incidents of motor vehicle theft, burglary, and fraud-
4 related motor vehicle crime. And so it doesn't talk about
5 tax base, it doesn't talk about other facts that you'll
6 see in a lot of grant programs that talk about other
7 features, this is a very limited window.

8 So at this point I don't necessarily have to
9 have a discussion here, Mr. Chairman, but I do need some
10 input certainly by midsummer, and what I just mentioned,
11 the plan of operation, it probably should be tied somewhat
12 to that.

13 I'm not saying that the scoring system goes in
14 the plan of operation. What I'm saying is if you're
15 thinking about what you're going to be doing as an agency
16 and what your priorities are telling the legislature this
17 is what we're going to fund, this is what we're going to
18 do, then you also have to kind of have that grant program
19 somehow line up so that if they give us \$24 million, as
20 the statute requires, then we've got the wherewithal to
21 actually implement the plan of operation and fund the
22 items that we say we're going to fund under that plan.

23 Does that make sense?

24 MR. GONZALEZ: It certainly does.

25 You asked for direction, so I'll be glad to

1 help you out there. We need to move towards a system --
2 and I don't think we can have it completely subjective,
3 you know, until we can see some kind of data-driven
4 system. We need to take a hard look at it first, but I
5 really do think that we need to move towards the direction
6 of subsection (c) of the statute, where it says the
7 authority shall allocate funds primarily based on where
8 the crime is.

9 I think we're not quite there with our current
10 allocation of funding. You know, there's room to improve,
11 and so my direction to you would be we need to identify
12 and take a look at ways that we can better be in
13 compliance with the statute. That way we can go to the
14 legislature and we can say that we are executing on the
15 directive that was given by the legislature.

16 Member Salinas, do you have anything to add to
17 that?

18 MR. SALINAS: Along those lines, yeah, just
19 most definitely worth for this committee to kind of
20 further look into and consider, and again, it's just all
21 about the ebbs and flows and the efficiency of the
22 organization, and then also the whole application process.

23 MR. WILSON: Okay. So what we're going to
24 start doing, we can identify the tables and the
25 calculations that are currently in the system, and we'll

1 show you how the existing system works.

2 I don't want to throw out everything, because
3 there are some really good things in the application where
4 you tell me what you're going to do for burglary of a
5 motor vehicle, and so if you're, say, City of Austin,
6 well, you may not say much or City of Dallas doesn't
7 really do a whole lot -- and I'm talking about the task
8 forces, I'm not saying the city; I'm talking about the
9 grantees.

10 They say, well, we're not doing -- you know, if
11 you're City of Houston and we've got 20,000 stolen cars,
12 we're not really worried that much about burglary, we have
13 regional agents, we're not doing that in the task force.
14 So we say, okay, all right, that has a scoring methodology
15 behind it, okay, one to ten or whatever.

16 So we need to show you how the system works
17 over the summer, over the next few months, and then we'll
18 make some suggestions, if you're okay with this, about
19 where we think we can best line up with the statute but
20 also take in some of the items that account for the
21 performance measures.

22 I mean, it's all one section of statute. Yes,
23 it says primarily based, but it doesn't say only based, so
24 let's keep that in mind and let's talk about what that
25 looks like going forward.

1 So we'll probably have to have an August
2 meeting, and then we'll have to have one more once we
3 have -- so August will be detail about what's there now
4 and what needs to change and then we'll need to have one
5 in the fall, sometime in the fall also.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: And I'd also like to add in
7 addition to trying to be better in compliance with the
8 statute, we can't lose stakeholders, and so let's try to
9 do what we can.

10 You know, we want to have as many agencies as
11 possible invested in the success of the MVCPA, so we need
12 to walk that fine line, that balance. I know you've got a
13 tough job ahead of you.

14 MR. WILSON: It is, but I think we could do
15 better. That's why I'm bringing it back up, and I know
16 you and I have had some separate talks about it, but I
17 think we could do better.

18 A lot of it is tied to not having enough money,
19 having \$2.5 million cut out of our budget while at the
20 same time adding more responsibility. But we'll take
21 responsibility for what we can control and make sure we're
22 accountable and effective -- what Member Salinas just
23 said, that we're accountable and we have the best
24 interests and the knowledge to do this.

25 So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 MR. GONZALEZ: And I think that's part of also
2 the problem with the system is that when you enter in the
3 numbers I think it ends up not funding certain task
4 forces, and that's not acceptable.

5 All right. Call agenda item 15., Review and
6 discuss grant violation documentation, notification, and
7 determination process.

8 MR. WILSON: I really apologize. This meeting
9 has been a heavy lift. I don't have this ready to go. We
10 realized a few weeks ago that we didn't have a clear
11 process written.

12 We have what to do if somebody violates a
13 grant, but we don't have a clear notification process. I
14 think I'll just have to bring this back to you at a later
15 date. We just couldn't get to it with all the other items
16 we had taken on today.

17 MR. GONZALEZ: All right. And I am going to
18 call for a ten-minute recess at 2:31.

19 (Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)

20 MR. GONZALEZ: We are now back from break at
21 2:42.

22 And I call now agenda item 12., Selected
23 grantee reports, and we'll start off with Brownsville.
24 Welcome.

25 MR. COLON: For the record, yes, Ernesto Colon,

1 Brownsville Auto Theft supervisor.

2 MR. GONZALEZ: Well, I think the way that these
3 things should go is we've already listed out some of the
4 questions, so I guess if you just kind of want to go
5 through and talk about some of your responses, and I guess
6 we'll ask you questions at the end. Sound good?

7 MR. COLON: Yes, sir.

8 We became more data-driven in, I want to say,
9 the past year, so we're focusing more now on hotspots and
10 stuff like that to see where we're going to put our agents
11 for burglaries of motor vehicles and theft of motor
12 vehicles. That's one of the things that I just wanted to
13 throw out there before I started my questions.

14 One of the questions was: Which of the tasks
15 of the task force is doing well? There's a lot of tasks
16 in the crime, and one of the ones that I believe we've
17 focused on more is public awareness and social media,
18 social media not only to educate on how to avoid become a
19 victim, but also it helps us when we're looking for a
20 suspect. We'll throw it out there on social media and we
21 get a lot of responses to that through social media.

22 One of the ones where we have not done so well
23 was business inspections. That's just me. I think that
24 our task force is not doing those, and it's not that we're
25 not meeting the function; it's that being in Brownsville

1 there's many vehicle storage areas along the border, close
2 to the border.

3 And by the time we get out there, they have
4 spotters, they already know we're coming, so we have to
5 sit way before -- if we're going to do a business
6 inspection we've got to sit just to make sure that we're
7 there at least two or three hours before we're even going
8 to go do the inspection, because they have spotters, they
9 know we're coming, they know our vehicles by the time we
10 even get out there, and they're using the temporary tags
11 to cross them on to Mexico.

12 But that's one of the issues that we have.
13 It's not that we're not meeting the function, it's just
14 that these guys have spotters and they know way before
15 we're even out there.

16 And then one of the questions was: What
17 resources were needed or kept you from fully meeting the
18 grant? That's what I was saying, one is Edinburg and
19 Pharr only have two agents for their ports of entry.

20 So I've already met with them, and during our
21 meetings we talk, and I've told them whenever you need
22 somebody to go up there, we'll go up there.

23 I'll take two of the agents from Brownsville,
24 and we'll go hit one of your ports of entry, because
25 that's one of their complaints; he's like how are we going

1 to do our caseload and then also go meet the grant
2 functions? Call me, that's what we're here for, that's
3 what the task force is for. Call us and we'll go out
4 there and help you guys out.

5 The other question was: Talk about your task
6 force impact on your jurisdiction for UUVs crime rate,
7 what have you done well?

8 Our crime rate for UUVs, it's always the same
9 issue. We had 284; out of those 284 I want to say half of
10 those are workable, because by the time we get those cases
11 nobody wants to file charges. We'll detain the vehicle,
12 we'll locate the vehicle, and they're like no, we don't
13 want to file.

14 So that's one of the issues, that's one of the
15 other questions, is what is the challenge addressing the
16 UUVs is that nobody wants to file charges; they don't want
17 to go through with it.

18 MR. SALINAS: Just a quick question, and I'm
19 not very familiar with the whole process and everything,
20 but why were people not filing charges?

21 MR. COLON: Nine times out of ten it's going to
22 be a relative they know, or a boyfriend, ex-girlfriend and
23 they won't file charges. And we try -- we tell them
24 they're going to do it again, you're just letting them do
25 it, they're going to do it again. It's always somebody

1 they know.

2 And we tell them, hey, watch where you leave
3 your keys when you go in your house and stuff like that,
4 especially if they have somebody that they know that keeps
5 on doing it, but they won't go through with it.

6 MR. SALINAS: That makes sense now. Thanks.

7 MR. COLON: It says: Talk about your task
8 force clearance rate for UUVs. Out of the 196 cases, 60
9 resulted in arrest. Like I put it, it's difficult to
10 reach a percentage for arrests because not all 196 cases
11 are workable, so I can't give an exact percentage because
12 most of them are not all workable where they don't wish to
13 file charges. Workable cases on a month: seven to twelve
14 cases a month.

15 It says: Talk about your task force impact on
16 your jurisdiction for burglary of motor vehicles and
17 fraud-related cases. And like I said, back to data,
18 generally we work hotspot areas and informing the public
19 on how to avoid becoming a victim of motor vehicle related
20 crimes has resulted in a 4 percent decrease in the past
21 two years for burglary of motor vehicle reports.

22 How effective do you think your grant program
23 is in obtaining prosecution and convictions? Well, it's
24 effective. By the time the agents turn in the case,
25 they've gone through their investigation and done what

1 they did.

2 How many stolen vehicles reported do your task
3 force officers recover each month? From September '21 to
4 present our task force has reported 314 stolen vehicles,
5 with an average of 34 stolen a month, and recovered 206,
6 with an average of 22 per month.

7 How many were direct touches? Direct touches
8 by a task force from September '21 to present is 132. How
9 many by other divisions of the grantee? I put 60 by
10 patrol and 14 by other jurisdictions.

11 And then the last one is: How does the task
12 force develop and share intelligence information? The
13 task force develops information through thorough
14 investigations with the use, again, of social media, and
15 when we interview the prolific offenders, that's how we
16 get most of our intel.

17 Information from state coverage areas is
18 McAllen, Pharr, and Edinburg; they share in personal
19 meetings or through telephone, share information such as
20 trends and known public offenders. That's what we talk
21 about mostly.

22 Describe your service interaction and support
23 for coverage areas listed in your grant application.
24 Brownsville does the 68A inspections for all of Cameron
25 County; McAllen does inspections for them, and Edinburg

1 and Pharr for them as well for their cities.

2 So Brownsville does the entire Cameron County
3 with five task force agents, so we get a lot of people who
4 go and do their inspections with us: bridge checks, motor
5 vehicle investigations, education, outreach and public
6 awareness.

7 MR. GONZALEZ: So real quick, you were
8 mentioning about family members not wanting to prosecute.

9 I get that. One of the things I want to ask, do you all
10 have a sworn statement affidavit that is given to the
11 complainant when an officer is taking a UUV offense report
12 that is declaring that they swear it is true.

13 MR. COLON: Correct.

14 MR. GONZALEZ: So you do have that?

15 MR. COLON: No, we don't have that. Patrol
16 will ask them do you want to file charges, and if they say
17 yes, we often use that to detain them -- or to arrest
18 them.

19 But let's say they recover their vehicle and
20 then we go through the investigation and once they have
21 their vehicle, they no longer want to file charges. But
22 when they're stopped and they're in the vehicle, we
23 arrest; if they're on the vehicle, they have possession of
24 the vehicle, we arrest and we'll deal with the
25 investigation.

1 MR. GONZALEZ: And so what I think I'm talking
2 about more so is when an officer is meeting with someone
3 who says that their car was stolen. I know that in Dallas
4 County there is a written affidavit where that complainant
5 is swearing that an offense occurred, and you know, that
6 they're aware that lying to a peace officer is a crime.

7 And so I was just going to bring that up as a
8 suggestion that oftentimes when you have folks that are
9 swearing and affirming to something, it might have a
10 little bit more buy-in later on as to whether or not they
11 choose to prosecute; just, you know, as a suggestion.

12 MR. COLON: Yes, sir. It would be great to get
13 a copy of that.

14 MR. GONZALEZ: Yeah, we'll definitely get that
15 to you.

16 The other thing that I was going to ask was, so
17 your task force is divided up across the Valley. How do
18 y'all do proactive operations to interdict auto theft?

19 MR. COLON: We do public awareness or we'll go
20 do advance National Night Out and stuff like that; that's
21 mainly what we do. A lot of social media through our PAO,
22 we also do that.

23 MR. GONZALEZ: And certainly community
24 engagement is important but what I'm talking about is do
25 y'all set up controlled buys of stolen vehicles that are

1 being sold on Facebook? Do y'all try to set up on cars
2 that are stolen to wait until somebody occupies them?

3 MR. COLON: That we do, but not buys, but we
4 will sit on vehicles, but not buys.

5 MR. GONZALEZ: Can you talk about your
6 proactive operations, like how does that work when, you
7 know, you guys are so spread out?

8 MR. COLON: I don't understand the question.

9 MR. GONZALEZ: So how is it that you can do an
10 operation if you have investigators that are stationed --

11 MR. COLON: No. I'm talking about Brownsville,
12 and then McAllen and Edinburg we don't do. That's why
13 I've reached out in the meetings we've had. I'm new to
14 auto theft; I think I'm going on my third year.

15 And before they would always complain that they
16 didn't have people to do this, they didn't have people to
17 do that. I'm like, Nobody has called me. Call me and
18 we'll go out there and we'll go sit.

19 We did it for catalytic converters when we were
20 getting hit with catalytic converters, went to McAllen.
21 Of course, I told them we're going to need one of your
22 agents because we don't know McAllen, we don't know the
23 area.

24 But that's where we need to work more on now is
25 if you need help, let us know, we'll go out there -- we

1 have five, Edinburg and Pharr have two -- we'll go and sit
2 with you, we'll go help you guys out.

3 My thing is that's what the task force is for;
4 that's what they're for, is to go out and help each other.

5 MR. GONZALEZ: So you know, now I think, I'm
6 kind of understanding how it's working. So your grant is
7 paying for the salaries and fringe benefits of
8 investigators that they're Edinburg PD, Pharr PD, you
9 know, from various ones.

10 MR. COLON: Yes, sir.

11 MR. GONZALEZ: But my concern is the teamwork
12 aspect. Right? And I say that, because more than likely
13 Brownsville's suspects for UUV offenses are going to be
14 McAllen's suspects and Edinburg's suspects.

15 And so one suggestion that I have for you is I
16 don't know if you'd be able to maybe spend some time with
17 Commander Peterson from Tarrant County, because they have
18 a very similar setup to where there's different
19 agencies -- or even TriCounty with Commander Harrell --
20 they have a similar setup, where you have various law
21 enforcement agencies combined into one task force.

22 But when you talk to any of those task force
23 members, it's one team, and they do the proactive
24 operations together. They do the interdiction efforts
25 together, even though they're a part from different

1 agencies.

2 Does that kind of make sense?

3 MR. COLON: Yes, sir.

4 MR. GONZALEZ: And so that's kind of what I
5 want to -- I think Bryan always says this -- challenging
6 us to do better. Right? And so I just want to make sure
7 that, one, that intelligence sharing is there and that's
8 it's more of a team, because we're funding 100 percent of
9 their salaries and fringe benefits. Right?

10 MR. COLON: No. It's 80 percent. Right?

11 MR. WILSON: Well, 80/20.

12 MR. GONZALEZ: 80/20. And so essentially 100
13 percent of that investigator's work hours are supposed to
14 be dedicated to the goals of the MVCPA, and so I think
15 that if it can be just a little bit more of a team,
16 combined effort, I think that, again, Brownsville's
17 suspects can be addressed by McAllen's suspects and it can
18 lead to, I guess, better results over there in the Valley.

19 MR. COLON: Yes, sir.

20 MR. GONZALEZ: Did you finish going through the
21 questions?

22 MR. COLON: Yes, sir, I believe so.

23 MR. SALINAS: A quick question, Mr. Chair.

24 Member Salinas.

25 So there's three separate task forces?

1 MR. COLON: No, it's one.

2 MR. SALINAS: The Brownsville one?

3 MR. COLON: Yes, sir.

4 MR. SALINAS: Okay, all right.

5 MR. GONZALEZ: What about chop shops, how many?

6 MR. WILSON: Can I, Mr. Chairman?

7 MR. GONZALEZ: Go ahead.

8 MR. WILSON: So let's be clear. There's one
9 task force, but it has four different departments that
10 participate in that task force. I just want to make sure
11 we understand that. So the City of Brownsville is what we
12 call the administrator. So if you don't mind me just
13 being a little remedial here to make sure we all
14 understand how these task forces work. We have single
15 jurisdiction task forces like the City of Austin, City of
16 Dallas. They might have coverage agencies but their one
17 single jurisdiction as a task force.

18 STATE is one of our oldest task forces, South
19 Texas Auto Theft Enforcement, and it's made up of the City
20 of Brownsville, the City of Edinburg, the City of Pharr,
21 and the City of McAllen in one geographical region.

22 But what he was just saying -- and I don't mean
23 to put words in your mouth, Colon, so just make sure you
24 correct me. What he's saying is they operate in their own
25 jurisdictions but they coordinate at some level.

1 What Chairman Gonzalez was just saying is what
2 you'll see as we move through these different interviews,
3 the level of coordination between, say, Smith or Tarrant
4 at one level, and STATE at probably the other level is how
5 integrated and how coordinated they are on their day-to-
6 day operations.

7 And I think that's what -- again, I'm not
8 trying to put words in his mouth -- he's indicating that
9 they're willing to go and work more as a team, sometimes
10 they have communication issues on how effective and how
11 often and the depths -- to your covert question, the depth
12 at which they do it.

13 Mr. Chairman, could I just follow up on one or
14 two things I want to go back to. On your material, Sgt.
15 Colon, you said that you have the workable cases an
16 average of seven to twelve cases per month?

17 MR. COLON: Correct.

18 MR. WILSON: Is that per investigator or for
19 the unit?

20 MR. COLON: For the unit.

21 MR. WILSON: And is that just Brownsville, or
22 is that McAllen, Edinburg?

23 MR. COLON: That's the Valley.

24 MR. WILSON: The whole Valley. Okay, thank
25 you.

1 The only other question that was on here that I
2 don't know if you skipped, or one of the questions was --
3 I didn't see in your material, and again, I'm not trying
4 to pick on you, I just want to make sure I understood what
5 was being said -- did you provide a sample of a BOLO or
6 intelligence-sharing document in this material and I just
7 missed it, or is it later?

8 MR. COLON: I'm sorry. Where it says that one:
9 Provide latest three recent intelligence bulletins?

10 MR. WILSON: Yes, sir.

11 MR. COLON: So during the month of April 2022,
12 Edinburg PD Auto Theft Task Force contacted McAllen Auto
13 Theft Task Force, is that the one?

14 MR. WILSON: Oh, okay, I see it. Thank you.

15 MR. COLON: Yes, sir.

16 One of the things that we shared was this
17 one -- I want to say he was maybe 20-some years old, but
18 he was a prolific offender. He was arrested, him and his
19 girlfriend, and when he was arrested, I put it on the last
20 webinars, his gun had a buzz plate, which I didn't know
21 what it was, I had to Google it, because some guy from ATF
22 said it's a buzz plate. I'm like what is a buzz plate?

23 So I Googled it, and it makes the gun into full
24 automatic. And he said he purchased it in Houston for
25 \$500, the buzz plate. That's one of the things that I

1 shared out there.

2 MR. GONZALEZ: Sarge, going back, so how many
3 investigators are assigned to STATE task force?

4 MR. COLON: Fourteen -- fifteen, it's fifteen.

5 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. And so if we are looking
6 at workable cases of seven to twelve a month, I mean, is
7 that safe to say every investigator is one case a month?

8 MR. COLON: This is for -- I'm talking about
9 unauthorized use of vehicle, not stolen; this is just
10 unauthorized use of a vehicle. These are the ones where
11 I'm saying they don't want to file charges it's seven to
12 twelve a month.

13 MR. GONZALEZ: Oh, okay.

14 MR. COLON: The other ones we have plenty of
15 those; those are shared out.

16 MR. GONZALEZ: So my real question is what's
17 the caseload like? Like how many cases are we assigning
18 to those 15 detectives on a weekly basis?

19 MR. COLON: I only monitor the ones for
20 Brownsville, and then during the progress reports that get
21 sent, that's when I get the other numbers. I assign every
22 case that comes in to the agents.

23 MR. GONZALEZ: To Brownsville?

24 MR. COLON: Yes, to Brownsville. They've got
25 to be assigned, so I'm talking about normally we get two

1 to three a day -- not a day, maybe six a week for stolens
2 and burglary of motor vehicle maybe from four to twenty a
3 week for burglary of motor vehicles for Brownsville.

4 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. And I say that, because I
5 think it's just important to know the workload of our
6 investigators.

7 MR. COLON: Last year we had 120 -- 130 stolens
8 and 680 burglary of motor vehicles, not including the
9 unauthorized use of motor vehicles. I think there was
10 200-and-some unauthorized use of motor vehicles.

11 MR. GONZALEZ: What about chop shops? Are
12 y'all discovering chop shops?

13 MR. COLON: We haven't come across one. We are
14 working one that we believe is one, but it's a little bit
15 outside the city but we're still working it. We found a
16 Cadillac in pieces, so we started working on that one
17 recently.

18 MR. GONZALEZ: And are you guys utilizing the
19 BCC?

20 MR. COLON: Not yet. That's one of the issues
21 that we've been having since I went to the task force.
22 Our administrator I put on it -- because he's having
23 issues getting the lead access to DPS, but we already
24 contacted MVCPA, and they pointed us in the right
25 direction.

1 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. And then one thing I was
2 going to ask, has there been any consideration -- and I
3 know this can be difficult -- to have your task force at
4 one central location? I don't know maybe in the middle,
5 maybe in Weslaco?

6 MR. COLON: I would love that, but I don't
7 think that's up to me, but that would be awesome, though.
8 I've said it, but I don't think we could. I don't know,
9 that's above my pay grade. I mean, it would be awesome,
10 because we take care of the whole Valley in one location.

11 MR. GONZALEZ: And I think as a board member
12 that's kind of my vision for your task force, is an elite
13 task force that takes care of auto theft in the Valley
14 that's going out there and doing these interdiction
15 operations, doing undercover buys of stolen vehicles,
16 working the fraud UUV, recovering vehicles at the border,
17 taking care of the Valley. That would be my vision for
18 yours.

19 And so then we can work with Director Wilson.
20 Maybe we can set up a meeting with the various chiefs and
21 see if that's something that's possible, set something up
22 in Weslaco right in the middle, just to collaborate and to
23 foster that team, that task force mentality. You know,
24 y'all are so spread out, and I just want to make sure that
25 we're doing that teamwork.

1 MR. COLON: Yes, sir.

2 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chairman, Member Salinas.
3 I'll add to that.

4 The Valley, people don't realize, you know,
5 from Brownsville to McAllen that's like 1.5-, 1.6 million
6 people. It's a big area. But I will add too, it makes a
7 lot of sense but no different than other parts of the
8 state, you know, you've got the Friday night mentality, so
9 that's always going to be a challenge. But most
10 definitely I think if there's an opportunity for that
11 discussion, I would definitely welcome that.

12 MR. GONZALEZ: And you know, one of the things
13 that we know about auto theft is that there is a
14 significant amount of vehicles that are being moved across
15 the border, vehicle trafficking, as I call it.

16 And so I think that you guys are right there in
17 a position to be able to stop and intercept quite a bit of
18 those stolens that are going out into Mexico. And so if
19 we can get some more operations, you know, bridge
20 inspections and whatnot, to further, you know, going back
21 to our legislative goals, the port security, I want to be
22 able to show to the legislature that we are making a good-
23 faith effort to reach our statutory requirements.

24 And so the more work that we can do on
25 intercepting those stolen vehicles that are going into

1 Mexico, the more teamwork that we can have, the better.

2 MR. COLON: Yes, sir.

3 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chairman, Member Salinas.

4 Sgt. Colon, how many international bridges in
5 the Valley?

6 MR. COLON: Eight.

7 MR. SALINAS: Eight? Thank you.

8 MR. COLON: Yes, sir.

9 MR. SALINAS: That's all I've got.

10 MR. GONZALEZ: All right. Thank you.

11 MR. COLON: Yes, sir.

12 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Sergeant.

13 MR. COLON: Yes, sir.

14 MR. GONZALEZ: All right. Next we have Austin,
15 City of.

16 Good afternoon.

17 MR. SIMONEAUX: Sgt. Simoneaux with the Austin
18 Police Department, and this is Lt. Gresham.

19 Just to give you an idea of what our unit
20 consists of, we are authorized eleven detectives and two
21 sergeants. We're currently holding two unfilled vacancies
22 due to staffing issues, those staffing issues being
23 limited patrol officers on the streets, so as people
24 promote, they're not letting them move from the streets,
25 they're holding them in position, so we're not able to

1 fill those vacancies, and we have no idea how long that's
2 going to be.

3 We also have another detective who is on
4 extended medical leave and has been so over a year and is
5 expected not to come back till the end of the year. So we
6 are short three detectives of the eleven. We have an
7 administrative assistant, part-time liaison that works an
8 average of 18 hours a week, and we are responsible for
9 investigating 15 different title codes related to auto
10 theft.

11 How many UUMVs have occurred in your grant
12 jurisdiction? A total of 4,582 auto thefts occurred in
13 the Austin Police Department's jurisdiction in 2021. This
14 is a 13 percent increase over the total of 3,928 auto
15 thefts in 2020, and a 118 increase in the overall 2,034 in
16 2017, so as you can see it's increasing over the years.

17 You asked what challenges do we have in
18 addressing the UUMVs. First of all, as everybody was
19 affected by COVID, City of Austin was pretty much shut
20 down during this time. We were limited to how many staff
21 could actually be in the office together at one time, many
22 detectives had to work from home, which could still be
23 done but no proactive work, of course. Many warrants were
24 written during that time.

25 Another thing that's affecting us is the low

1 prosecution rate in Travis County, as I'm sure everyone is
2 aware of. The increase of availability of car sharing
3 programs has really driven up our stats, such as Turo is
4 one of them.

5 People basically rent out their own cars
6 through this company using an app; there's a lockbox on
7 the vehicle holding the keys. Several of the transients
8 have learned out to defeat that lockbox and have driven
9 off with the cars, and we're talking one of our cases they
10 took twelve from one location and moved them to a
11 different location.

12 Luckily, we're working with them to get their
13 vehicles equipped with GPS to help get them recovered
14 quicker and to figure out another operating system so that
15 the keys aren't as easily accessible.

16 We have no overtime budget, which hampers us
17 from doing anything outside our normal duties or our
18 normal 40 hours of work, which we are very caseload
19 driven, which you'll see shortly.

20 And of course, reimagining the Austin Police
21 Department has affected the LPR system we no longer have.

22 We are in talks of getting it back, but city council has
23 not approved it as of this date. I will say recently that
24 Travis County reached out to us, I believe it was Sgt.
25 Tarrant, and has offered his Flock system. We're

1 basically piggybacking on them, and he's given us access
2 to Flock, which is helping us out also.

3 And of course, the unfilled vacancies, as
4 mentioned before, has hampered our ability to investigate
5 the UUMVs.

6 How many UUMVs have occurred in your grant
7 jurisdiction? A total of 4,582 auto thefts occurred in
8 the Austin Police Department's jurisdiction in 2021. This
9 is a 13 percent increase over the total of 3,928 auto
10 thefts in 2020 and 118 percent increase of the total 2,034
11 in 2017.

12 We have approximately 17 different title codes
13 related to auto theft that we investigate, so it's not
14 strictly just stolen vehicles. It's anything from false
15 to criminal trespass motor vehicle, forgery, of course
16 out-of-city recoveries, rental cars failed to return,
17 theft of heavy equipment, theft of license plates, theft
18 of trailers, unauthorized use of motor vehicle, et cetera,
19 and of course, 68A inspections.

20 Auto theft by year for our jurisdiction, as I
21 said before, has gradually increased over the last five
22 years. At the end of April of this year, our total auto
23 thefts are 44 percent higher than the same period last
24 year at this time.

25 Of course, I have a graph here that shows by

1 month the difference between 2021 and 2020, and you can
2 see the significant rise which y'all have in front of you.

3 We were curious to see if this was just an Austin issue;
4 and obviously it's not. Statewide auto thefts are
5 increasing dramatically, as my brothers and sisters have
6 also told you.

7 How many UUMV cases does your task force file
8 each month? We're very unique in the fact that in 2021 67
9 warrants were filed, and this is during COVID, of course;
10 for 2022, January to present only 20 have been filed.

11 And you have to keep in mind that a majority of
12 our cases are direct filed by patrol. We still have hands
13 on the cases, we still receive the cases, we still review
14 the cases and do any followup in it. But if a patrol
15 officer stops them on the street in a stolen vehicle, they
16 are direct filed by the patrol officer.

17 Stolen vehicles versus recoveries. How many
18 stolen vehicles reported does your task force recover each
19 month? Over the past year 4,291 stolen vehicles were
20 recovered by APD, an average of 358 a month, and this is
21 encompass of patrol officers on the street to include us,
22 the majority being patrol officers, of course, who are out
23 there on the streets.

24 How many by other divisions in the grant
25 agency? Of these, 3,365 were recovered by patrol, as I

1 mentioned before. How many by other jurisdiction? 1,026
2 were recovered by other jurisdictions, or 24 percent of
3 that total. How many were direct touches by the task
4 force, you ask. As I said before, we're involved in all
5 cases, whether patrol stops them or not.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: So when patrol finds an
7 abandoned car that's stolen, I would imagine is your task
8 force taking credit for that recovery?

9 MR. SIMONEAUX: I'm not sure how to define what
10 credit is.

11 MR. GONZALEZ: Like does it count towards the
12 recoveries, towards the amount that you're reporting?

13 MR. SIMONEAUX: The total recoveries, yes, but
14 not necessarily for the task force itself.

15 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. With respect to what's
16 being reported to the MVCPA.

17 MR. SIMONEAUX: Correct.

18 MR. GONZALEZ: I'm interested in what the task
19 forces are doing, not necessarily so much what the whole
20 law enforcement agency is doing.

21 MR. SIMONEAUX: Right, but it comes hand-in-
22 hand, because we depend on them to solve a lot of these
23 cases and to recover the vehicles, of course.

24 Intelligence sharing. How does the task force
25 develop and share intelligence information? APD auto

1 theft detectives review evidence in their cases and issue
2 intelligence information in an attempt to identify
3 suspects, recovered stolen vehicles, and alert patrol
4 officers to crime trends, locations, modus operandi
5 related to auto thefts.

6 This information is typically shared in the
7 form of a BOLO. This BOLO is shared amongst patrol and
8 through our ARIC [phonetic], which shares it with
9 surrounding jurisdictions.

10 We also work with many of our surrounding
11 agencies where vehicles are recovered in their
12 jurisdiction or their vehicles are recovered in ours, we
13 assist them with that. Recently we've been working with
14 DPS. They're assisting us with our buy busts for
15 Facebook, et cetera. Because we don't have the manning or
16 overtime budget, they have been willing to help us out,
17 set up and assist in these buy busts.

18 Who was the audience of the information? We
19 shared with, as I just explained, local law enforcement in
20 the area.

21 We have examples of our BOLOs. These are
22 typically the type of BOLOs that are issued out citywide
23 and through ARIC in the local jurisdictions. And I also
24 included two press release media which I was going to show
25 in the PowerPoint that's not here.

1 Recently one of my detectives did an
2 informational on take, lock and hide, not to leave your
3 keys in the vehicle type thing and it was broadcast over
4 the media and on YouTube.

5 And also, the media did a recent press release
6 on the 40 percent rise in auto thefts across the Austin
7 area, and which my detective also participated in.

8 For the MVCPA, what is shared in the virtual
9 command center? I have fallen short on sharing things in
10 that. I don't want to make excuses, but we're overworked,
11 and I just haven't taken it very seriously, to be honest
12 with you, but that will change.

13 What is shared during the webinars? Most
14 recently we shared the Hellcat cases that we were having
15 between here and Harris County. They're targeting our
16 airports. They're showing up and identifying where the
17 Hellcats are.

18 They have someone who prints out a fake
19 insurance card with the actual VIN on it, they call a
20 locksmith at that point in time, they give them the story,
21 hey, I just got back in town, I lost my keys somewhere
22 wherever it was. Locksmith opens it up, makes them a new
23 key, the drive off with the Hellcat. And between us and
24 Harris County, we have identified and made arrests in that
25 case.

1 MR. GONZALEZ: Well, Sarge, I think this is an
2 excellent presentation. Kudos to you for putting together
3 a very informative overview of what's going on with Austin
4 PD.

5 You said multiple points that I want to comment
6 on. Completely understand about not being able to fill
7 positions. I get it, violent crime can be a priority for
8 folks that are a lot higher in rank than you and I, and so
9 I understand that.

10 One of the suggestions that I have for you is I
11 notice that you said you don't have an overtime budget and
12 you don't have LPRs anymore. I would encourage the City
13 of Austin to apply for a Rapid Response Strikeforce Grant,
14 \$25,000 overtime and \$25,000 for LPRs, and then you'd have
15 both back.

16 MR. SIMONEAUX: I do appreciate that advice.
17 The problem with the LPRs is not funding; it's approval
18 from city council to use them.

19 MR. GONZALEZ: I see, understood. Well, then
20 overtime, you know, make it for overtime.

21 You know, with respect to these Hellcats, yes,
22 they're being stolen left and right. One of the things
23 that Dallas has done recently is partnering with NICB to
24 outfit a Hellcat as a bait car, and so that is certainly
25 something.

1 Again, I am all about the operations and the
2 proactive approach to auto theft. We can take a reactive
3 approach, and we have to work auto theft as they come
4 along, but I also think that we need to take that
5 proactive approach, like you were saying with your buy
6 busts and with bait cars and whatnot. So there's money
7 out there, all we gotta do is just ask for it.

8 MR. SIMONEAUX: I failed to mention that we do
9 have an operation coming up this Thursday and Friday. The
10 ROT Rally is in town, as many people know, and we are
11 utilizing our bait motorcycle and vehicles for two
12 operations that we have scheduled for Thursday and Friday.

13 MR. GONZALEZ: And then, you know, with respect
14 to the VCC, it's just important that all task forces be
15 reminded that as part of the statement of grant award it
16 does obligate the task force to utilize that VCC.

17 Like that is a condition of the grant that is
18 accepted by your city council, and so it's your council
19 saying you will do this and like that is part of the
20 agreement. And so the intelligence sharing, again, like
21 we were just talking about with Brownsville, it's just
22 really important that we all communicate with each other.

23 As you said, you know, your suspects from
24 Houston are the ones that are stealing in Austin, and I
25 guarantee you there's some connection to Dallas in some

1 way, and so it's just important that we all speak to one
2 another with respect to that.

3 That's all I've got right now.

4 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chairman, Member Salinas.

5 Great presentation. Thanks.

6 I haven't bought a vehicle in a long, long
7 time, so what is a Hellcat and why is it so popular?

8 MR. SIMONEAUX: It's made by Dodge and it's a
9 souped-up car. Maybe someone else can give you a better
10 explanation what it is.

11 MR. SALINAS: I'll look it up.

12 MR. SIMONEAUX: It's nothing I can afford.

13 MR. GONZALEZ: So I can speak to that. So
14 Dodge has the Charger, and as part of the Charger you can
15 get some souped-up engines. You can buy a \$100,000 Dodge
16 Charger, making it the world's fastest sedan in
17 production, well over 1,000 horsepower.

18 But there are Scat Packs and Red Demons and
19 Demon Eyes, and I mean, the list goes on and on and on.
20 To say that these are cool cars, they're cool cars because
21 they're also incredibly fast, and what folks use them for
22 are for street racing, obviously for resale, they VIN
23 switch them, but it is per capita one of the highest in
24 demand vehicles.

25 And I say that because, you know, in Texas the

1 most stolen vehicle is the GMC and Chevy pickup 2017 to
2 2019; however, there's a ton of those out there, there's
3 just a ton of them out there.

4 There aren't that many Hellcats out there, so
5 really a Hellcat is kind of a trim for a Dodge car that
6 gives it a very powerful engine, and you can get it on the
7 Challenger as well and you can get it on a Jeep Grand
8 Cherokee and you can also get it on a Durango, and so it
9 is a really awesome fast engine and it is just per capita
10 incredibly in demand.

11 And what we're finding is the individuals that
12 are stealing these, these are not your joy-riders, these
13 are not your juveniles that are wanting to take a car for
14 a spin. This is a highly organized, centered operation.

15 This is Chapter 71, for the most part, engaging
16 in organized crime, and so these investigations take a lot
17 of resources, they take a lot of manpower. DFW Airport is
18 experiencing the same thing with respect to these Mopar
19 products, and it is something that we need to address.

20 So I applaud your task force for taking a
21 proactive approach to it. However we can get you money
22 for some overtime to work these cases.

23 This to me is the vision of the MVCPA. You
24 know, we are here to supplement your existing city's auto
25 theft efforts so that you can go after these complex

1 cases, these engaging in organized crime aspects.

2 I mean, you said so yourself you don't have the
3 staffing, you don't have the staffing, you don't have the
4 overtime, but in my opinion that is what the MVCPA is
5 there to do, to give you the resources to go after these
6 criminal combinations.

7 MR. SIMONEAUX: Thank you. Will do.

8 MR. SALINAS: Hold on. Mr. Chairman, Member
9 Salinas.

10 So I get the Hellcat now. It's basically like
11 the Hemi from the '60s.

12 So over the last five years 118 percent
13 increase and you mentioned some bullet items and also
14 we're seeing this across the state, but just in a
15 nutshell, why such an increase? What's driving this?

16 MR. SIMONEAUX: I think a lot of it -- not a
17 lot of it, but part of it was the car rideshare program,
18 so mass quantity being stolen at one time, and it's just
19 carelessness by vehicle owners, leaving spare keys in
20 cars.

21 Most vehicles are stolen with the keys. We do
22 get a few cases where the ignition is popped but it's far
23 and few between, most of them are stolen with keys one way
24 or another, whether they're left running or they're just
25 left in a vehicle. They'll start with a BOV, of course,

1 and they find the keys in the car next to them in one
2 vehicle, so they're like now I've got the whole vehicle.

3 MR. SALINAS: Thank you.

4 MR. GONZALEZ: I can add to that too. So I
5 mean, this is a national trend, the increase in UUV is
6 national. And two of the other factors that are
7 contributing to it are, one, the historic rise in metal
8 prices.

9 In Dallas we have seen where these tow trucks
10 are just taking cars to be crushed, and then the scrappers
11 selling it, the scrap metal, so there's profit to be made
12 there.

13 And then in addition to that, there's also the
14 chip shortage, so the chip shortage has led to a reduction
15 in the number of new vehicles that are out there on the
16 streets, and so therefore, there's an increased demand for
17 used cars internationally and domestically, and it also
18 creates an increased demand for used car parts to keep
19 those existing cars running which leads to more and more
20 auto theft.

21 So it is national, but I'm hoping that in Texas
22 we lead the way in doing something about it.

23 MR. SIMONEAUX: It's also lack of consequences
24 too, lack of prosecution.

25 MR. SALINAS: Thank you.

1 MR. SIMONEAUX: No problem.

2 MR. GONZALEZ: That's all I've got. Thank you.

3 MR. SIMONEAUX: Thank you.

4 MR. GONZALEZ: And Eagle Pass. Whenever you're
5 ready.

6 MR. CARDONA: Okay. How are y'all doing today?
7 I'm Sgt. Cardona with the Eagle Pass Police Department.
8 We're located in Maverick County, and I would like to give
9 you just a brief information as to what's going on in our
10 county and surrounding counties, along with immigration
11 issue and so on.

12 The things that we're dealing with in our
13 jurisdiction, of course, is the immigration issue and so
14 on. Like the previous jurisdictions up here talking about
15 with regards to personnel and so on, we're also
16 experiencing shortage of personnel due to retirement and
17 all of that stuff, and the somewhat scrutinized process of
18 hiring people and through the Civil Service and so on kind
19 of prolongs that, and it doesn't allow us to actually fill
20 in certain positions.

21 We are missing one position which is a cash
22 match position, so we're currently working under like one
23 sergeant and two more detectives, which are assigned to
24 me.

25 So what we handle is pretty much what the grant

1 encompasses, what it dictates, so with that being said,
2 I'm going to go ahead and read you the summary to answer
3 the questions that are set forth.

4 At the end of the third quarter for fiscal year
5 '22, auto theft personnel have handled 52 motor vehicle
6 theft cases. FY21 had a total of 59 cases. For motor
7 vehicle theft at the end of the third quarter in FY21,
8 auto theft personnel handled 38 cases.

9 There is a 27 percent increase in motor vehicle
10 theft cases this year. Motor vehicle theft cases worked
11 involved vehicles which were reported in other
12 jurisdictions and have been recovered and arrests have
13 been made.

14 Vehicles have also been intercepted at the
15 point of their exportation. The collaboration with key
16 agencies such as U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S.
17 Border Patrol, Maverick County Sheriff's Office, Customs
18 in the Republic of Mexico have proven to be highly
19 effective.

20 Vehicles intercepted being exported are
21 commonly stolen from the area of San Antonio. This is
22 believed to be due to the proximity to Eagle Pass, and
23 that's the reason why they head in our direction. Some
24 vehicles encountered have been reported stolen within a
25 few hours; other vehicles are not even reported stolen

1 until they're in Mexico.

2 Video surveillance equipment installed in our
3 Bridge 2 has assisted in investigations and multiple
4 agencies in identifying drivers who take stolen vehicles
5 into the Republic of Mexico. Investigative assistance
6 from program personnel has been furnished to U.S. Customs,
7 Maverick County SO, Texas Department of Public Safety
8 Ranger Service, and the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

9 Unfortunately, we currently do not have
10 equipment on Bridge Number 1. Lately we have had stolen
11 vehicles being driven into Mexico via Bridge 1. Currently
12 investigations have identified members of an organization
13 which is local have been using Bridge 1 to drive the
14 vehicles into Mexico.

15 The driver returns walking and then gets picked
16 up in the downtown area within Bridge 1. We have
17 maintained constant vigilance on this organization because
18 of the great addition of LPRs in this area.

19 In addition to this, we also identified a group
20 that is initiating in San Antonio and has major
21 connections to cartel in Piedras Negras, which also
22 they've been smart enough to adapt, and they've been using
23 our Bridge 1 as well.

24 Organized criminal organizations have been
25 identified since the beginning of the year. Three groups

1 which have transported stolen vehicles into Mexico consist
2 of three or more. One of the groups is local, like I
3 mentioned. The main individual has been linked to at
4 least 4 vehicles since the beginning of 2022.

5 The current trend of preferred narcotic usage
6 is meth in our area. Latest information on the dangerous
7 drug indicates that meth is laced with fentanyl. This
8 combination makes the narcotic more dangerous. Theft of
9 motor vehicle cases have been linked to local subjects who
10 are heavy users of the mentioned narcotic.

11 Due to event cancellations throughout the year
12 and -- and this is a side note for now -- public awareness
13 and crime prevention, events have not been held.

14 Our VIN etching equipment has stopped working.
15 Mark-N-Gard, which is the supplier, has been contacted,
16 and we have been advised that our equipment is
17 unrepairable and obsolete. New equipment replacement has
18 a cost of approximately \$1,500, and we're currently
19 looking into that as we speak.

20 As far as task force impact on our jurisdiction
21 UUMV crime rate, motor vehicle theft cases generated
22 within this jurisdiction are impacted by the proactive
23 measures that are in place to detect, intercept and
24 recover stolen vehicles. This crime rate includes
25 vehicles which have been reported stolen in other

1 jurisdictions.

2 In collaboration with the district attorney's
3 office, task force personnel develop cases on subjects
4 that are driving through this jurisdiction, and as
5 previously stated, up to the end of the third quarter this
6 jurisdiction has had 52 UUMVs. This is a 27 percent
7 increase. Like I mentioned, on average three cases for
8 motor vehicle thefts are filed each month. The clearance
9 rate for this fiscal year is at 58 percent.

10 I would like to also add that with work with
11 our district attorney's office, when vehicles do actually
12 make it into the Republic of Mexico that utilize our
13 Bridge 2, based on just the surveillance equipment that we
14 have there, the cameras in place that we identify the
15 driver by the assistance of U.S. Customs, it could be
16 through facial recognition or whatnot, that we present
17 that evidence to our district attorney, and that's a good
18 case for a UUMV, so we've had success rate in that.

19 As far as the biggest obstacle for task force
20 personnel in relation to solving burglaries of motor
21 vehicles is that a lot of property reported as stolen is
22 not identified by the owner with serial numbers.

23 Property descriptions only often include color
24 and brand and that's it. Other common articles that are
25 reported as stolen are license plates, passports, driver's

1 licenses and birth certificates. Information that we've
2 gathered from that as far as license plates are concerned,
3 license plates are being used to mask vehicles utilized
4 for human smuggling and so on. Intelligence that we've
5 gotten as far as birth certificates, driver's licenses and
6 passports, they go back to Mexico and they get sold.

7 We have seen an increase in titles for vehicles
8 that are sold in Mexico that have become altered; they're
9 completely erased. Mind you, it's a very good job, but
10 nonetheless our tax office has been trained well to
11 identify these documents and call us to basically verify
12 the information, so we've gotten good collaboration with
13 the tax office there.

14 Approximately nine vehicles are recovered each
15 month. The recoveries are handled by task force personnel
16 unless we are unable to respond to the incident. In that
17 case notifications and direction is provided by personnel
18 on how to handle the incident. I guess I didn't finish
19 that part.

20 Moving on, up to date seven vehicles have been
21 recovered by an outside agency or our patrol division.
22 Agencies that have recovered vehicles reported to this
23 agency include Maverick County Sheriff's Office, the
24 Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas, and the Frio County
25 Sheriff's Office.

1 Our patrol division has encountered two stolen
2 vehicles, tribal police has assisted task force personnel
3 with their recovery of a motorcycle and one vehicle. The
4 Frio County Sheriff's Office has assisted us with the
5 recovery after task force personnel tracked the vehicle by
6 the use of our LPR system and established network.

7 The development of intelligence information.
8 Task force members have constant communication with all
9 departmental divisions. Information is disseminated with
10 department personnel as soon as it is received.

11 With the use of applications, officers
12 communicate using their device and keep live progress of
13 incident developments. The same is applied with all
14 surrounding agencies. We have established instant
15 communication with federal, state and local agencies,
16 including international agencies.

17 We have had instances where one particular
18 vehicle that I've mentioned that it was recovered by our
19 patrol division, this gentleman exited Fort Duncan
20 Regional Medical Center under the influence of narcotics,
21 took the vehicle, which was left running in the parking
22 lot.

23 As it was being driven towards the border,
24 immediate communication was sent out. Mexican Customs
25 actually was not able to capture the vehicle due to the

1 fact that it was traveling at a high rate. Subsequently,
2 the driver, being in the state that he was, wound up
3 coming back, so we were lucky enough to recover that
4 expensive Chevy Camaro and conduct our arrest from there.

5 And with regards to other cases, as well as
6 that vehicle that was recovered by the Frio County
7 Sheriff's Office, we did reach out as soon as we started
8 tracking that vehicle through the LPR system and the
9 network that we have with U.S. Border Patrol and DPS.

10 Of course, we immediately found out that the
11 vehicle had already gone past our checkpoint, and that was
12 a glitch within our system because of the fact that our
13 patrol officer had to go back to the department, contact
14 our dispatcher, and then finally enter the vehicle as
15 stolen, so there was a delay in time.

16 If not, that vehicle would have been caught by
17 the use of LPRs at our checkpoint. So needless to say, we
18 were able to recover that vehicle and we're still pending
19 the identification of that subject.

20 Case reports shared with the agencies to
21 properly dispose of the case. Information has been shared
22 with the virtual command center; however, in some cases,
23 due to heavy workload it has gone without being inputted
24 into the VCC. Border incident assessment reports are also
25 generated to notify surrounding areas of vehicles that are

1 reported stolen and are suspected to be used in human
2 smuggling.

3 MR. GONZALEZ: So Sarge, let me just interrupt
4 one thing. So with respect to the heavy caseload work not
5 allowing to the VCC, I have to disagree with that.

6 I mean, my task force uses the virtual command
7 center, and it takes five minutes. I mean, you guys are
8 already making -- because I've kind of looked ahead -- you
9 guys are making excellent intelligence bulletins. It
10 probably takes four minutes to log in and one minute to
11 make the post.

12 MR. CARDONA: Not me, sir. I'm actively
13 engaged where the guys out on the street come in and take
14 care of as far as our notifications and so on, keeping
15 local.

16 Like I mentioned to you that I was notifying
17 surrounding agencies almost instantly, giving updates as
18 to where we're at with the cases and so on. Now, as far
19 as I'm throwing that out there as far as the heavy
20 caseload, I'm not using it as an excuse at this point in
21 time that I'm not doing it, no.

22 We just have to make the time and start
23 sharing, especially with vehicles that are coming from
24 other jurisdictions down into our area to identify the
25 drivers, especially drivers -- in most of these cases it's

1 drivers from where the vehicle was actually reported
2 stolen.

3 Should we just be sending the information out
4 here for prosecution to be handled on their side? We
5 could do that, but I mean, we're working the case, we
6 caught them in our jurisdiction, they're causing damage to
7 our jurisdiction by going through it.

8 So that's what I mean as far as sometimes it's
9 a heavy caseload and so on, so before I know it, a day and
10 a half has gone by trying to catch up with paperwork and
11 poof, it's gone, I missed it.

12 MR. GONZALEZ: I understand. And you can have
13 detectives create their accounts through the VCC and they
14 can be responsible for that. But again, as I was telling
15 Austin, the importance of this is that it's a condition of
16 the grant award, and so it's a duty of mine to remind
17 those task forces that, hey, look, this is our
18 expectation.

19 MR. CARDONA: Yes.

20 MR. GONZALEZ: Go ahead.

21 MR. CARDONA: And that pretty much ends my
22 summary. I was going to go back as far as the VCC is
23 concerned and so on, but with the --

24 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, can I ask a
25 question?

1 So just going back to that Frio car real quick,
2 I want to clarify something, because recently the MVCPA
3 helped you purchase some new technology. Correct?

4 MR. CARDONA: That is right.

5 MR. GONZALEZ: The LPRs. And so when you said
6 that car was caught in Frio County and you said it was
7 tracked with an LPR, was that tracked with your LPRs, or
8 was that something you and Border Patrol or other
9 agencies? What do you mean by that? I just want to kind
10 of clarify.

11 MR. CARDONA: And I think we were talking about
12 this earlier, and I made a side note of it. What our
13 purchase of the LPRs -- what that did, it opened up the
14 network with the agencies that I mentioned, and it's from
15 Eagle Pass all the way up to San Antonio.

16 And we've actually gone as far as tracking a
17 vehicle down to the Brownsville area, and that's one of
18 our main perps right now that we're handling. We got
19 awarded monies to purchase two mobile LPRs, that's what we
20 have, and prior to that, and one of the things that I do
21 want to be specific about, is our area was totally dark,
22 there was no LPR coverage.

23 There was one in Dilley and Kinney County which
24 was being used by Border Patrol to move it around
25 strategically. It would go to 57 for a little bit and

1 then back to 277 North, which is the road from Eagle Pass
2 to Del Rio, and then to 90, like I mentioned,
3 strategically.

4 So when we acquired these LPRs, it kind of
5 started opening up the network, and shortly after us,
6 surrounding counties, Zavala, Dimmitt, and so on,
7 including Maverick County, have acquired LPRs, but they're
8 at the beginning stages, but their LPRs are starting to
9 detect as well.

10 Even the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
11 acquired a license plate reader. So our area of coverage
12 right now, if you look into the Vigilant system, it's just
13 blown up, so I just feel that that the level of recoveries
14 in that area are going to be increasing.

15 However, the method of operation in all of
16 these networks of criminals is that they're changing their
17 license plates; they're moving across jurisdictions with
18 eTAGs, which eTAGs are not detectable through the LPR, so
19 that's another issue that's going on. If there's other
20 systems out there, then we might be having to move to
21 those systems to adjust to the method of operation.

22 So that's another thing that is going on, the
23 explosion of reads in our area. With the Vigilant system
24 as well we also have a side thing that repo drivers, the
25 wrecker drivers also carry that system. They don't get

1 information on stolen vehicles but just driving around
2 trying to locate the vehicles that they need to repossess,
3 but we have access to all of those reads as well.

4 So it's not just our LPRs that are doing
5 readings in that area. Every night repo drivers come into
6 our area and they start reading, and those are available
7 to everybody as well.

8 So the system is working currently. It's a
9 brand new system that we're getting used to and more and
10 more officers are getting exposed to that particular LPR
11 system.

12 MR. GONZALEZ: Let me just say one caveat.
13 NVLS commercial data is not available to everyone. It's
14 available to agencies with subscriptions to it, and it's
15 very expensive, so just want to clarify that.

16 MR. CARDONA: Yes.

17 MR. GONZALEZ: MVLS commercial data is pretty
18 expensive.

19 Anything, Member Salinas?

20 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chair, Member Salinas.

21 I'll just add that I really like, on behalf of
22 the MVCPA, seeing the interagency collaboration. You've
23 got like two counties, I think, and travel police and then
24 also the tax office, that's proven to work, and then also
25 with the federal agents, so very good to see that.

1 MR. CARDONA: Yes, sir.

2 MR. GONZALEZ: Sarge, I've got a question.
3 Let's talk about your case filings. So in your self-
4 reported I'm seeing motor vehicle theft cases presented to
5 the prosecutor, in fiscal year 2022 year-to-date 20. But
6 I'm looking at the board book here and for the Texas
7 courts data for Maverick County, they're not showing any
8 motor vehicle theft cases.

9 MR. CARDONA: I did check with our district
10 attorney's office, I believe it was Monday, if I'm not
11 mistaken, yesterday.

12 They couldn't provide me the last update they
13 did. The lady did tell me that they do every third day
14 and so on. I'm going to need to revisit with that. But
15 as far as our case files moving over to the district
16 attorney's office for release and for further prosecution,
17 that is being done. What I am aware of, but I'm not sure
18 how recent that is, is that FY21?

19 MR. GONZALEZ: And so that's the concern. So
20 the data here, 2019 three cases, 2020 three cases, 2021
21 one, and then 2022 zero. Now, in looking at it, your
22 reporting is saying in 2019 you presented 27 cases to the
23 prosecutor for motor vehicle theft, in 2020 you presented
24 26, in 2021 27, and so we're talking 20-some-odd cases
25 every year that are unaccounted for, and so I want to know

1 where is the breakdown, what is going on, what's
2 happening?

3 MR. CARDONA: I'm going to have to revisit
4 that. I did ask Mr. Canady how we can acquire that report
5 and so on. I was unable to get into that system.

6 Apparently it's still using Internet Explorer,
7 and Internet Explorer is going away in a few days, and I
8 was just unable and I didn't have time to visit with the
9 district attorney's office personally.

10 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. So these motor vehicle
11 theft related cases presented to the prosecutor, these are
12 your investigators that are obtaining a warrant number for
13 each of these prosecution reports. Right?

14 MR. CARDONA: Yes, sir.

15 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. And I mean, again I'm
16 just curious as to where the breakdown is, because
17 according to these numbers, I mean, since 2021 we've had
18 one case being presented before a grand jury, and we
19 haven't had a conviction in Maverick County since 2020 for
20 motor vehicle theft. So how are relationships with your
21 district attorney?

22 MR. CARDONA: And that's the one thing that our
23 current chief has been saying. He's a brand new chief, he
24 came in in February and asked that same question. We
25 haven't had that established connection with our

1 prosecutor at the district level or at the county level to
2 be able to follow up on our caseload and actually go in
3 there and after we labeled the case as going to
4 prosecution to do the final disposition on that particular
5 case. That still needs to be established.

6 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, to be clear, the
7 court data that I pulled is from the Office of Court
8 Administration.

9 Having traveled around for well over a decade
10 to numerous counties, just remember I put this data in
11 here for just kind of a triangulation point, not for a
12 determining point, and the reason is because sometimes
13 district clerks are recalcitrant to turn in their proper
14 documentation or reports.

15 And so I just want to go on record, I mean,
16 this is what is the official Office of Court
17 Administration for this jurisdiction, but don't forget you
18 can have a clerk who refuses to properly submit the form
19 or correctly submit the form.

20 MR. GONZALEZ: Is that not required by state
21 law?

22 MR. WILSON: It is required by state law. and
23 it is required by judicial process, clerks have to turn
24 in. But having traveled the entire state -- in the next
25 county over, I know I pulled 500 cases out of Val Verde,

1 500 felony cases, and directly have seen in many counties,
2 not Val Verde, but in many counties that there's some
3 really errant material that are in the court reports.

4 So in other words, it doesn't mean that that's
5 real, it is what's really reported by the clerk in to the
6 Office of Court Administration, but it is not necessarily
7 what has actually happened in Maverick County.

8 I just provided it to give the board a
9 secondary contact, so I'm glad that he's answered, that is
10 a very appropriate answer: Our new chief says we're going
11 to be working closely with the prosecutor to find out why
12 this looks like this.

13 But it's still not their responsibility. Their
14 responsibility was to file the cases, issue the
15 information, seek the indictments the best that they can
16 through their legal process.

17 MR. GONZALEZ: Well, and I ask about it more
18 from a policy standpoint. Like I've always thought that
19 the biggest piece that we're missing from the MVCPA is the
20 judicial piece, is the funding for prosecutors.

21 And I know that Tarrant County and Harris
22 County are starting to have some excellent results as a
23 result of adding prosecutors to their task forces. And so
24 I mean, as a board is that where we should be taking a
25 harder look at dedicating funds to.

1 And so it then begs the question, so then
2 what's going on? I mean, your detectives are working,
3 they're sending cases on over there, but for some reason
4 they're not resulting in convictions.

5 And so again, it's just how can this body help,
6 and if this body can help with expansion of the prosecutor
7 program, then that's something that we need to look at,
8 but we have to be able to identify the problem first.

9 MR. CARDONA: Understood.

10 MR. GONZALEZ: Anything else?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. GONZALEZ: All right. Well, that is all
13 that I have for Eagle Pass, and any other comments?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. GONZALEZ: Then I will close this meeting.

16 Do we need to make a motion?

17 I will entertain a motion.

18 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chairman, Member Salinas. I
19 make a motion to adjourn.

20 MR. GONZALEZ: And I will second that motion.

21 Members, I have a motion. Any other further
22 discussion on this?

23 MR. WILSON: No public comment.

24 MR. GONZALEZ: No public comment. All in favor
25 say aye.

1 (A chorus of ayes.)

2 MR. GONZALEZ: Motion passes, and we are
3 adjourning this meeting of the GBR at 3:53 p.m.

4 (Whereupon, at 3:53 p.m., the meeting was
5 adjourned.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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MEETING OF: Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority
Grants, Budget & Reporting Committee

LOCATION: Austin, Texas

DATE: June 7, 2022

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,
numbers 1 through 110, inclusive, are the true, accurate,
and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording
made by electronic recording by Nancy H. King before the
Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

DATE: June 17, 2021

/s/ Nancy H. King
(Transcriber)

On the Record Reporting
7703 N. Lamar Blvd. #515
Austin, Texas 78752