

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Embassy Suites by Hilton
1001 E. McCarty Lane
San Marcos, Texas

9:00 a.m.
Tuesday,
August 23, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mike Rodriguez, Chair
Charla Brotherton
Rebecca Cantu-Serrano (absent)
Julio C. Gonzalez
Sharon Jones
Patrick D. "Dean" Smith
Katherine "Kit" Whitehill

STAFF:

Bryan Wilson, Director
David Richards, General Counsel

ON THE RECORD REPORTING
(512) 450-0342

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- 6. EXECUTIVE SESSION 122

The Board may enter into closed session under one or more of the following provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code,

	Chapter 551:	
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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning. My name is
3 Michael Rodriguez, and I am pleased to open the Board
4 meeting of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority.
5 It is 9:02 a.m., and I am now calling the Board meeting
6 for August 23, 2022, to order.

7 I want to note for the record that the public
8 notice of this meeting, containing all items on the
9 agenda, was filed with the Office of Secretary of State on
10 August 15, 2022. I want to welcome those who are with us
11 for today's committee meeting -- today's Board meeting.
12 Correct, today's Board meeting.

13 Face coverings and social distancing are not
14 required at this meeting, and each individual attending
15 the meeting has the right and responsibility to decide for
16 themselves based on their personal circumstances. It is
17 your choice. And you are welcome here at this meeting of
18 the MVCPA.

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

24 If you wish to address the Committee or speak
25 on an agenda item during today's meeting, please complete

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

8 Today, we have set up a table to open this
9 process for discussion. We are recording audio and
10 broadcasting audio and video on publicly available links.

11
12 Generally, comments to the Committee are
13 limited to three minutes. However, today we set up this
14 meeting rule around tables to offer greater participation.

15 Anyone who comments must fill out a comment sheet that
16 are here around the table.

17 Comments must be pertinent to the issue listed
18 on the comment sheet. Everyone who wants to address the
19 committee -- everyone who wants to address the Board must
20 be recognized, and always state your name and affiliation
21 for the record.

22 There are a few things that will assist in
23 making the meeting run smoother and assist the court
24 reporter in getting an accurate record. Please ask the
25 Chairman to proceed, and be sure to get recognized before

1 speaking. Please identify yourself before speaking.

2 Speak clearly, and do not speak over others.

3 I would also like to thank our court reporter
4 who is transcribing this meeting to make sure we have an
5 accurate recording of this meeting.

6 It is very important that Board members and
7 anyone presenting today identify themselves before
8 speaking, and speak clearly and slowly.

9 Before we begin today, I would like to remind
10 all presenters and those in attendance of the rules of
11 conduct at our Board meetings. The Board Chair has the
12 authority to supervise the conduct of meetings. This
13 includes the authority to determine when a speaker is
14 being disruptive of the meeting, or is otherwise violating
15 the timing or presentation rules I just discussed.

16 And now I would like to have a roll call of the
17 Board members. Please respond verbally when I call your
18 name.

19 Member Jones.

20 MS. JONES: Present.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu-Serrano.

22 (No response.)

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill.

24 MS. WHITEHILL: Present.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton.

1 MS. BROTHERTON: Present.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez.

3 MR. GONZALEZ: Present.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Smith.

5 MR. SMITH: Present.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And let the record reflect that
7 I, Mike Rodriguez, am here too. We have a quorum.

8 Please all stand in honor of country and state
9 the Pledge of Allegiance. I will now turn it over to
10 Member Smith to lead us in the Pledge.

11 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was
12 recited.)

13 (Whereupon, a pledge to the Texas flag was
14 recited.)

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Member Smith, for
16 leading us in the pledges.

17 Agenda Item 1.c., approval of transcript from
18 June 8, 2022, meeting as minutes. We will now move on to
19 Item 1.c., approval of transcript for June 8, 2022,
20 meeting as minutes.

21 Members, are there any edits to the transcript?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I will entertain
24 a motion to approve the June 8, 2022, meeting transcript
25 as minutes.

1 MS. WHITEHILL: Mr. Chairman, Member Whitehill.
2 I move that the MVCPA Board adopt the transcript as
3 minutes from the June 8, 2022, meeting.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member
5 Whitehill. Do I have a second?

6 MS. JONES: Member Jones, second.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All those in favor of the
8 motion, say aye.

9 (A chorus of ayes.)

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All opposed, say nay.

11 (No response.)

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

14 The next item on the agenda is comments from
15 the Board Chair. At this time, I would like to take a
16 quick five minutes, maybe a little bit more, to kind of
17 bring -- I know he has brought everybody up to date, or
18 mostly everybody is up to date with the announcement from
19 our Director, Bryan Wilson. He announced that he will be
20 retiring.

21 And I want to take this moment, Bryan, to first
22 of all congratulate you. I know that we had some
23 conversations in regards to your retiring, and doing what
24 you want to do. You always loved to do what -- you know,
25 be at home with your family.

1 But I want to take this moment to really thank
2 you for what you have done with this Authority. I know
3 when you first came on board, you know, I was already here
4 as a Commander.

5 And there is a lot of good things that occurred
6 during the time you were here. There is a lot of changes,
7 a lot of situations that you encountered that you were
8 able to maneuver around them, and fix them. And you know,
9 it is great to have a Director that has great knowledge of
10 the law, knowledge of policy, knowledge of how to manage
11 grants. And you know, it makes all our jobs easier when
12 you have a person like you.

13 So I just want to thank you for the great job
14 that you did while you were our Director, and we are going
15 to miss you. I am pretty sure some of the Task Force
16 Commanders are going to miss you.

17 But at this point, I know, and I respect that
18 you do want to do this. And it is not because you just,
19 you know, felt that it was just time to go. You not only
20 had this conversation over and over again about you being
21 at the ranch, and doing the fun stuff that we always talk
22 about.

23 So you know again, thank you, and
24 congratulations. And I am hoping to see you soon -- back
25 here soon at the next Board meeting to give you a little

1 something, a token of appreciation from this Authority.

2 (Applause.)

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

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any other members have any
5 comments for Mr. Wilson?

6 MS. WHITEHILL: Well, I just echo that. And
7 thank you for the leadership that you have given. And you
8 have been wonderful to work with, and always available for
9 questions and here for us, and for the Task Force and, I
10 know, for your staff.

11 So we are going to miss you. I am pretty
12 jealous of you spending time at your ranch. But I am
13 excited for you. And so, thank you so much for everything
14 you have done.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All right. I would also like
16 to take this time to acknowledge one of our Executive
17 Directors from Texas DMV, who was overseeing our MVCPA:
18 Mr. Roland Luna. If you can stand up, so our commanders
19 can see you. He is our go-to guy for Texas DMV.

20 He serves as the conduit through our Director
21 for the Executive Director for Texas DMV. I just want to
22 acknowledge that he is here.

23 I know, in the past, that you know, we have not
24 seen another Executive Director from DMV, you know, being
25 our rep here. I know that in talking to Mr. Roland Luna,

1 he is very hands on. And I am very excited to now see
2 MVCPA involved in what we do, very interested in what we
3 do, and engaged in our operations. This is something that
4 did not happen in the past.

5 You know, I have been here as a Chairman for a
6 while now. And I was also a Board member, and I didn't
7 see that before. And I can see that now that is
8 happening.

9 And so, it is exciting to see the engagement
10 from DMV. So thank you, Mr. Luna, for being here.

11 We will now move on to Agenda Item 1.e.,
12 comments from Board members. Members, do any of you have
13 any comments you would like to make?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. No comments.

16 Agenda Item 1.f., commendations and
17 congratulations. Mr. Wilson.

18 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bryan
19 Wilson, for the record. I just wanted to go ahead --
20 because you know, we lost a member recently with Gilberto
21 Salinas. We will try to do it -- you know, we order a
22 plaque, and it takes a while for them to come in.

23 But I just wanted to acknowledge in the
24 meeting, right after we lost him, that we really
25 appreciated his service. And hopefully, you all will

1 come. He will have the ability to come back at a later
2 meeting and receive a certificate, or whatever.

3 But I did want to get a record -- as many of
4 you know that I like to put it in the Board book when we
5 want to honor people. Because this is the -- the Board
6 books actually become part of the -- adopted into the
7 State Library Commission Permanent Archives. And so it is
8 a good place to keep a record and make sure that there is
9 a future record that somebody -- you know, the footprint
10 in the sand maybe kind of thing.

11 I don't know. But it is always a thing that I
12 have always tried to promote within having part of this
13 Board book be a record of the people who served and really
14 helped us out, and helped local law enforcement.

15 And Gil was -- he was a really cool member,
16 because he was also a stuntman. So that always impressed
17 me. I tried to see some of his work on different
18 television shows, but I don't have a television out where
19 I live, so it is kind of hard.

20 And then, I am going to skip over ten. Thank
21 you for your comments, Mr. Chairman.

22 And we had two submissions from Task Forces of
23 people who are set to retire. Jay Truelock, he worked for
24 the Lubbock District Attorneys Office in the Auto Theft
25 Task Force in the Lubbock area, South Plains Regional Auto

1 Theft. So we appreciate -- he retired in August of this
2 year, and 31 years of service to the Texas Department of
3 Public Safety.

4 Hoorah, right, Major Jones. Is that what you
5 all say? I don't even know what your sound is. Not
6 hoorah. Okay, somebody else.

7 All right. Four years in the Enforcement
8 Section, and then an additional eight years with the Auto
9 Theft Task Force. We appreciate Jay. He was one of our
10 instructors in the Auto Theft Task Force school, had a
11 great wealth of knowledge in teaching our newer
12 investigators. So we are going to miss him double in that
13 regard.

14 And then, Delia Dyer from El Paso, Detective,
15 retired after 21 years of El Paso Police Department. She
16 was a hostage negotiator and a very fine detective. And I
17 am sure El Paso is going to miss her, as well as our Auto
18 Theft Unit out there.

19 I will go ahead and go on to the next item on
20 page 12 of your Board book. It is kind of funny, you
21 know, the waterfall of events that happen sometimes. For
22 a long time, this Board has been looking at working to
23 expand.

24 Of course, our statutory requirement is to
25 expand vehicles recovered, people arrested for auto theft,

1 and the cases that we clear. But we have been, and the
2 Task Forces do a great job. And we have opened
3 opportunities to the Rapid Response Strike Force and other
4 opportunities.

5 But the MAG Grants, a few months ago, that you
6 all started working on over two years ago, that finally
7 came to fruition in June, caused a lot more work than just
8 on the MVCPA staff. We went from 24 grants to 67 grants.
9 And we are very proud of that work.

10 And it is just an amazing thing to bring in
11 other jurisdictions to start working with us more directly
12 through the grant funding process. And when you did that,
13 though, there was a lot more POs to be issued, a lot more
14 financial requirements.

15 I know many of you have filled out those TENS
16 forms for the Comptroller, so you can get paid. Well, we
17 had to do that with many of the cities and counties.

18 But what is really cool, when you look at the
19 map, the expansion across the state about places that we
20 didn't have any coverage -- in Gregg County, and all kinds
21 of cities and counties that we didn't have any presence at
22 all. You now look at the map, and you see we began to
23 fill in. What Chairman Rodriguez and I have been working
24 is looking at the map and trying to figure how do we fill
25 those holes. And I know Lieutenant Gonzalez, too.

1 But so, this was a -- but, anyway, there is a
2 bunch of people at DMV that just stepped up and processed
3 the POs and did a lot of extra work. And Yessenia and I
4 were talking the other day, and we just wanted to, you
5 know, kind of put into the book again, to honor them for
6 the work that they did. Nhi Ge and Diana Herrera, John
7 Ralston, the Director of Budget, he just figured out --
8 you know, they just stepped up and figured out how to make
9 all this stuff work.

10 Lisa Selvera, the lady that does our payment
11 processing. Jimmy Smart is one in the Purchasing
12 Department that helped set up the payment processes.
13 Nagwa Tadros is our Budget Manager for MVCPA. And then,
14 Matthew Windham.

15 So we just really appreciate those. And I
16 wanted to call that out to the Board. So thank you for
17 the time to do that, Mr. Chairman.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All right. We'll move to
19 Agenda Item 1.g., consider committee appointments.

20 Director Wilson, where are we on the
21 committees? Are we missing one with the Grants and
22 Budgets? Where else are we missing?

23 MR. WILSON: Yes. So on the Grants and Budget,
24 we are missing one member. And then, on the Education and
25 Legislative Committee, we are missing the chairman.

1 And then, what is the other one? The Insurance
2 Committee, I don't know. Chairman Gonzalez, double
3 Chairman Gonzalez, are you okay with continuing on both of
4 those committees as Chairman? Or do you --

5 MR. GONZALEZ: I think we should probably have
6 someone with the specialty of insurance and more
7 knowledgeable regarding insurance being on the Insurance
8 board. And I think I am better of service to the Board as
9 Chairman of the Grants and Budget Reporting Committee.

10 MR. WILSON: So it is really up to the
11 membership. I mean, what we have tried to do is have
12 three members on each committee. So there can be a vote.

13 Like, yesterday we did the Grants, Budget
14 Reporting. We decided, we talked it over, and just
15 decided not to vote on any of the items -- where they just
16 talked through a consensus, I guess you would call it.

17 You know, the Insurance Committee has been
18 limited by staff. And so, it hasn't been meeting very
19 regularly. I certainly contact the Committee members and
20 let them know, you know, this is what I am doing. And
21 inform you about letters and things like that.

22 But they haven't really had a meeting, because
23 there has been a lack of ability to dedicate enough staff
24 to do that role as fully as we should. And then the other
25 issue is because some of the records are at the

1 Comptrollers Office, they have had tremendous turnover
2 over the last two years. So they haven't been able to
3 generate the reports that we would need to go after
4 insurers, in the timing to be able to notify Texas
5 Department of Insurance for what do you call it -- an
6 enforcement action against insurers.

7 So that has been a challenge. I don't want to
8 say it is a back-burner issue. We have been doing all of
9 our parts that we are supposed to do, but we have been
10 really hampered sometimes.

11 What used to take -- three years ago, we could
12 get done in about two months -- where we would send out
13 the letter, the certified letter if they didn't respond,
14 and then, submit it to TDI. Sometimes, it has taken 10,
15 15 weeks to get the Comptroller to respond back to the
16 ones that -- because we have to have records, hard
17 records, to prove that somebody didn't pay or didn't file.

18 So that is that Insurance Committee. It has
19 kind of been on -- again, I hate to use the term, but it
20 has been on the back burner. Because we have been foot-
21 shot on a lot of things, going outside of our control.

22 So we have got two members on the Insurance
23 Committee right now. It's Chairman Gonzalez, Committee
24 Chairman Gonzalez, and then, is it -- I guess I don't have
25 that in front of me.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Who is the other member of the
2 Insurance Committee?

3 MR. WILSON: Charla Brotherton.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And then, who was the Chairman
5 for the Education and Legislative Committee?

6 MR. WILSON: That was Salinas. And so the two
7 members that I have on that committee are Whitehill and
8 Smith.

9 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. So I would like to
10 appoint Kit Whitehill as the Education and Legislative
11 Chairman.

12 MR. WILSON: Surprise.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

14 MR. GONZALEZ: I second that motion.

15 MS. WHITEHILL: That's not on the list of
16 motions.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So I appoint Charla Brotherton,
18 Member Charla Brotherton as the Chairman for the Insurance
19 Committee.

20 MR. WILSON: Okay.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And then --

22 MR. WILSON: I guess you should go on record.
23 Do you accept? Or, I don't want to --

24 MS. BROTHERTON: Yes. I accept.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do you?

1 MS. WHITEHILL: Member Whitehill, I accept.

2 MR. WILSON: Okay. Thank you.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And then I would also like to
4 get Member Dean, if he accepts, on the Grants and Budget
5 Committee.

6 MR. SMITH: I'd be happy to.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Member Dean. And
8 then, we are missing, in the Insurance Committee, we are
9 missing, how many?

10 MR. WILSON: May I make a suggestion? Because
11 we have a lot of work to do in that area. We have been in
12 discussion with DMV about maybe having additional staff
13 assigned.

14 Could we just set that aside for right now, and
15 let the next Director work through some options on there?

16 We might want to reconsider the organization. Because
17 having a small Board like this, with seven members, and
18 then three committees, maybe we can figure out a better
19 way to put the committee, not have a separate committee.
20 Just --

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Combine them?

22 MR. WILSON: Yes. Figure out -- I don't know.
23 Maybe it will be called something else, but it will be a
24 little different. But let the next Director work with
25 that, and see if there is a better way to do that.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So where are we with, I guess,
2 the work that needs to be done by the Insurance Committee
3 right now?

4 MR. WILSON: We're doing the staff work,
5 subject to being able to get the records. But having a
6 Committee to report to is going to continue to be a
7 problem, with a seven member board and three separate
8 committees. So why don't we just set this.

9 In short, we are doing what we are supposed to
10 do. We sent certified letters the other day. We
11 generated -- just on the letters themselves, without no
12 follow-up, that we have generated over \$72,000. I know
13 that is not a huge amount, but we did make some progress.

14 And so, I think if you would just give the new
15 Director some time to get with you and think about the
16 process, and maybe see if we can actually add another
17 staff person that would help, be dedicated to that
18 process. Then I think you can figure out the committee
19 stuff behind it easier.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. So because I guess my --
21 well, it is not an issue. But I would like for the staff
22 to be reporting what is happening to the Committee, to the
23 members. Especially the Chairman of that committee to be
24 in the know as to what is going on, instead of just stop
25 doing something and then reporting back here every time we

1 meet.

2 MR. WILSON: And we are. I mean, I think
3 copying you and the Committee members on any action that I
4 have taken.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

6 MR. WILSON: We have not failed to notify,
7 whatever the action is, whether it is grants or education,
8 or whatever. We have been notifying the Committee each
9 time.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So for now, I think, it will be
11 the go-to person for the Education and Legislative would
12 be Member Whitehill. And then, Insurance would be Member
13 Brotherton. Okay.

14 MR. WILSON: Okay. I think that is correct. I
15 sent out an email. I was trying to remember who else was
16 on that email, Ms. Brotherton. But it was -- do you
17 remember?

18 Anyway. But I did notify that committee when
19 we sent -- we had an issue come up with some letters. And
20 so, I just let them know. But I will look that up.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. And then, we wait for
22 the --

23 MR. WILSON: Yes. The next Board meeting, I
24 think there will be a plan in place to say, this is
25 either -- move this under the Education, Insurance, and

1 Legislative Committee.

2 I mean, because the Legislative only meets -- I
3 mean, on that side, it is only every two years. So maybe
4 that can be the interim or something. But I think, if you
5 could just give a little time to think through that.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And the Education? What is
7 that?

8 MR. WILSON: That is our public education
9 component. And that is -- you know, that is one of those
10 things where -- and this is why I was saying, maybe the
11 new Director would have a different idea. Because right
12 now, on the education -- the public education and
13 awareness piece, we have a committee that does that.

14 But then, where does the funding come from? It
15 comes through the Grants Committee. Because yesterday, I
16 was reporting to the committee, the Grants Committee about
17 the contract. But the origin of the content is supposed
18 to come from the committee.

19 So I think there is some -- now that we have
20 done this for about three or four years, I think there is
21 some time to -- this is probably at a next Board meeting,
22 where the Board can have some options to say, you know
23 what? Maybe it makes more sense to move this over here to
24 Insurance and Legislative, since they will be on off
25 cycles from each other.

1 So maybe you won't even call it that. It will
2 be called something else. But maybe that is some
3 discussion the new Director needs to have with you, Mr.
4 Chairman, and move forward with a little different model
5 that does -- not so many committees for a seven member
6 board.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. So the only thing is,
8 again, the Education Committee, which is the Education and
9 Legislative Committee. I think the Education part is very
10 important to this Board.

11 MR. WILSON: It is.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I think you need somebody
13 that is always going to be thinking outside the box into
14 how we can reach the public. And not leaving, for
15 example, firearms in their cars now that everybody carries
16 a firearm.

17 MR. WILSON: Right.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Not to leave them there. To
19 prevent the burglary of a motor vehicle. And then they
20 can -- that is something that we need to start pushing a
21 lot.

22 MR. WILSON: Sure.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And we need a strong committee
24 to be able to bring back ideas and say, hey, we need to do
25 this. This is important.

1 MR. WILSON: Absolutely.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I just heard yesterday, we can
3 get more of those signs that says Lock Your Car. It would
4 be great. So that is something that we can discuss fairly
5 quick. You know, we can always allocate some funding for
6 things like that.

7 So I think it is important that we push that.
8 Any questions, comments?

9 MR. WILSON: And actually, I am in perfect
10 agreement. And one of the things that we did with this
11 PEPA grant that I worked with legal counsel on was, if
12 they start delivering, you know, the commercials and
13 social media, and efforts like that, they are designing a
14 whole campaign.

15 And the Board -- the way we wrote the contract
16 is, the Board can identify particular features like
17 parking lot signs or things that you might want to see in
18 future. So when you are doing a review of that contract,
19 at a future meeting, you can say, hey, you know what, we
20 would like to see as part of this campaign, now that we
21 have a new logo, or design or outreach through social
22 media, television, whatever broadcast media, but we want
23 to have our police departments being able to distribute.

24 And not just ours, but maybe the whole state,
25 across the state. And you can add money into the contract

1 for additional work. We were very careful to write that
2 contract in a way that you can use this contract to expand
3 the scope of the work for additional resources, additional
4 funds. So yes, that will support that.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. All right. Any
6 questions? Comments?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Members, we will now
9 take up briefing and action items.

10 Members, we will now hear from Chairman
11 Gonzalez and Director Bryan Wilson, who will discuss three
12 items concerning our fiscal year 2023 budget. Grants and
13 Budgets Committee Chairman Gonzalez will now present
14 Agenda Item 2.a.I., consider GBR recommendations to award
15 Texas A&M University grant for the MVCPA Grant Management
16 and Tracking System.

17 Chairman Gonzalez.

18 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
19 Grants, Budget, and Reporting Committee met yesterday and
20 heard a presentation from Director Wilson regarding the
21 recommendations for payments to the Texas A&M University
22 system for the continuous operation and maintaining of the
23 GMTS system, which is where all of our grantees input
24 their key performance indicators and markers.

25 And it is the recommendation of the Grants,

1 Budget, and Reporting Committee that we authorize the
2 \$35,000 payment to continue operations of the GMTS system.

3 Do you want me to go over --

4 MR. WILSON: I have a little disconnect
5 between -- Bryan Wilson for the record, Mr. Chairman. I
6 have a little disconnect between the script and the
7 recommended motion. So I apologize for that.

8 I would call your attention to page 14.
9 Everything that Committee Chairman Gonzalez said was
10 correct, but I just want to kind of lay out a little
11 different structure. Because in our little bit of
12 difference here, it is just a process issue that, first,
13 we usually budget the money. And then, we issue a grant
14 award on that fund.

15 And so what you have with your recommended
16 motions is the consideration of -- in June, we adopted a
17 budget, an FY '23 budget for the funds appropriated to the
18 MVCPA, the \$14.9 million. We allocated all or most of
19 that to the Task Forces and a few other things. So there
20 is some money to the PEPA grant and things; the Public
21 Education, Public Awareness grant.

22 So what we did is at that meeting, there is a
23 little over \$300,000 that was left on the table, that was
24 unallocated, that we said that we would consider other
25 kinds of grants, Rapid Response Strike Force, or maybe

1 another round of MAG grants later in the year. So at that
2 time, what we are doing now is coming back and realizing
3 that there is three things that we didn't take into
4 consideration.

5 The first one is the -- what Lieutenant
6 Gonzalez just aptly laid out was the \$35,000 to continue
7 the operation of our Grant Management and Tracking System,
8 which is a grant to Texas A&M. It could just as easily be
9 an interagency contract. We developed it under an
10 interagency contract, but we switched to a grant a few
11 years ago.

12 The second thing is that for the insurers to
13 file electronically in the state system, directly to the
14 State Treasury, we pay the Comptroller about a \$10,000
15 obligation or use fee for our fees being -- in other words
16 available -- their system to be available for the
17 collection of our fees.

18 So the insurers have to pay firemen's fees.
19 They have to pay maintenance and retaliatory tax. They
20 have to pay other fees and penalties, or whatever.

21 So they just go in and do it electronically.
22 So we pay them \$10,000 for specialized program, in their
23 feature for our program, and the maintenance of that.

24 So then the last thing is that we did not
25 budget, for the next FY '23, the Rapid Response Strike

1 Force grant budgeted amount for the Task Forces. So we
2 have already done several out of '22. But we haven't let
3 the grantees know, you have \$50,000 available for exigent
4 and emergency situations that occur in your jurisdictions
5 that you can augment your current funding.

6 So that is what I am asking first, is for the
7 budget adoption of the three items at the bottom of page
8 15. There are three items listed there, and I am asking
9 you to add those to the budget for FY '23 funds.

10 MR. GONZALEZ: So I think Director Wilson stole
11 my thunder. Yes.

12 It is the recommendation of the Board that we
13 continue to pay for the Comptroller services they provide
14 in the amount of \$10,000, as well as obligate \$50,000 for
15 Rapid Response Strike Force grant applications, with the
16 understanding that this budget item can be adjusted if
17 necessary, if we have more agencies that are asking for
18 this money.

19 MR. WILSON: Bryan Wilson, for the record. So
20 my recommendation is for you, for the motion on Agenda
21 Item 2.a. is to obligate the FY '23 appropriation shown on
22 page 15 in the meeting book. And that is those three I
23 just mentioned: the Comptroller, Texas A & M, and the
24 Rapid Response Strike Force.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Are there any questions

1 for Chairman Gonzalez or Mr. Wilson, Members?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yessenia, are there any public
4 comments on this?

5 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, at this time I would
7 entertain a motion on Agenda Item 2.a.

8 MR. GONZALEZ: Mr. Chairman, Member Gonzalez.
9 I move that the MVCPA Board obligate the FY '23
10 appropriations as shown on page 15 of the meeting book.

11 MS. JONES: Second.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion a motion from
13 Member Gonzalez and a second from Member Jones. Members,
14 all those in favor of the motion, say aye.

15 (A chorus of ayes.)

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All opposed, nay.

17 (No response.)

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

20 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, David Richards,
21 General Counsel for the record.

22 Mr. Wilson, you have got two motions. The
23 first one they just voted on incorporated the Texas A & M
24 University grant. Correct?

25 MR. WILSON: That was the obligation of the

1 funds into the budget.

2 MR. RICHARDS: Okay.

3 MR. WILSON: And then now, we will take up the
4 issue that Chairman Gonzalez laid out a second ago, which
5 is the grant award to Texas A&M University.

6 MR. RICHARDS: Okay. Thank you.

7 MR. WILSON: Bryan Wilson, for the record.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So we are moving on to Agenda
9 Item 2.a.I., correct?

10 MR. WILSON: Correct. Let me confirm that.

11 Yes, Mr. Chairman.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So Member Gonzales. Would you
13 like, Director --

14 MR. WILSON: He has already laid out the grant.

15 We are asking that the Committee agree that we provide
16 another year of funding to Texas A&M University to
17 continue operation and maintenance of the MVCPA Grant
18 Management and Tracking System.

19 And that system, that contract, the award has
20 built in \$30,000 of ongoing maintenance and operations
21 with slight enhancements. And then, it has built in
22 \$5,000, that if the MVCPA staff or Board -- it is already
23 built in for the Director to identify specific features or
24 enhancements.

25 So say the grantees, they want a different way

1 to report. We have been thinking about having an app, so
2 that when they recover a vehicle, they can put the VIN
3 number in, or something like that. So if we want to ask
4 A&M, develop us an app for \$5,000, we could do that
5 without coming back to the Board and saying, give us
6 another \$5,000.

7 So if we don't do anything, like what we did in
8 '20 and '21, it is just \$30,000, nothing more. But if --
9 like last year, you added MAG grant, so we paid them an
10 extra \$5,000 in the June meeting.

11 So I want to be clear. It is a \$35,000 grant;
12 \$30,000 is obligated in just keeping the system
13 operational, and \$5,000 is for improved enhancements to
14 create a better system. And the staff recommend that you
15 adopt or issue -- award Texas A&M University the grant for
16 the Grant Management and Tracking System.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It's also an item that went to
18 committee. Correct?

19 MR. WILSON: It did, sir.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Any other questions on
21 this item, Members?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: No. Anybody else wishes to
24 speak on this item? Is there any public?

25 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, at this time, I will
2 entertain a motion on Agenda Item 2.a.I., consider GBR
3 recommendations to award the Texas A&M University grant
4 for the MVCPA Grant Management and Tracking System.

5 MS. JONES: Member Jones, for the record. I
6 move that the MVCPA Board award a continued grant in the
7 amount of \$35,000 to Texas A&M University for an operation
8 of the Grant Management and Tracking System in fiscal year
9 '23.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a second?

11 MS. WHITEHILL: Member Whitehill, second.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a second from Member
13 Whitehill.

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

16 (No response.)

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I will now call
18 for the vote on Agenda Item 2.a.I. Members, all those in
19 favor of the motion, say aye.

20 (A chorus of ayes.)

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All opposed, say nay.

22 (No response.)

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

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

1 you, Board.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is there another. Okay. We
3 are now moving to Agenda Item 2.b., reports on grants.
4 Members, we are now going to move to Agenda Item 2.b.,
5 reports on grants.

6 Committee Chairman Gonzalez will begin with
7 Agenda Item 2.b.I., consider recommendations for any
8 needed changes to the FY '23 Continued Taskforce Grant
9 awards. Chairman Gonzalez, Director Wilson.

10 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I think we missed
11 one more. I am not paying attention to the agenda, I
12 guess. One more on there.

13 No, I -- wait, it was under the Rapid Response
14 Strike Force. I apologize. There is one more motion
15 under the Rapid Response Strike Force for Pasadena
16 Extension, that we talked about yesterday, at the meeting.

17 It is two --

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It is 2.b.?

19 MR. RICHARDS: It's listed under 2.b., Mr.
20 Wilson.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

22 MR. WILSON: I think it was 2.a.iii. or
23 whatever, 3. It is the Rapid Response Strike Force on the
24 bottom of page 21.

25 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez, if I may, Mr.

1 Chairman. Can we please simplify the agendas for the
2 future meetings. I think that we have, you know, we have
3 2.a.I. And I think that it makes it incredibly confusing
4 to be able to keep up where we are at.

5 And so, I would ask staff, please simplify it.
6 Just A through Z or one through 30 or whatever. But this
7 format is just a little too difficult to keep up with.

8 MR. WILSON: Well taken.

9 MR. GONZALEZ: But if we are going to discuss
10 Pasadena, the Grants, Budget, and Reporting Committee
11 received a briefing from staff yesterday with respect to
12 the Rapid Response Strike Force grant that they applied
13 for. They are trying to put Flock license plate readers
14 within their jurisdiction, and have made a good faith
15 attempt, good faith effort to do so.

16 However, they are coming into -- they are being
17 faced with significant challenges to get those up. And
18 so, while they are making a good faith effort, the time
19 deadline is quickly approaching at the end of August.

20 And so, it is the recommendation of the Grants,
21 Budget, and Reporting Committee that we give them a bit
22 more time and extend their Rapid Response Strike Force
23 grant to conclude on August 31, 2023, simply because they
24 are encountering some roadblocks that are out of their
25 control.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. So for the record, we
2 are discussing Agenda Item 2.a.iii., not 2.b. So what
3 Member Gonzalez just briefed us on was in Agenda Item
4 2.a.iii., not 2.b., which was originally brought to as an
5 agenda item. Okay.

6 (Pause.)

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Obligation for Rapid Response
8 Strike Force on the book. So the motion on this list is
9 supposed to be 2.a.iii., instead of 2.b.

10 MS. JONES: But 2.b.I. is about Pasadena.

11 MR. RICHARDS: Members, David Richards for the
12 record, General Counsel. This particular item was mis-
13 lettered. And the motion that you are voting on, on your
14 motion page, that says 2.b. is actually 2.a.iii., little
15 three, three Is.

16 So that is the motion that needs to be made.
17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 MS. WHITEHILL: Member Whitehill. Sorry, I
19 still have a question. Okay. But what we voted on -- we
20 did vote on Rapid Response Strike Force in our previous
21 one. Is that different?

22 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez. Yes, ma'am.
23 So in the previous one, we did a budget allocation of
24 \$50,000 for future Strike Force grants.

25 So if Houston wants a Strike Force grant, we at

1 least have the budget allocation. Now, with this motion,
2 what we are specifically discussing is a previous
3 application for a grant from Pasadena, and they are asking
4 for an extension.

5 MS. WHITEHILL: Okay.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: So one was a budget allocation.
7 The other one is a specific extension request.

8 MS. WHITEHILL: Okay. Thank you.

9 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton. It sounds
10 like to me that that really is 2.b., 2.b.I., right?
11 Consider recommendations for any needed changes to the FY
12 '23 Continued Taskforce Grants. Is that what we are doing
13 with Pasadena?

14 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, David Richard,
15 General Counsel. Members, the motion that we are making
16 is 2.a.iii., three I, and that relates to Pasadena. That
17 is how it was introduced by Mr. Wilson. So where it says
18 2.b. on your motion page, it should be 2.a.iii. Thank
19 you.

20 MR. WILSON: Bryan Wilson, for the record. Ms.
21 Brotherton, the reason is, is the one under 2.b. is
22 actually about '23 grants. It is about grants going
23 forward. The items listed under 2.a. are both future and
24 current grants that are being dealt with.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. So are there any

1 questions for Chairman Gonzalez or Director Wilson on
2 Agenda Item 2.a.iii.?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yessenia, do we have any public
5 comments on this agenda item?

6 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, do I have a motion on
8 Agenda Item 2.a.iii.?

9 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton. I move
10 that the MVCPA Board extend the Pasadena Police
11 Department's RRS grants to August 31, 2023.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member
13 Brotherton. Do I have a second?

14 MS. JONES: Second.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a second from Member
16 Jones. Is there any further discussion on Agenda Item
17 2.a.iii.?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I will now call
20 for the vote. All those in favor of the motion, say aye.

21 (A chorus of ayes.)

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All those opposed, nay.

23 (No response.)

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the record reflect that I,
25 Mike Rodriguez, vote in support the motion. The motion

1 passes. Okay.

2 We are now moving to Agenda Item 2.b., reports
3 on grants. Members, we are now going to move to Agenda
4 Item 2.b., reports on grants.

5 Committee Chairman Gonzalez will begin with
6 Agenda Item 2.b.I., consider recommendations for any
7 needed changes to the fiscal year '23 Continued Taskforce
8 Grant awards. Chairman Gonzalez, Director Wilson.

9 MR. GONZALEZ: Director Wilson, you want to
10 comment on this one?

11 MR. WILSON: Bryan Wilson, for the record. I
12 was going to ask Joe Canady to go ahead and lay out these
13 next three pages, if that is okay --

14 MR. CANADY: For the record, Joe Canady. This
15 is -- 2.b. is a non-action item, just a briefing for this
16 section.

17 In reference to the FY '23 Continued Task Force
18 Grant awards on page 22 of your Board book, out of the 24
19 awards issued by the Board, 19 of the awards have been
20 certified as complete and been accepted by the grantee.
21 All of the awards have been issued a Statement of Grant
22 Award. We are still waiting on five to be accepted and
23 then certified by the MVCPA as complete.

24 On the MAG grant awards, located on page 23 of
25 your Board materials, 26 of the 43 awards have been

1 accepted and certified as complete. We are still waiting
2 on additional items for 17 of the awards to be returned,
3 to be able to certify the amounts complete.

4 Any questions on this, so far?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. CANADY: Thank you.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So on these grantees that are
8 pending signature, is it just that? It needs signature?

9 MR. CANADY: It's just that. I mean, and you
10 have to remember, this is a new process for many of these
11 MAG grantees. Some of them are very small agencies and
12 they are not used to going through this process,
13 especially with the MVCPA on the grants awarded.

14 So they are having to go through their city
15 council or their Commissioners Court on things that they
16 don't normally do. So it is taking just a little bit
17 longer for them to accept this and get the requirements
18 back to us.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

20 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, were you referencing
21 page 22?

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Uh-huh.

23 MR. WILSON: Just go ahead and tell him what
24 is --

25 MR. CANADY: My apologies. I thought you were

1 speaking to the MAG grants. On page 22, on the Task Force
2 grants awards.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

4 MR. CANADY: Yes. We are just still waiting on
5 signatures for them to go through their Commissioners
6 Court or city council and get it returned back to us.

7 MR. WILSON: Just as a brief explanation.
8 Bryan Wilson, for the record, Mr. Chairman. As you well
9 know, we introduced a new standard last year called TxGMS.
10 And so that has placed a different review and scrutiny on
11 certain aspects of the grant.

12 We have diligently worked with the grantees to
13 make sure that they are meeting all the requirements under
14 the new state law. And so sometimes these have taken a
15 little bit longer as they have turned in an old budget.
16 And we realized that that old budget had some things that
17 might have been okay under the uniform grant management
18 standards, but may not be okay now. And so, we have done
19 some negotiation.

20 Now, most jurisdictions will get -- you know,
21 we have a 30-day window to return signed Statement of
22 Grant Award. So what you are also seeing in that, that we
23 are not telling you, but we are telling you. We are not
24 being dishonest, we just didn't mention.

25 Like, Tarrant County, we just issued last week.

1 So it is because we were working through our issues with
2 TxGMS to make sure we were in full compliance with the
3 law. That is our priority before we -- even though, you
4 know, you award the grant, right, back in June or
5 whatever, and you say, well, that is a done deal. Well,
6 no.

7 You know, it is the paperwork, right. So we
8 make sure we comb through the budget. We make sure, and
9 make sure that everything is compliance before we send
10 out.

11 Because when I am -- as Director, I am sending
12 out a Statement of Grant Award. I am saying that
13 everything in that application is compliant with state
14 law, and the Texas Grant Management Standards adopted by
15 the Comptroller.

16 So we don't take that responsibility lightly.
17 It takes a careful review by multiple staff people. And
18 if we have any questions, then it sometimes it will take
19 weeks to go back and ask their accounting department,
20 their financial manager, their budget manager to make sure
21 we are covering compliance with state law.

22 So thank you for that. And that is a good
23 point. And we think they will all be back by September
24 1st, but one or two might be after September 1st.

25 The award and the obligation on behalf of the

1 State of Texas was done on June 8th when you issued the
2 grant, but we have time to make sure that we follow the
3 rules, and also the rules in the Texas Administrative Code
4 that you have adopted, or past Boards have adopted. So
5 thank you.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. So now, going to the MAG
7 grant awards. I see 17 are incomplete. And this is the
8 ones that you were referring to, that is just small
9 agencies, that do not know the process?

10 MR. CANADY: Yes, sir. It is not that they
11 didn't -- maybe not have known the process. It is a new
12 process for them, new things that they are having to go
13 through. And maybe take a little extra time to present to
14 their city or county to make sure that they get everything
15 right, and meet all the requirements, you know, stated in
16 the RFA, in the Statement of Grant Award.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: How much was each MAG award?

18 MR. CANADY: \$50,000.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: \$50,000.

20 MR. CANADY: I'm sorry, \$20,000. I am sorry.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: \$20,000. Okay. And we awarded
22 them these grants in July? This is when we awarded the
23 grants.

24 MR. CANADY: June. June.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: June?

1 MR. CANADY: Uh-huh.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Have we reached out to
3 each one of them?

4 MR. CANADY: Yes, sir.

5 MR. WILSON: Yes, sir.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And it is all the same? It is
7 just the process?

8 MR. WILSON: There is different things for
9 different ones. So I can't remember.

10 Yessenia, about ten or twelve of them didn't
11 even have a registration.

12 So part of the grant process is, I have to be
13 able to pay them. So for them to complete their process,
14 we have to have what is called a TINS number assigned by
15 the Comptroller, so that when we are ready to make a
16 payment -- I realize the payment is at the back end. But
17 you have to go into the obligation knowing who you are
18 paying, because otherwise it could be somebody's name,
19 right, that is going in to deposit into their account.

20 We don't do that. We work through the
21 Comptroller system. So Yessenia and many of those people
22 that I mentioned at the beginning of the meeting today,
23 they went through a lot of effort and work to try to go
24 into the Comptroller's system, the Uniform State
25 Accounting System, and find the city or the county or

1 whatever.

2 And to our surprise, many of them, the small
3 grants, didn't already have it set up. So we worked with
4 them setting it up. Then we issued, I think on the 14th,
5 was that about right?

6 On the 14th, I issued the Statement of Grant
7 Award in a mail merge, believe it or not, like I used to
8 do in the Criminal Courts, for all 254 counties. And so
9 we issued the Grant Award Statement on a mail merge. Some
10 of them went into their junk box. We followed up with
11 everybody to make sure that we have reached out.

12 Some cities have just struggled. You know, a
13 lot of small towns, I mean, it was the summer, and they
14 went on vacation for 60 days, and didn't meet. I mean,
15 not every -- you know, many of you all live in big cities,
16 where it seems like you wish they wouldn't meet so often.

17 But in the reality, some of these cities and counties
18 just meet once a month, and they have to get on the agenda
19 and figure out what all they needed to do.

20 So we are close. And we will be wrapping this
21 up. And I have been -- Joe and I and Gresham have been
22 calling or emailing personally to make sure that they are
23 in compliance.

24 But what is the flip side of that -- Mr.
25 Chairman, and for this Board, what I need you to

1 understand is, we are not letting any money out the door
2 or making an obligation to something we don't know is the
3 correct entity, is somebody who had the authority to enter
4 into an obligation with the state. And we are not going
5 to compromise any of our state grant requirements to
6 fulfill that.

7 So if we come back at the end, and say, well,
8 five of them couldn't work out the paperwork. That is
9 okay. I mean, we will have those funds available to do
10 Rapid Response, or other things. We will do everything we
11 can do, but we won't violate any of our rules or
12 standards.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. I just want to make sure
14 that we are reaching out to them and making sure that they
15 fulfill their obligation, what they applied for. I think
16 the rules were pretty much set forth at the very beginning
17 when they applied, and I just want to make sure they come
18 through.

19 And if they don't, then there needs to be a
20 mechanism to allocate that money to other cities, or
21 within our Task Forces.

22 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, we will
23 take that to heart. And just -- one other thing is that,
24 you know, this will be closed out. You know, we will
25 either finalize these or come back to the Board.

1 To just -- but any of these obligations that
2 don't come to fruition in this cycle -- because we are in
3 the middle of a biennium. Remember, these funds all will
4 carry forward. These were '22 funds, and they will roll
5 in what is called unexpended balance authority back to the
6 agency for FY '23 applications.

7 So if some of these don't come through, you
8 will be able to reissue it to other jurisdictions between
9 now and August 31st of next year.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Thank you.

11 Members, are there any questions for Chairman
12 Gonzalez or Director Wilson?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: If none, we will move on.
15 Yessenia, do we have any public comments on this agenda
16 item?

17 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, I will entertain a
19 motion at this time.

20 MR. WILSON: We have one more item on the
21 public education and awareness grant, but this was not an
22 action item, Mr. Chairman.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

24 MR. WILSON: And so, if you don't mind, I will
25 turn it over to Gresham about the Public Education, Public

1 Awareness, which is 2.b.iii.

2 MR. KAY: Mr. Chairman, this is on page 24 of
3 the Board book.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning. Go ahead.

5 MR. KAY: Mr. Chairman, Board members. I just
6 would like to provide an update on the process for the
7 Public Education and Awareness grant. We refer to it as
8 PEPA, the PEPA grant.

9 The Board approved the grant in June. And in
10 terms of the Statement of Grant Award process, we worked
11 with Mr. Richards for legal review. And we have been
12 working with the vendor, the Insurance Council of Texas,
13 to provide input on the final SGA.

14 SGA includes a delivery table. And that is on
15 page 27 of your Board book. And that provides a project
16 timeline for this grant and the deliverables.

17 Director Wilson has notified the Insurance
18 Council of Texas that they may begin. We received their
19 signed SGA, and they may begin work on this grant. We do
20 need some additional paperwork that the SGA mentions.

21 We need a copy of their Board resolution. And
22 we will obtain that in short order. So yes. They have
23 been notified of the signed SGA, and they will begin
24 following this project timeline.

25 And if there are any questions, I would be

1 happy to assist. Sorry, Gresham Kay, for the record,
2 grant specialist with MVCPA.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: This is already in motion, this
4 marketing?

5 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, this was not an
6 action item. We are just reporting back to the Board. We
7 sent the deliverable table out to the Grants Committee a
8 week or so ago. And then we went ahead and issued the
9 grant award statement.

10 But this is not an action item. The award was
11 made in the meeting. It was mentioned that they wanted a
12 better milestone and deliverable table. We think we have
13 delivered that in a way that also requires approval before
14 any state payment can be considered.

15 And so this was just -- we are just wrapping up
16 telling you, just like we did on the previous two, on the
17 MAG grant and the Task Force. This is where we are.

18 We are completing the paperwork, and starting
19 the work right away. So they will be getting with police
20 departments all over the state, providing resources, and
21 talking about the messaging, and developing a new ad
22 campaign. The one in the application, the proposal was
23 Lock It Up, Texas. And so -- or something, lock it up or
24 lock it down.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That was my question.

1 MR. WILSON: Yes.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: This campaign is already in
3 motion.

4 MR. WILSON: It is going to start this week.
5 So they returned the signed grant award statement. I just
6 wanted to show you what the final grant award statement
7 looks like in the book package.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It says here that August 22,
9 there is some media paid in value ad.

10 MR. WILSON: Yes. We are going to be behind
11 schedule, but -- because we took a little longer to make
12 sure the contract was correct. But yes, they will be
13 reaching out.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So this is going to change.

15 MR. WILSON: The dates will change, but not the
16 format. They will be trying to catch up on their dates
17 and things like that, as they launch.

18 They will be getting with staff and then,
19 again, trying to reach out to some of our stakeholders. I
20 am sure you and Lieutenant Gonzalez and Major Jones will
21 be asked directly for content and ideas for content ideas,
22 things like that.

23 And then they will be reaching out to our Task
24 Forces for like, we have some people. You know, like
25 Tracy Hicks has a YouTube channel in Houston. And then, I

1 know Irene, and Lieutenant Lint in San Antonio have a real
2 active presence.

3 Laredo has a very strong presence in both
4 social media. And so, they will be reaching out to see
5 what ideas that they have is what I am --

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. So when did we award
7 this?

8 MR. WILSON: June 8th was the date. June 8th.
9 The award was made.

10 But just like I said with the Task Force
11 grants, it doesn't matter when you make the award. It is
12 not going out of our hands. It is not being released by
13 our hands until we finished all the requirements of TxGMS
14 and got certifications and proper governance.

15 And in this case, the Board specifically in the
16 meeting said that you wanted milestones and deliverables.

17 And that is what we worked with the vendor to make sure
18 we understood.

19 Now, the dates are not as important as what the
20 milestones are. I mean, in our -- when you are doing
21 project planning, well, you can get behind schedule. But
22 it doesn't change what you deliver, and what resources
23 that are being provided.

24 Even if the dates are a little off, we will let
25 them figure out the date. If we sign. I think the first

1 date was like August 8th or something like that, or
2 something. Obviously, we didn't issue the Statement of
3 Grant Award until last week.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So where I'm going with this
5 is, have they contacted MVCPA, as far as you know -- the
6 content, production. Because I don't think they have
7 contacted any of the Members.

8 So if it is already in production, where in
9 production is it? Because I see right now, the agency fee
10 is \$100,000. The production is \$50,000. The media is
11 \$190,000. And the hard costs are \$10,000, total budget of
12 \$350,000.

13 And I just want to make sure that we are --
14 where we are at with production. And as far as somebody
15 getting content, they should be reaching out to the MVCPA
16 staff and the Board to define what the content we want in
17 this media campaign.

18 MR. WILSON: Correct. We just signed the
19 contract this week. So the dates are blown out of the
20 water, Mr. Chairman.

21 There is the -- even though they planned it out
22 in the early stages, we are not anywhere near production.
23 They have to do a project plan. They have to do
24 storyboards that has to go out to the Members for review.
25 It has to get input from the Task Force grantees.

1 So they are just at the beginning, the very
2 beginning. All we have done so far is sign the contract.

3 No activity has taken place, as of today.

4 Now, I realize -- so please don't think we are
5 delusional in giving you that tiny print. What page was
6 it, 27. That little -- we will be glad to send an
7 electronic copy. I think it is a Vizio or Excel document.

8 Page 28, 27, it is a tiny, tiny document
9 because what happened to get it to fit onto this book.

10

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Moving on to Agenda Item
12 2.c., consider GBR Committee Report on fiscal year '24-'25
13 grant scoring methodology and award determination process,
14 and provide staff with direction. Members, we will now
15 move to Agenda Item 2.c., consider GBR Committee Report on
16 fiscal year '24-'25 grant scoring methodology and award
17 determination process, and provide staff with direction.

18 Chairman Gonzalez, Director Wilson.

19 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 Yesterday we met with staff to discuss how we allocate and
21 how we score our grants. And what the Committee has
22 recommended is that we incorporate a previous practice
23 that was done pre-COVID, whereby the Task Force agencies
24 come to the MVCPA Committee and present their grant
25 application and outline exactly what it is that they are

1 going to do with their money.

2 And I think that will be a great process for us
3 to better understand the nuances and the specific duties
4 that each Task Force is going to carry out. In addition
5 to that, we expressed some concern regarding the
6 subjective category of extra credit from the scoring
7 committee.

8 Now, it is my understanding that various
9 entities such as the MVCPA across different states, they
10 do have subjective category. But it needed to be defined
11 a little better -- the extra credit. We suggested also a
12 past performance, accountability measure be added for the
13 scoring, because we want to be able to hold Task Forces
14 accountable, and ensure that, you know, they are meeting
15 the objectives of the MVCPA.

16 Member Jones, am I forgetting anything? What
17 else did we discuss?

18 So to sum up, the two things that we requested
19 was that the staff create a timeline and insertion of the
20 review in front of the Grants, Budget Committee for the
21 applications, once after the RFA is out, and the due date
22 that we insert, a two-day review process where we discuss
23 one-on-one with each Task Force Commander their grant
24 application.

25 Oh, and the last thing that we discussed was

1 the scoring itself. Previously, the only individuals that
2 scored the grants were staff. And we asked that the
3 Grants, Budget, and Committee be included in the scoring
4 process, and not just as commenters.

5 And that concludes my report, unless you have
6 anything, Member Jones.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, any questions?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So Member Gonzalez, this is the
10 mechanism we are going to be using -- the methodology we
11 are going to be using for the next grant awards? Is that
12 what we are talking? That is the way this is -- this is
13 what the Committee is recommending?

14 MR. GONZALEZ: Yes, sir. So, and I did forget
15 one thing. We did suggest to staff that we include NICB
16 Hot Spots for data. Because there is a bit of a time
17 delay with respect to agencies reporting the number of
18 stolen vehicles in their jurisdiction to UCR.

19 And then, there is also -- we can't just go off
20 the self-reported numbers that agencies are using for
21 motor vehicles. And so, we think NICB is a third party
22 and so to rely on their data would be a wise idea.

23 So we are trying to make tweaks to the scoring.

24 And the allocation is something that we want to be
25 heavily involved in this go round.

1 MS. JONES: Sharon Jones, for the record. We
2 are not basically stating, get rid of the entire scoring
3 system. We just want to make sure that we can implement
4 some changes.

5 We definitely want input from the grantees,
6 because they are the ones who have to complete the form,
7 fill out the packets, and make the request. So we are not
8 here basically stating, oh, let's just get rid of the
9 scoring system and start over.

10 We are here to say that there are some tweaks
11 that need to be made. We want our grantees to be
12 successful. And making sure that they are successful, we
13 need make some changes so that when they present it to
14 their leadership, city council, the mayor, the DAs, that
15 it is something that they want to sign off on, and not
16 necessarily, oh, let's talk about it. And you see where
17 you have like, pending signature, because there is a lot
18 of discussion.

19 We just want it to be where it is bearable to
20 the grantees. They are held accountable. And also as a
21 Board, we are transparent with what we are asking for, and
22 what we are doing behind the scenes.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And again, now that the -- I
24 know, Dean, you're going to be in this Committee. You
25 know, this is a system that, you know, for the past I want

1 to say years, that there has been already a matrix in
2 place -- a system in place where there is a point system
3 for each application that comes our way.

4 But there has been times where, you know, if
5 you go by the current methodology, you know, then there is
6 a lot of agencies that will be defunded, just because it
7 doesn't meet certain criteria. And the Committee wants to
8 make sure that, you know, when this methodology is already
9 ready to be set by this Board -- as this is going to be
10 the methodology that we are going to be using -- that they
11 get the input from the grantees, and to see what else that
12 needs to be implemented to better the system. So you will
13 hear more on that, once you get on board with that
14 committee.

15 Members, are there any questions for Chairman
16 Gonzalez, or Director Wilson?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yessenia, do we have any
19 comments on this agenda item?

20 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, at this time, I would
22 like to call for a break. It is 10:16. We will be back
23 in ten minutes, 10:26.

24 (Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. It is 10:37, and we're

1 back in session.

2 We will now go to now Agenda Item 2.d.
3 Members, we will now move on to Agenda Item 2.d., selected
4 grantee reports: Dallas PD, Houston PD, and San Antonio
5 PD.

6 Mr. Wilson, would you like to introduce this
7 agenda item?

8 MR. WILSON: It's a committee item. I will
9 defer to Lieutenant Gonzalez.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez.

11 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So
12 yesterday, the Grants, Budget, and Reporting Committee
13 continued its work, by meeting with -- we are trying to
14 meet with all of the grantees to determine what it is
15 exactly that they need from the MVCPA, from this body.

16 And so, as part of that, we invite a select
17 member of agencies to come and kind of present what it is
18 that they are doing, what it is that they are doing well.

19 You know, where are the areas of improvement. And you
20 know, what additional -- what is it that they need from
21 us.

22 And so, yesterday, we had Houston, Dallas, and
23 San Antonio present. And I have to say, you know, I am
24 incredibly impressed with the work and the continued
25 efforts from our grantees. It is just amazing, the amount

1 of work that they are doing.

2 I do think that they are being pulled in
3 multiple directions, but they are certainly holding the
4 line when it comes to motor vehicle theft, and our other
5 statutory calls or requirements. Just some great things.

6
7 You know, Houston PD remarked about -- they
8 identified a new trend with Kias and Hyundais. They are
9 doing some fantastic work in the areas of fraud, UUV. And
10 thankful, thankful that they are agreeing to train quite a
11 bit, a large number of agencies. And I know that is a
12 huge task for you all, and so thank you, you know, for
13 that.

14 San Antonio is doing some amazing work with --
15 they just have great detective work, relentless follow-up.
16 And following their leads, and collaborating with other
17 agencies.

18 And certainly, Dallas PD is doing some
19 exceptional items with their large scale investigations
20 and organized crime aspect. And so I think that all three
21 agencies were excellent representatives of what the
22 mission of the MVCPA should be, which is a supplement to
23 law enforcement agencies, so that they can have the
24 resources to pursue these larger criminal enterprises,
25 these in-depth investigations, you know, and other

1 priorities of the state legislature and this body --
2 catalytic converters, you know, fraud-related UUV.

3 So overall, Mr. Chairman, I think that just an
4 excellent amount of work is coming out from those three
5 agencies. As far as what it is that they need, I think
6 one of the consensus; they could all utilize the help of
7 some non-sworn staff on their Task Forces. And the reason
8 being is because the Richard Miles Act has created a
9 significant amount of work added to each detective, in
10 terms of, you know, case file preparation and ensuring
11 that all evidence is logged and submitted over to the
12 District Attorney's office.

13 In addition, we discussed having intelligence
14 analysts provide mission support to our Task Forces. And
15 so, that was one of the suggestions. In addition to that,
16 we received some great stories about how Flock is working
17 out for these agencies. And so, continued investment in
18 technology would be a recommendation for this Board to
19 consider, as far as needs of these Task Force agencies.

20 So that concludes my report. I would be glad
21 to take any questions.

22 Member Jones, do you have anything to add to
23 that, ma'am?

24 MS. JONES: Yes, sir. I think it is important
25 to note that as far as using non-law enforcement in

1 support roles, the administrative staff, they are
2 extremely helpful. We can't do our jobs without them.
3 They are an extension, our right hand and our left hand.

4 That will also free up the law enforcement who
5 are doing those types of duties, that will free them up to
6 address what is lacking as far as investigative wise.
7 That frees them up to do that.

8 And then, in addition, what is another
9 challenge for the Task Force are threat assessments for
10 their cities. If their city's threat assessment is to
11 focus on violent crime, crimes against children, that is a
12 huge priority. If there are a lot of homicide, those
13 priorities are going to take -- they come, they are first.

14 Like, for my agency, Texas DPS, as I said
15 yesterday, we focus on crimes against children, violence
16 in certain cities. We are assigned to the border. But
17 that doesn't mean that we cannot address other crimes,
18 such as auto theft, property crimes.

19 So it is important that if a Task Force
20 Commander comes to us, and he is asking for two additional
21 officers, or she is asking for administrative assistance
22 that we give them the tools to do their job. And in
23 addition, knowing that in law enforcement, any agency, it
24 is difficult to literally hire qualified candidates and
25 have the recruit schools and have the force.

1 So once we approve the additional personnel, we
2 also need to be mindful that they may only be able to hire
3 one of the two. Or if they are analysts, maybe able to
4 only get two of the three, but know in the future, that at
5 some point in time, they are going to be able to pick up
6 on additional personnel.

7 So I think it is important that when they are
8 asking for personnel assistance, that we actually do our
9 best to try to accommodate them.

10 MR. GONZALEZ: Well said, ma'am. And then, the
11 last thing that I forgot about, two of the agencies that
12 reported, they have expressed some concerns regarding the
13 vehicle amounts on leases and rentals that we have.

14 And they expressed that that was a challenge
15 with them, because the cost of car rentals is going up
16 significantly. And so that may be something that this
17 Board wants to consider for a future date.

18 MS. JONES: And another discussion was the type
19 of vehicles. Dependent on the -- apparently, the money
20 that is there now is basically for, you can afford to buy
21 a car, but with all the equipment, they may need an SUV or
22 a truck.

23 And so, we may want to consider -- there is a
24 threshold at the moment. The threshold currently allows
25 for a smaller car. Maybe increase the threshold to allow

1 for perhaps trucks or SUVs, but not make it to where they
2 just have to come back to us to ask for additional money.

3

4 Because that is more time where they could be
5 working in the field, as opposed to coming back to us. If
6 we know that giving them \$20,000 is not going to be enough
7 for a vehicle, then we need to increase it, to stop them
8 from having to come back to us to ask for an additional
9 \$5,000.

10 It just makes more sense to be proactive. We
11 know they are going to come back.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, I agree on that. On those
13 issues, with the purchases of vehicles and things like
14 that. Especially rents, renting a vehicle versus leasing
15 a vehicle.

16 I mean, with the purchases, I know that now you
17 can't get a truck, you know, lower than \$65,000. And you
18 know, that is just how it is now.

19 So yes. We do need to bring that back, and see
20 if we can set a threshold or a certain cap -- increase the
21 cap, I am sorry -- to them not coming in all the time and
22 requesting those caps to be raised by us.

23 I was here for the entire presentation. And I
24 want to commend Houston PD, San Antonio PD, and Dallas PD
25 on their presentations. They did outstanding

1 presentations. All three agencies did really good.

2 And the one thing that I saw and I heard -- and
3 I want to say that the reason that they do very well is
4 because their agency and their leadership sees burglary,
5 motor vehicle, and auto theft as an agency, as a city
6 problem as a whole.

7 I have seen where some Task Forces, their
8 command sees it as, well, it is your division problem.
9 You need to fix this. You need to catch this person by
10 whatever means. You know, we don't have -- MVCPA is not
11 giving us funding, or we don't have the personnel to
12 attack this problem, or to reduce the incidence of
13 burglary of motor vehicles, or to reduce the incidence of
14 auto theft. But it just becomes a division problem.

15 And that is something that I saw yesterday,
16 that it is not the case with these bigger agencies. So in
17 the conversation that I had with Member Jones yesterday, I
18 think it is very important that we, when we summon other
19 agencies that we also bring back these three agencies to
20 give a presentation as to how is it that their agency runs
21 their operations.

22 I am not saying that one is better than the
23 other. It is just, maybe you can get some ideas from
24 those agencies.

25 One of the things that I really like about the

1 San Antonio PD is the fact that their reach to other
2 divisions within their department is there. And nobody
3 says, no, we can't. You know, reaching out to property
4 crime, reaching out to narcs, reaching out to their anti-
5 gang unit.

6 You know, it is allowed. And their commanders
7 will not say no, because, oh, it just auto theft. Well,
8 they have several cases that they have proved that it is
9 just not only auto theft. It is other things.

10 So with that in mind, I do want to kind of --
11 whenever we have to -- whenever the Grants and Budget
12 Committee meet again, and other agencies come in, it might
13 be a good idea. And this is an idea that was brought up
14 by Member Jones, that we bring back either of these
15 agencies to just give a presentation as to how they run
16 their Task Forces.

17 And how we see that they are doing it without,
18 with minimum staffing, with the amount of software that
19 they have right now, which is very minimal. And we need
20 to get better at that and the technology that they
21 currently have in place.

22 So with that in mind, I think it is important
23 that we bring them back. And of course, following the
24 idea that you shared yesterday, Member Jones, that they
25 need to come back and give a presentation.

1 So the other thing also that I wanted to talk
2 about is the networking. I heard from Houston PD -- from
3 Dallas PD, that they reached out to Houston PD, you know,
4 and vice versa with San Antonio PD reaching out to other
5 agencies. That is key for success, you know.

6 The networking part is key for success. We
7 have seen similar Task Forces that, you know, in my years
8 with MVCPA and MVTPA, that some Task Forces don't even
9 know each other. And I think it is important that we do
10 know and network with each other, because this is how we
11 get better.

12 So in talking about that -- and I know that you
13 are now leaving, Director Wilson, but I am -- I do want to
14 entertain the idea of bringing back a conference for
15 MVCPA. I want to entertain the idea of bringing that
16 conference back, and bringing trainings within that
17 conference and bring back that network that we used to
18 have, because I think it is very important.

19 This is a very important component to this, to
20 this organization, to have that network. So I am talking
21 to Member Jones and Member Gonzalez. You know, they like
22 the idea. And I want to come back to that conversation,
23 and see how we can make it happen.

24 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez, for the record.
25 I do want to piggyback off of Chairman Rodriguez'

1 comments. I certainly agree. The networking aspect is
2 incredibly important.

3 When I was a Task Force Commander, I found
4 myself calling other Task Force commanders regularly, and
5 asking, how do you do this? And can I plagiarize your
6 policies on, you know, whatever, you know, case filing
7 procedure it is that they have.

8 Because, you know, these Task Forces are facing
9 the same issues. We are all subject to the Richard Miles
10 Act. You know, we are all filing the same Penal Code
11 charges, and whatnot.

12 And so, having that network and being able to
13 call Lieutenant Harrell, have him send me over a
14 prosecution report on how to engage in a organized crime
15 case on a ring of car theft is done, it can be incredibly
16 valuable. And so just -- I would ask that, you know, we
17 can please take a look at that conference and be able to
18 give that networking opportunity or Task Force something
19 that could be incredibly valuable.

20 MS. JONES: Member Jones, for the record.
21 Something else that we also discussed and we feel strongly
22 about is getting input from our non-law enforcement
23 members on the Board. We value their input. We have a
24 lot of ideas and suggestions that we are going to present
25 as a complete Board for input because they are valued as

1 well.

2 And so we have a lot of plans, a lot of great
3 ideas. And it will be inclusive. It will be inclusive of
4 the entire Board. And it will be inclusive of the entire
5 membership, and beneficial.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Member Jones. Thank
7 you, Member Gonzalez.

8 Any other Member would like to comment?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We will now move on to Agenda
11 Item 2.e., report on MVCPA fiscal year '24-'25 Plan of
12 Operation.

13 Chairman Gonzalez and Mr. Wilson will present
14 this item.

15 MR. WILSON: Bryan Wilson, for the record.
16 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I call your attention to page
17 49.

18 So the next major statutory duty that is going
19 to appear on the horizon is on December 1st, a report
20 called the Plan of Operation. It is in Transportation
21 Code 1006.

22 And what that is -- it is due to the
23 Legislature -- that contains four different items from
24 this Board. You have to provide an assessment of the
25 current status of motor vehicle theft, burglary from the

1 motor vehicle, and fraud-related motor vehicle crime. The
2 second thing you will have to do is provide a synopsis of
3 what actions that you have taken that have been relevant
4 to both the funding that you have received, as well as the
5 operations that you have run in response to that
6 assessment.

7 Then to have a plan of operation for the next
8 two years on what you will do to stop motor vehicle theft
9 and burglary and fraud-related crime. And then finally, a
10 financial analysis of what funds and resources it would
11 take to do that.

12 So what I have laid out here on page 49, or
13 Yessenia has put together, is the plan over the next
14 several months to get that done. Now as many of you know,
15 the fiscal year ends in September. We have already
16 collected the '21 data. We have organized it into a way.

17
18 I talked to our new intern, Iris. And I have
19 been working with Gresham on the method to -- when you
20 have large quantities of data in text, one of the
21 difficulties is converting that into information you can
22 use.

23 So we all have what is called the Year End
24 Report. The Task Force commanders -- what are the trends
25 for motor vehicle theft, what are the trends for motor

1 vehicle burglary, and they tell us in text. And so what
2 we did is code that out.

3 So we have done '21. And then, '22 is not
4 complete until, you know, September -- obviously,
5 September 1st, August 31st. And so Gresham and staff are
6 ready to code out the newest data.

7 So we have what trends -- and it covers
8 everything from insurance fraud to other kinds of fraud.
9 So they will be coding that out.

10 In the meantime -- so that is why you see this
11 schedule pushing pretty close to December. It is because
12 we either have to use '19 and '20 and '21 data, or we have
13 to use relevant data from the current year that is just
14 closing. And we have always used -- even though it is a
15 lot more work, we use the most current data, so we can
16 identify the trends. We have seen in the past the changes
17 between guns and narcotics or organized.

18 You know, a few years ago, a big thing
19 throughout the whole state was a much more detected
20 presence in the Task Forces of organized crime. It is not
21 that it went away. It just -- it wasn't the main thing
22 that they pointed out. It became guns and narcotics in
23 other years.

24 So we try to use that real-time data that is
25 being reported to us. And then we will do surveys from

1 the Chiefs of Police, the Task Forces.

2 And so this is the schedule that we'll be
3 unveiling in front of the next director to try and stay on
4 schedule. But kind of give you a plan of operation --
5 because your operation will be to review it, to critique
6 it, to add content, as you get early drafts, or get data.

7
8 Hopefully they will be delivering you data. In
9 the past, when I got the surveys, I showed the Board, this
10 is what the data says. Are there any comments, and things
11 like that.

12 So anyway, page 49. And that is the plan. And
13 hopefully, it will work out.

14 There will be other people to make sure that
15 gets carried out. But at least, you know, you can stick
16 it on your wall and say, you know, call every few weeks to
17 see how that is coming.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Director Wilson.

19 MR. WILSON: And Mr. Chairman, I would --
20 because of some changes that we did at the last minute, I
21 would ask that 2.f. just be discarded at this time, and
22 not taken up, because it actually became part of another
23 agenda item later in the meeting.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, do you have any
25 questions on the Plan of Operation?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Skipping 2.f. Members,
3 we are now reconvened.

4 We will now take up Agenda Item 3.a., State
5 auditor engagement and designation of Texas DMV Internal
6 Auditor as coordinator. Mr. Wilson.

7 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I
8 sent out on the email a few weeks ago, the State Auditors
9 Office has entered into an engagement. The State Auditor
10 is appointed by the state legislature, and all state
11 agencies and commissions, and boards, and authorities, and
12 anything else out there are subject to their authority.

13 They announced an engagement of two aspects of
14 the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority. Like I
15 said, I forwarded that to you. And hopefully, you have
16 taken time to review that. This will be an action item if
17 you follow the recommendation, but just to give you a
18 heads up.

19 So but when -- a State Auditors engagement is a
20 routine course of business. They look at all state
21 agencies. Sometimes they look at a state agency because
22 of something in the news. Sometimes it is something a
23 legislator or committee chairman in the Legislature says,
24 I would like to know how this organization is doing.

25 And sometimes -- but the bulk of their work is

1 actually based on what they call risk assessments. What
2 are the risks to the state for certain transactions or
3 interactions with state government? And that risk
4 scale -- I am not going to try to go into it, because I
5 don't know what their details are.

6 But it is a risk-based audit. So at this time,
7 we don't know where we fall. If somebody, if a committee
8 or a legislator asked for it, or if it was a risk, it
9 doesn't really matter. They are the State Auditor, and we
10 will comply.

11 And so, as I said, I provided that notice to
12 you. And it is in my 26 years in state government, I have
13 probably been through three or four of these that I can
14 remember. And it is just a matter of providing records,
15 information, providing access to databases, or
16 information.

17 But part of the thing -- as I said in my email,
18 they may want to interview or question all of you, or some
19 of you, or any of you. So what I will tell you, at the
20 beginning of any audit, is they will have findings. Those
21 findings will be at various levels, depending on what they
22 see.

23 They are going to follow the evidence, as good
24 auditors. And they will. But I will tell you, in all my
25 years of what I know from other people and myself, they

1 are not worth spit if they don't find something.

2 So they always find something. And you should
3 just make up your mind that there is going to be something
4 that they are going to find and have specific findings.
5 Sometimes it comes to you as system enhancements.
6 Sometimes it is, you know, possible violations, or just
7 inconsistencies with what they think the rules are.

8 And some of those, you may disagree with. And
9 you will be having an opportunity at a later date, once
10 they have their findings, to be able to respond, and to
11 make note of any disagreement on what you have regarding
12 to their findings.

13 So that is the big picture of the State
14 Auditors Office, and how they come to determine, and what
15 the process is. Are there any questions before I go to
16 the next section that is going to be an action item?

17 MS. BENAVIDES: There is a public comment.

18 MR. WILSON: Okay. I think I should lay out
19 the action item, and then take the public comment, if that
20 is okay with General Counsel.

21 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, David Richards,
22 General Counsel. The commenter is on 3.b. which is
23 legislative. Is there a commenter on 3.a. as well?

24 MS. BENAVIDES: I turned in the form.

25 MR. RICHARDS: We have it. It is 3.b. Tommy

1 Hansen is on 3.b. So we are dealing with 3.a. right now.

2 MR. WILSON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
3 Richards. Okay.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: You can proceed.

5 MR. WILSON: So any questions about the State
6 Auditor, the process, the findings, anything like that?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. WILSON: Okay. All right.

9 So when they sent the engagement, they said in
10 the engagement that they were going to utilize the Texas
11 DMV auditor, internal auditor as the point of coordination
12 and contact. And so what I wanted to do, to make sure
13 after I met with Dan as a CPA, a certified internal public
14 manager, just to make sure we didn't cross any ethical
15 lines, what I developed was a recommendation to this Board
16 to appoint the DMV Internal Auditor who works directly for
17 the Texas DMV Board.

18 And you are a separate board, not an advisory
19 board for that agency -- to go ahead and appoint Salem
20 Chuah who is the Internal Auditor for DMV to be your point
21 of contact for the State Auditors Office. So this is kind
22 of just a routine, and making sure that we don't have any
23 ethical concerns or violations, because you are private
24 citizen Board members. And if they have multiple
25 questions or are seeking different aspects or interviews,

1 that you have a point of contact.

2 You are not delegating the authority to speak
3 on your behalf as a Board, or anything like that. Only
4 the Board can do that by vote. So this is just a
5 coordination issue.

6 So if they need to talk to Ms. Whitehill about
7 Subject A, and then they need to reach out to Smith about
8 Subject B, that there is just not a lot of people
9 contacting you individually. They can contact the
10 internal auditor. They can reach out to you, and find
11 your best schedule, and whether it is going to be an
12 interview, in person, or Webex or Teams or whatever.

13 So that is what I am recommending. That is the
14 information on page 51, the engagement on 52 and 53. And
15 then I have got an order on page 54 for the designation.

16 That is staff's recommendation to this Board to
17 go ahead and make that delegation and keep the ethics and
18 responsibilities in line. Are there any questions?

19 MR. GONZALEZ: Mr. Chairman, I have a question.

20 So Director Wilson, does the MVCPA Board have the
21 authority to task someone that works at DMV to do this? I
22 mean, I almost kind of feel like we are overstepping our
23 bounds telling DMV that, you know, what someone is going
24 to do.

25 MR. WILSON: They had agreed to do this. And

1 so I did reach out to Salem prior to that, and make sure
2 that they were okay. It is not like you were saying, you
3 have to do this. What you are saying is, we would like
4 you do this.

5 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay.

6 MR. WILSON: We would prefer you to be our
7 point of contact, instead of placing on the State Auditor
8 the entire burden of reaching out to a board that -- like
9 I said, you are in PD. And you are in Fort Worth. And
10 you are hither and yon. Now, I can -- Mr. Chuah is here,
11 if you would like to hear from him.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

13 MR. CHUAH: Good morning. Good morning, Chief
14 Rodriguez and Board members. My name is Salem Chuah. I
15 am with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. I am the
16 Internal Audit Director.

17 My role as the internal auditor would be to act
18 as that liaison between the State Auditors Office and
19 MVCPA. And as part of those duties, whatever findings
20 that they go about through their field work process and
21 through their reporting process, whenever they have to
22 have a management response, I will be that point of
23 contact between the SAO, the State Auditors Office, and
24 you all to obtain management responses on what we are
25 going to do in regards to those findings.

1 Now, the State Auditors Office, the objectives
2 of the audit, I believe, has been laid out with you all,
3 communicated to you all through email. And it is to look
4 at the grant process to determine whether the MVCPA
5 awards, administers, and monitors its grants in accordance
6 with applicable requirements, and whether it complies with
7 selected statutory requirements, including limitations on
8 administrative expenses.

9 And so they are going through several phases of
10 the audit. They will go through the planning phase first,
11 where they will be interviewing several folks from the
12 MVCPA, as well as the Board -- some of you all here as
13 Board members.

14 And then they will move into field work, where
15 they will be conducting some testing on aspects that they
16 want to look at. And then they will move into the
17 reporting phase, where they will generate that final
18 report where it will require management responses.

19 And so the timeline for this audit is going to
20 be -- the field work is expected to start in October
21 through January, with the report issued in March. And so,
22 throughout this whole process, they will be working really
23 closely with MVCPA staff to obtain information, conducting
24 interviews, and getting the information that they need to
25 answer these objectives that I have laid out.

1 And again, my role here is to act as that
2 liaison between the SAO and the MVCPA.

3 MR. GONZALEZ: Great. I just didn't want for,
4 you know, us to be telling DMV what to do, if you guys
5 haven't already volunteered for it. Because I thought
6 that would be a little out of our place.

7 But it sounds like you are already, you know,
8 helping out with that. And so, I am good.

9 MR. CHUAH: And Member Gonzalez, there is a
10 second objective in here, which is why. The second
11 objective is unrelated to the MVCPA.

12 It is in regards to the Department of Motor
13 Vehicles temporary tags. And so the engagement letter
14 that we received includes both of these objectives in the
15 same engagement. And it will be in the same audit report,
16 to my understanding.

17 But we will, of course, work with the Texas DMV
18 management team in regards to those findings and those
19 management responses.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you very much. I think
21 that most of us greatly appreciate you coming on in here,
22 and explaining to us what it is. So like Member Sharon
23 Jones said, thank you for volunteering.

24 MR. CHUAH: Thank you.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Any other questions,

1 Members?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, this is an action
4 item. I will now entertain a motion on Agenda Item 3.a.

5 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez. I move that
6 the Texas DMV Internal Auditor be designated to serve as
7 point of contact and coordinator for the State Auditors
8 Office engagement of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention
9 Authority.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion by Member
11 Gonzalez. Do I have a second?

12 MR. SMITH: Member Smith. I second.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, a motion has been made
14 and seconded. Is there any further discussion?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I'll call for the
17 vote. All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying
18 aye.

19 (A chorus of ayes.)

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All those opposed, nay.

21 (No response.)

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the record reflect that I,
23 Mike Rodriguez, vote aye. The motion passes.

24 MR. WILSON: So Mr. Chairman, I would just ask
25 that you just sign that copy and then let us forward it on

1 so we will have a record of it in the book.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Sign?

3 MR. WILSON: Yes. I will take care of it right
4 after the meeting. Thank you, David.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I trust him. I had read it.

6 We will now take up Agenda Item 3.b., Report on
7 Texas DMV actions concerning the LAR and legislative
8 issues. Mr. Wilson, present this agenda item.

9 MR. WILSON: Well, there's official record
10 of me being a plagiarizer. So just for the -- so, if you
11 notice on page 56, I have plagiarized Glenna Bowman's
12 material.

13 And if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman, I will ask
14 Texas DMV Chief Financial Officer Glenna Ray Bowman to
15 speak on this item for legislative appropriations.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning, Glenna.

17 MS. BOWMAN: Good morning. Everybody else is
18 obviously taller than I am.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

20 MS. BOWMAN: We just have an update on the LAR.

21 The DMV Board did adopt the Legislative Appropriations
22 Request, and we had a couple of updates since then.

23 As you know, we have an exceptional item in the
24 LAR for MVCPA to try and get full statutory funding for
25 this Board. When we originally presented that item, we

1 had six FTEs associated with it, which we still intend to
2 ask for. But we separated those from the exceptional
3 item, so that the MVCPA exceptional item in our LAR is
4 strictly for the full funding, and 100 percent of that
5 funding would be used for grants.

6 And the reason is that the six FTEs -- as the
7 large organization DMV, we have an exceptional item that
8 is a zero dollar amount, because we just need
9 authorization to increase our number of employee FTEs,
10 full time equivalents. And the MVCPA FTEs fall in that
11 same category.

12 And as Bryan and I have spoken, there is
13 adequate funding within the current MVCPA budget to
14 support the additional FTEs, the three administrative and
15 the three collections, but we don't have FTE authority.
16 The Legislature limits the number of FTEs that any agency
17 can have.

18 So we just moved those six FTEs into that zero
19 dollar amount exceptional item, and then clarified that
20 the MVCPA full funding exceptional item is just for
21 grants. It is 100 percent for grants.

22 Let's see. We submitted the LAR on August
23 12th. And we actually have a tentative date for a hearing
24 with the Governor's Office and the Legislative Budget
25 Board in September. So we are finalizing that date right

1 now.

2 That is all I have on the budget, on the LAR.
3 If you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any questions from the Board?

5 (No response.)

6 MS. BOWMAN: Okay.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We are good.

8 MS. BOWMAN: Thank you.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

10 MR. WILSON: Do you want to talk about the --
11 excuse me, Mr. Chairman. The sub-account?

12 MS. BOWMAN: I can talk about that.

13 MR. WILSON: All right. Or I can do it. That
14 is fine.

15 MS. BOWMAN: Go ahead. And then, if there is
16 any questions, I can help answer those.

17 MR. WILSON: So that was the Legislative
18 Appropriations Request under 3.b., but there is another
19 part that I wanted to make sure that you had an
20 opportunity to ask questions. It is also found on page 59
21 of your MVCPA recommendation packet.

22 Our Legislature -- as you know, and as many of
23 you know that in the past, different legislators have
24 filed to have either a dedicated account, say either, with
25 all the money going into that account, or some of that

1 money. So but they have all -- I don't think any of them
2 made it to committee. I am not going to rehash all that.

3
4 But one of the things that came up several
5 years ago is, if we are associated with DMV, that the
6 funds -- and DMV has what is called a dedicated fund, that
7 our funds, at least the appropriations, even if it is not
8 the whole insurance thing, that the amount appropriated to
9 MVCPA would be a sub-account inside of the dedicated DMV
10 fund. So it would still be General Revenue dollars, as
11 far as I know. And it would still be used for MVCPA.

12 And so, on page 59, we have provided a sample
13 of that statute that will be considered for proposal at a
14 later date, but prior to legislative session to be
15 considered for filing. Now, there is a whole another
16 complexity that goes with that, finding sponsors, but I am
17 not going to deal with that.

18 I just want to make sure that you are aware
19 that is the other financial-related issue that the MVCPA
20 has adopted a few months ago. And we are moving forward
21 on that.

22 MS. BOWMAN: Right. Rather than those funds
23 that go to the MVCPA being deposited into the General
24 Revenue Fund, they would be deposited, if this bill
25 were -- if it goes through the process, it would be

1 deposited to this sub-account within DMV Fund 10. It is
2 just directing it to a different place, so that it is an
3 extra layer.

4 If you get full funding, then that money would
5 stay with DMV, versus now where it goes to General
6 Revenue. And if it is not appropriated or expended, then
7 it goes back to General Revenue. So that is part of the
8 advantage of creating a sub-account.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So it would come to DMV. But
10 to a sub-account.

11 MS. BOWMAN: But to a sub-account, so that it
12 is specifically for MVCPA. So we wouldn't be dipping into
13 the MVCPA money for DMV.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So it would pretty much be like
15 a dedicated account.

16 MS. BOWMAN: Correct.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

18 MR. WILSON: All right. Mr. Chairman. Bryan
19 Wilson for the record.

20 That is the key. What you just said is, it is
21 a sub-account inside of a dedicated account. So rather
22 than trying to press the Legislature for our own
23 separate -- you know, different bills have been filed for
24 an account outside the State Treasury, a dedicated
25 account.

1 It is like this. We are inside of this network
2 already. We have the CFO that manages the payment
3 processes, the POs that I talked about earlier, the fiscal
4 payments, the TIN numbers -- you know, the Uniform
5 Statewide Accounting System. So all that money is being
6 managed.

7 So if it was managed outside the State
8 Treasury, that lady over there would still be managing it.
9 Do you know what I am saying? So it might as well just
10 be one fund in a sub-account within that fund.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Awesome.

12 MR. WILSON: Thank you Glenna.

13 MS. BOWMAN: Thank you.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

15 (Pause.)

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Yessenia, have you got
17 it?

18 MS. BENAVIDES: I do.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Tommy Hansen.

20 MR. HANSEN: Lieutenant Tommy Hansen. I am
21 here speaking on behalf of the Texas Association of
22 Vehicle Theft Investigators, commonly known as TAVTI.

23 I wanted to update you on some legislative
24 stuff that we are looking at, with a focus on your
25 funding. However, before I do that, I would like to have

1 a golden opportunity to also thank Mr. Wilson for his
2 dedication to this program.

3 Having served on this Board, and serving the
4 Board Chair, I can tell you that no one knows anything
5 more about grant management, rules, and guidelines in the
6 State of Texas than he does. If you don't believe that,
7 just ask him, and he will tell you on a very regular
8 basis. I think there was times I spoke with him more than
9 I did my wife. So she probably enjoyed that.

10 Also, I would like to thank Mr. Smith here, the
11 new Board member, for starting the conversation today, of
12 reminding me how old I was and how long I have been doing
13 this.

14 Legislatively, number one, before I get into
15 the main thing, what was just discussed about the semi
16 quasi dedicated fund, I think, is something that is going
17 to be extraordinarily important, if we can get that.
18 Because in the back past, our money always goes into the
19 big black hole, and we get lost in there. And I think
20 this would at least earmark the money. And somebody,
21 before they take and spend it, they know who it belongs
22 to, and where it came from, and I think that is
23 extraordinarily important for the future.

24 As far as the legislative and funding stuff,
25 what we are focusing on, versus some catalytic converter

1 things being -- bills and stuff floating around what our
2 whole thing is, the funding. And everything that we have
3 talked about today, tomorrow, and later today, it is all
4 centered around the problem of funding.

5 And the beauty part about this is, we are not
6 asking for new legislation. We don't have to go through
7 the whole process of all the hearings and all of the
8 things like that, that are connected on getting a new bill
9 passed. We are just asking them to adhere to the bill
10 that they already passed.

11 We have already done one meeting. And I wanted
12 to tell everybody how it went, and encourage the TF, Task
13 Forces, to do the same. We will provide them with
14 whatever information that they need.

15 But we had a meeting in our area. And we had
16 Houston PD, Harris County, Pasadena PD, Galveston County,
17 Montgomery County, and Beaumont Task Forces all there.

18 We met with Representative Middleton, who will
19 soon be Senator Middleton, because he is running for
20 Senate, and he is unopposed. So he is going to go with
21 that. He wanted to meet with us. He is extremely
22 interested in this.

23 And the meeting went exceptionally well. We
24 had everybody there. It was what -- Bryan and them were
25 there. Several hours, we met. And his whole goal is to

1 follow up on this.

2 We have also reached out to him in considering
3 doing a very similar thing with Senator Huffman. The
4 State Representative who sponsored House Bill 2048 is
5 retired, but Senator Huffman was the sponsor on the Senate
6 side, and she is still very, very active.

7 Although she is -- we kind of might have to
8 wait until after November 8th, as everybody knows. But if
9 we can meet before that with her, we will, to seek that.
10 Because she is also a very, very key player in the Senate
11 Finance Committee which can have a major input into this
12 dilemma that we are dealing with on our funding.

13 So we would highly encourage that all of the
14 Task Forces, and I know some of them -- I have known you
15 for years. And they are tired of hearing me say this.
16 But these legislators want to talk to us. But we have to
17 approach them.

18 And we constantly hear, oh, our Sheriff is good
19 buddies with Senator Billy Bob, or our Chief knows Senator
20 Mary Jane. But they don't follow up on that. And it is a
21 very easy process. These people can't help us if they
22 don't know we exist.

23 And that comment came up by one of the Board
24 members earlier of how many legislators don't know we
25 exist. We are the best kept secret in Texas. And we have

1 got a good product to sell them. We need to do that.

2 But anyway, that is what we did so far. And it
3 went very, very well with Mr. Middleton. And he is
4 pursuing this. And we do know that he has had
5 conversations with several other senators.

6 One of them, we are real interested in, is
7 Senator Creighton. He is the only Senator in the State of
8 Texas, because he has got the most bizarre district, where
9 he actually has five of our Task Forces in his district.
10 Montgomery County, Houston, Harris County, part of
11 Galveston County, and Beaumont. So he has got the most to
12 lose and the most to gain.

13 So we have talked to him in the past. And we
14 are going to hit him up. But we do know that Mr.
15 Middleton has already addressed some of this with him.

16 So I just wanted to kind of give you some ideas
17 of what we are -- our whole focus was through Tab D and
18 things that we are going to do with legislators, that we
19 are going to meet with has to do with funding for MVCPA.
20 Any questions?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. HANSEN: Thank you for your time.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Tommy.

24 Members, we will now take up Agenda Item 4,
25 Consider a process for future development of MVCPA

1 policies required under Texas Transportation Code Section
2 1006.060. Mr. Wilson will present on this agenda item.

3 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want
4 to call your attention, excuse me, page 62 and 63 of the
5 Board book. Just especially as I am getting ready to
6 retire, that the Board understands that the MVCPA Director
7 is authorized to perform certain duties under the MOU
8 between the Texas DMV and Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention
9 Authority.

10 This authority has been, I found, you know,
11 contracts when it was with TxDOT back to the early 2000s,
12 in the very early years. This agency was inside the
13 Governor's Office and then came over by interlocal
14 agreement to TxDOT. And eventually when DMV came out in
15 2009, it was moved to DMV instead staying with TxDOT. And
16 so that law moved it over there.

17 And so there has been an agreement on file that
18 kind of ensures that the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention
19 Authority has a director. There has been -- in the past,
20 there's been discussion about having a statutory
21 designated director, and that has been laid aside
22 recently. Past boards have adopted that as a legislative
23 goal.

24 But one of the things that came clear over the
25 last few months is that this Board has the statutory duty

1 to develop policy. And it has taken on that role at
2 different levels through the time that I have been here.
3 And there's some policies that I think were in place, but
4 there has never been a formal documentation of what those
5 policies are.

6 And what I mean by that, and please, Lieutenant
7 Gonzalez, close your eyes for the next part of the
8 presentation, I think it is 73. Oh, there it is. It is
9 just an example of a policy adopted by the Texas
10 Department of Motor Vehicles, and I know the numbering
11 system is going to drive some of you crazy.

12 And I am not advocating the numbering system.
13 May I clearly say that. But I just wanted to show you
14 that we probably should move towards a more formal
15 development of policy.

16 And I am sorry I am doing this on my way out
17 the door, because certainly, the Board has adopted
18 policies about insurance collection, about refunds, about
19 the review of refunds, but we haven't placed them in a
20 codified example of this. And so, today, the only thing
21 we are talking about is adoption of a process for
22 developing clear policies for this Board going forward.

23 You have a statutory duty in the Transportation
24 Code to develop policies, and then the DMV is to manage
25 the operation physically. Just like we talked about with

1 Glenna a minute ago. She is the Chief Financial Officer.

2

3 I don't cut checks. I don't physically cut
4 checks. I submit them through the DMV processes to get
5 grantees paid. She is responsible for making sure on the
6 process end that they meet the state accountability
7 standards to allow payment.

8 But the policy and the grants are awarded in
9 the MVCPA's own name, and by its own authority. So we are
10 going to have to work together, no matter what. But it
11 should be in a more clear fashion with expectations up
12 front.

13 And so, the Board has adopted in the past --
14 so, let me just get to the point on page 65. And I have
15 asked, I have called most of you, all of you -- I guess I
16 missed one or two -- to talk about, you know, reading page
17 65, making sure that that process makes sense. So in the
18 future that there -- you can, again, we are not adopting
19 any policies that I know of today, although they are on
20 the agenda.

21 But my point in today's discussion was to adopt
22 a process to begin formalizing how does a policy for MVCPA
23 get adopted in future Board meetings. And how does this
24 Board conduct itself in the future. So that is what staff
25 recommends on page 65, that I recommend, that you have a

1 clear responsibility or process.

2 A few months ago, Lieutenant Gonzalez sent me a
3 policy on one issue. And then we have -- I know that Ms.
4 Brotherton and I have talked about a situation where a
5 large insurer had kind of made two or three mistakes in a
6 row and was asking for administrative processes to be put
7 in place at the Comptroller's Office.

8 And it was just like, gosh, if you screw up,
9 okay. Anybody can make a mistake. But if you screw up
10 two or three times, maybe the Board should have a policy
11 saying no.

12 You need to come back. That insurer needs to
13 come back to the Board and discuss that formally, before
14 we continue to allow the administrative process to go
15 forward.

16 So there is a point at which -- so, all of
17 these things that are listed in the book are areas that
18 are ripe for policies, and need to either take past Board
19 actions and bring them together in a formal written
20 policy, or to look at some of these issues that have
21 undermined the effectiveness of MVCPA. So that you can
22 develop policies to reduce that effect in future times.

23 So on page 65 is my recommendation for you to
24 move forward on developing policy. And I hope you have
25 had time to review it and think about it.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, any questions?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So Director Wilson, what
4 policies do we have right now that this Board has
5 implemented?

6 MR. WILSON: On page 67, there's been some
7 votes taken about the notification of insurers. That is a
8 policy/process that we still follow today. You know,
9 again, sometimes the bleed-over between policy and
10 process, as many of us know in our operation, gets a
11 little wonky.

12 And that is why I wanted to put it back into
13 the Board, because I think what you need is a clear
14 policy. The policy will be that the insurers who fail to
15 file, especially now that there is penalties associated,
16 after the last law passed. That the penalties, I mean --
17 the insurers should be promptly notified of failure to pay
18 or failure to file.

19 And that it is the expectation of this board
20 that that happen with policy within 30 days after the
21 period, or 60 days, or whatever. I mean, we need to have
22 a clear policy about when you expect it. The Board has
23 reviewed this, has talked about it. They have directed
24 staff to do certain things, but never a clear policy.

25 The policy is within 60 days after the insurer

1 fails to pay, there is a written notice going out of this
2 office at DMV to say, you failed to pay, or failed to
3 file.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So this would also, I want to
5 say, address whenever there is a grantee that is not
6 abiding by the grant rules and MVCPA guidelines. This
7 would serve for the Board mechanism to address those
8 issues. Correct?

9 MR. WILSON: Right. And what I have done here
10 is for future development, because many of you have come
11 to me, or provided me, or we have discussed specific
12 policies already. I wanted to kind of codify -- and I am
13 not being cheeky.

14 But on my way out the door, I just wanted a
15 record of the things that you as individual members have
16 brought to me into this book. We are not adopting these
17 policies today, but we are kind of cataloguing things that
18 members have brought to me, or discussed with me, that
19 need to be addressed going forward, in relationship to how
20 money is spent for staff, how grant violations are
21 managed, how insurers are managed.

22 We just -- you know, it has been part of, where
23 I have not quite got to in my eight years here, of getting
24 to address formally some of these issues that should have
25 been done a long time ago. But I didn't realize the

1 importance of them until more recently.

2 So go to your example, Mr. Chairman, the grant
3 violation process. If somebody -- we have in Chapter 57
4 of the Texas Administrative Code a process for revoking a
5 grant. And the rules are well in place to stop a grant,
6 stop a grant payment, and to revoke a grant.

7 You can issue a grant. Somebody violates it
8 seriously. And then, you can say, you know what, that
9 grant is over. As a Board, you take a vote, and say that
10 is over.

11 What we don't have is a policy from this Board
12 before that goes into place saying, when did that grantee
13 get notified? What was the evidence that was documented
14 for that grant violation, if that is what we are talking
15 about?

16 So all of these things need a policy, where the
17 Board has actually made a deliberate choice to say, this
18 was our expectation. So that when we get to Chapter 57 --
19 I don't know what is it, 47, David? I don't know.

20 That says, okay. Well, now we can implement
21 this process. Because staff followed our policy, or they
22 didn't follow our policy, so we are not revoking the
23 grant.

24 That is just one example that is right on
25 target with what you were asking, Mr. Chairman.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Any questions?

2 MS. JONES: Mr. Chair, I was not included in
3 the discussions on 4. I am not prepared to vote. And
4 perhaps we should table this for the incoming Director, so
5 that person can have input.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

7 MR. GONZALEZ: Director Wilson, on page 65, how
8 similar is this process for policy proposal? How similar
9 is this to DMV's policy creation process?

10 MR. WILSON: Bryan Wilson, for the record. I
11 do not know.

12 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. So we just kind of made
13 this process on our own?

14 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, David Richards,
15 General Counsel for the Board.

16 Member Gonzalez, it is not exactly the same.
17 But many of the concepts follow DMV, and other policy type
18 processes that I have been associated with, with other
19 boards, in the past.

20 MR. GONZALEZ: And so, I guess my real question
21 is, so essentially, step one is for a member to go to the
22 director. Is that kind of what DMV does, if a DMV Board
23 member would like a policy? They work with their
24 Executive Director first?

25 MR. RICHARDS: It's my understanding that the

1 individual programs will work amongst themselves. And
2 then, we will work through the Executive Office to come up
3 with that. It will also have the involvement of the
4 Office of General Counsel, and then those draft proposals
5 will be presented to the Board.

6 If there is any interaction that is needed from
7 a Board member, say with a particular subject matter
8 expertise, then that Board member would be contacted. A
9 DMV Board member would be contacted. Sure.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Because this is just the
11 process, correct? This is not to implement any policies.

12 MR. WILSON: That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So right now we don't have a
14 process to implement policy. And this will serve as a
15 mechanism for this Board to follow this process to
16 implement policies from here in the future.

17 MR. WILSON: Correct.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any questions for Director
19 Wilson?

20 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, David Richards
21 again. General Counsel for the Board.

22 I want to suggest also, I spoke just briefly
23 with Member Gonzalez before we reconvened. Some of these,
24 they were listed on the agenda, such as a.2., a.2.I. and
25 b.3. and b.4., I would recommend that we look at

1 rulemaking, simply because the statute calls for
2 rulemaking, and not a policy.

3 But clearly, some of these others like law
4 enforcement training and communication, clearly well
5 suited for a policy. And some of the other items listed
6 under c., activities, might be well suited for policy.

7 But in my opinion, because the statute itself
8 under 1006 requires a rule such as for penalties, or under
9 refunds, under 1006.152, and fee imposed on the insurer,
10 which deals with the penalty and interest for failure to
11 pay or late payment, the Legislature has required the
12 Board to establish rules. That way we have teeth to
13 enforce what we are doing as a Board, or you do.

14 So those three items, I just throw out for
15 consideration. And we can deal with that with the new
16 director, going forward.

17 We will prepare rules for those three items,
18 and anything else we need. Some of the others might be
19 better suited for a policy. So thank you.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: But if there's no policy right
21 now, there is still no mechanism. So we cannot even
22 implement policy until we address this, a process.

23 MR. RICHARDS: Correct. And I think what
24 Director Wilson is wanting to do is just establish a
25 framework. You clearly can add to the process, as far as

1 who gets to look at what, when, or you can wait, as Member
2 Jones said, and look at it a little bit further.

3 And submit it to staff, if you have some tweaks
4 to it, since you didn't get to have any input. You may
5 have some ideas you may want to add to the process. But I
6 think Director Wilson's agenda item is well meaning in
7 that there needs to be a process at some point, whether it
8 is today or whether it is later.

9 MS. JONES: Correct. And it's not something
10 that needs to be rushed, because apparently, it hasn't
11 been done in forever. So I don't see how delaying it a
12 little bit longer until we all discuss and have input.

13 Like, I don't want to sit here, and I can't
14 make a decision based on these pages that are in front of
15 me. I need to have discussion, understanding. Discussion
16 through the staff. Discussions with the new director,
17 when it clearly involves DMV, discussions with DMV.

18 So that is my position on this agenda item.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez.

20 MR. GONZALEZ: Mr. Richards, so the statutes
21 require us to create policy and rules. Am I correct?

22 MR. RICHARDS: That's correct. They clearly
23 separate the policymaking function of the MVCPA with the
24 management responsibilities of Texas DMV.

25 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. So and you're saying that

1 we would be able to edit and modify this process. Because
2 I mean, I am just looking at it from a whole, and I am not
3 sure I like the exact steps of it.

4 But I do support the concept, the spirit, that
5 we need a process for policy and for rules. So if I
6 wanted -- so if theoretically, this Board were to move
7 forward with it, and implement this, would we then have to
8 follow said process in order to modify the process?

9 MR. RICHARDS: You would come back. Excuse me.
10 David Richards, General Counsel.

11 You would come back at another meeting, and if
12 you want to modify the steps, you would make that decision
13 at the next meeting. Or as Member Jones said, you may
14 want to wait and go back and look at the steps, and submit
15 it to staff, the new Director, on what you are looking at,
16 and then take a formal vote on the policy process.

17 If you are happy with it today, you can clearly
18 take a vote, if the Chairman wants to allow for a vote.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. So this is up to the
20 board, correct. This is not up to the Director to have --
21 okay.

22 So for example, any policy proposal in
23 consideration, it can be brought up by any member. And
24 then, we go to step two on development.

25 The MVCPA Director with the MVCPA presiding

1 officer shall determine whether to develop a draft written
2 policy based on the proposal in step one. So this can be
3 changed, correct?

4 MR. RICHARDS: Correct.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

6 MR. RICHARDS: Sure.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So it can be, for development,
8 it can be sent to a committee for policy. It could be
9 sent to the Grant and Budget Committee.

10 MR. RICHARDS: That is correct.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Correct?

12 MR. RICHARDS: That is correct.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

14 MR. WILSON: And that is in step 2. It says it
15 either goes to the Chairman or Committee, as appropriate.
16 So if it is a subject matter for Insurance, then it would
17 go to Insurance.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Oh, yes. I see.

19 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez, for the record.
20 You know, in looking at it, I mean, I think it is one of
21 these -- we can try it. And if it doesn't work out, then
22 perhaps we can change it.

23 I guess, just my concern is, this is a
24 statutory requirement. And so we are obligated to at
25 least have some kind of process in place. But also with

1 respect to that, you know, if we need to make changes to
2 it, then we can make changes to it.

3 But we have never had a process in place
4 before. So we try it, and see how we like it.

5 MS. JONES: [inaudible]

6 MR. WILSON: Mic, please. Thank you.

7 MS. JONES: I apologize. Member Jones. We say
8 yes, and then have to come back to have a meeting about
9 this, when if we just delay a little bit, have a
10 discussion, and make an intelligent decision based on what
11 we need to do moving forward.

12 And I get it. We need to follow the statute.
13 But we have not been doing it. And it is not like very
14 crucial, apparently, because we haven't been doing it.

15 So why rush to have this done, when we could
16 just have a discussion as a Board and decide what is what
17 we need to do. It includes DMV, have discussions with
18 DMV, and those that it affects.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Well, I think, you know, the
20 one thing that I am always looking for is inclusiveness of
21 everybody. And reading this, it is inclusive of Committee
22 members, Board members. Anybody can bring a policy.

23 And the other thing, that I know we haven't had
24 it. But if we don't push for something to happen, as far
25 as a process, then when are we going to bring it?

1 And this is, to me, one thing like I said, is
2 the inclusiveness of everybody in the Board to be able to
3 draft some policy. It is important. But if we wouldn't
4 push for this now, when are we going to bring it back?

5 MS. JONES: Well, you as the Chair can give us
6 a deadline.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Uh-huh. But is this something
8 that we can discuss outside of a public meeting and all
9 right?

10 MR. RICHARDS: He's asking for a formal vote,
11 sir.

12 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, Dean Smith for the
13 record. I don't see a problem moving forward with it, if
14 we had an opportunity to amend it from time to time as we
15 see fit and that it works.

16 But I don't -- I tend to agree with Member
17 Gonzalez, that being out of compliance is not a badge of
18 honor. And we should probably move forward and try to
19 establish a process sooner rather than later, so that we
20 just don't push this further back.

21 And I understand Major Jones position. I get
22 it. But maybe if we move forward, we can still have those
23 conversations and change it, if we have the authority to
24 do that. And maybe that is my take in how we would move
25 forward with this.

1 But I am a little -- you know, when we use the
2 term "out of compliance," it just makes me nervous. But
3 knowing that we haven't had a problem before, you know, I
4 don't know how serious that is. And maybe Mr. Richards
5 can elaborate on that.

6 MR. RICHARDS: David Richards, General Counsel,
7 for the Board. Let me clarify.

8 The work, the concepts behind the policies of
9 this agenda item has been done, is being done. What we
10 are out of compliance is not doing our job; it is just
11 formalizing the policy. So putting it in a formal policy.

12 Mr. Wilson and I have collaborated, and staff.
13 If you look on pages 66 and 67, these things have been
14 ongoing. We have been doing the work. So we are not out
15 of compliance with respect to actually doing the work.

16 The issue is the formalization of a policy on
17 paper, similar to what Mr. Wilson showed us that DMV does,
18 with the multi subject sections and whatnot. So, I mean,
19 don't think you are not in compliance with what work needs
20 to be done. Because staff, Mr. Wilson, and I, we have
21 been doing the work. It is just putting it in a formal
22 policy with MVCPA letterhead at the top.

23 MR. SMITH: Member Smith. Essentially putting
24 it in writing, and formalizing the process. I understand
25 now. I understand that.

1 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez, for the record.

2 What are the implications on this item with respect to
3 the audit that we previously discussed? Because I know
4 that the memo says that the auditor is going to ensure
5 that the MVCPA has processes in place to ensure that we
6 monitor, award grants -- what are the implications of
7 us -- if you are going forward with this policy, or
8 holding off on it. But with respect to the audit?

9 MR. RICHARDS: Again, this is more of a formal
10 memorialization of the work that is being done right now.

11 I don't -- I mean, Salem may contradict me, but it is not
12 a major hickey.

13 Because they will say, okay. Well, let's look
14 at that Item A. Well, the program can say, we have been
15 doing this. It is just not on a formal document, like you
16 saw with the DMV.

17 So they may say, hurry up and formalize it, put
18 it on a document. But it is not a major implication to
19 the Board, a major negative. It should not be, since the
20 work, in fact, is being done.

21 So he is just saying formalize it, and he is
22 giving you a process whereby you can go about that.

23 MS. JONES: So we are already doing what we are
24 supposed to do. There is no need to rush to judgment to
25 vote for it. We are already doing what we are supposed to

1 be doing.

2 MR. RICHARDS: I guess my question is to
3 Director Wilson, when he anticipates the next meeting of
4 the Board occurring? I thought you said, maybe November.
5 Is there anything sooner?

6 MR. WILSON: Not -- I mean, I was talking to
7 the Grants Committee just generally. That at some point,
8 we have a target date of issue of the RFA, no later than
9 March. So I was just backing up from those dates.

10 The reality is, I mean, I will just lay out
11 what is going on here. Several of you members wanted to
12 consider and adopt specific policies that are included in
13 this package.

14 And I asked the Chairman for the opportunity
15 to, instead of trying to adopt policies on my way out the
16 door, I just felt that it was much better to just adopt a
17 process and try to deal with these over time instead of
18 rushing to, as some of the members wanted to bring these
19 policies for now, to vote on today.

20 And so, I felt like it was in the best interest
21 of this Board, as well as myself, to just delay this
22 consideration of any of these policies, and rather just
23 agree that if somebody has an idea, they can submit it to
24 the MVCPA Director. That can be sent over to the Board.
25 It can be sent to DMV. And that is all I was trying to

1 do, was to try to make sure that in my last meeting before
2 this Board, that we weren't going to be in a controversial
3 situation.

4 So as far as delaying the adoption, it is
5 totally up to you. We have had various conversations with
6 myself and others, of ideas that needed to be brought
7 forth, that felt immediacy of a policy. And I just felt
8 like it was bad form to adopt policies at this time.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: My concern was more of, every
10 time that staff brings a policy, we don't have a mechanism
11 to establish that policy. And this is the reason why I
12 asked for a process.

13 And like I said, I asked you, it has to be a
14 process that is all inclusive, because we want the Board
15 members to have some say so in what policy we are
16 implementing. So before, whatever policy that we have
17 implemented, which is, I think, how many do we have? One?
18 That is all we have.

19 MR. WILSON: Bryan Wilson for the record. We
20 don't have a formal policy system. And this was only to
21 start the conversation about future policies.

22 So if somebody has an idea -- some of you Board
23 members where I have discussed independently, wow. This
24 administrative process that we have with the Comptroller
25 might be a big problem. We need a clear policy about how

1 to handle that, when the Comptroller decides that
2 \$6,000,000 got deposited in this fund. Now, refunds are
3 supposed to come to the Board.

4 But the Comptroller has the authority under
5 their own elected capacity. So they had written into the
6 contract for future, that we manage that through
7 accidental considerations for wrong deposits. Part of
8 that is driven by, when I first started eight years ago,
9 there was a \$780,000 refund, because somebody hit the
10 wrong button and deposited money for a very small
11 insurance company.

12 It was supposed to be \$67,000, and they
13 deposited \$670,000. So I guess it was a \$500,000
14 something refund. It was just a mistake. It was a typo
15 in the online system.

16 We didn't have a policy in place. The
17 Comptroller has since put in a fix for that. But if
18 somebody does the same mistake multiple times, we need to
19 have a policy to direct staff how to move.

20 So we do have some policies that you have
21 adopted in the past. But we didn't formalize them.

22 Like the insurance notification I have been
23 sending out to the insurance. Within 30 days of the
24 filing period, we are supposed to notify the insurers in
25 writing. I can't get the information within 30 days.

1 What am I supposed to do? We need a policy to be clear
2 how staff is supposed to behave.

3 Again, the process is good. What David said,
4 what Mr. Richards was perfectly correct. We have RFAs.
5 We have grant rules. We have grant processes in place.

6 We have -- we know when we have written
7 documentation of when progress reports -- those are
8 processes. But the Board hasn't done that.

9 So I am okay with delaying it to be November,
10 December, whenever the next meeting is set. Mostly driven
11 by grants. Because you do have a deadline coming up in
12 early spring.

13 But again, my point was just trying to give you
14 a framework to start future discussions. It was not to
15 bind you or do anything beyond just providing a framework,
16 that from here on out, you will have policies. And they
17 will be developed in this manner. The starting of the
18 discussion will be in this manner.

19 MS. BROTHERTON: Chairman, Member Brotherton.
20 My concern is, is if we don't adopt something now, then we
21 are delaying policy, being able to make decisions on
22 policies until two or more meetings from now.

23 And some of these are -- the things that we
24 need to do to get our money is important to me. So I just
25 wondered if that is -- if we delay this, does that also

1 delay the policies?

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

3 MS. WHITEHILL: Member Whitehill. To me this
4 framework flows well, the development coordination
5 adoption. I mean, that is a good process.

6 And if we are not locked into this -- and I
7 think implementing a process is also a process, right.
8 Because you start with your basic framework, and you
9 might -- as you actually use it, there might be tweaks you
10 need to make along the way.

11 MS. JONES: I have a question. Some of you
12 mentioned that there were some Board members -- Member
13 Jones for the record. Can you hear me? Way in the back.

14
15 So it has been mentioned several times that
16 there were some Board members who this was discussed with
17 prior. Was it like -- who were those Board members? Was
18 it a committee that it was addressed to?

19 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton. I know
20 that a conversation that I had with Mr. Wilson was over
21 insurance compliance. So it would have been something
22 that would have been handled in the Insurance Committee.

23 MS. JONES: Makes sense. And then, you said
24 some Board members. So who were the others?

25 MR. GONZALEZ: So I wasn't -- this is the first

1 time I'm seeing this process, and that is why I was
2 asking. I don't want to reinvent the wheel, so to speak.

3

4 And so, that is why I was asking if this mimics
5 kind of what DMV does. Obviously, it works for them. And
6 so, I just didn't want for us to be kind of creating our
7 own process. If it works for one, it should work for
8 another.

9 So I am not sure I agree with all of the steps
10 and the nuances, but I do agree with the overall idea.
11 This is the first time I have seen this.

12 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, David Richards.
13 General Counsel.

14 Members, if you see issues with the policies,
15 some edits or changes that you want to make, you can do
16 that here, right now, and then vote on the modified
17 process.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I want to say for the
19 record, as presiding officer, I did discuss this as a
20 process for policy making. My concern has always been
21 where is our policy on, for example, grant violations.

22 Where is our policy on certain issues that come
23 up in regards to Task Forces? In regards to insurance?
24 We don't even have a mechanism.

25 So one of the agenda items that was going to be

1 placed was to adopt the policy that was here. And what I
2 want is, again, inclusiveness. Before we adopt any
3 policy, that we first discuss it, and that there is a
4 mechanism to bring a draft so that we can implement that
5 policy. Not that we bring this policy and we just have to
6 go on it.

7 This is the reason that this came about, as far
8 as process. Not for adopting any policy. But I did
9 discuss, as I discussed other issues with the Director in
10 regards to MVCPA.

11 You know, there has got to be mechanism in
12 place, so that we can get better at doing our job here.
13 So this is part of it. And this is why we brought it up.

14 Again, inclusiveness. Make sure there is a
15 process before we adopt any policies, before this Board
16 adopts any policies. And there has got to be something.

17 This mechanism is good, because as anybody that
18 comes to be a presiding officer or any position, there is
19 a start date, and an end date when we all leave. We have
20 to make this better. And if this hasn't been done, we
21 have to get it done.

22 MS. JONES: I agree with you. Just, we are
23 using the word "inclusiveness." We just need to make sure
24 the entire Board is included.

25 And that goes back to my statement earlier

1 today that we need to be more efficient and effective as a
2 total Board. And not have like certain types of
3 discussions, and then we get here, and I don't feel I have
4 enough time to discuss.

5 But we are not going to sit here to go over
6 every single item, and discuss. So I just think that
7 maybe having a different type of process to make sure that
8 what we are saying included, that it is inclusive.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Well, I mean, again --

10 MS. JONES: And I understand the insurance
11 aspect. Definitely, I would definitely defer to you with
12 insurance. I am just saying in general, that it would
13 have been great to be -- having been included, instead of
14 having the discussion here.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Well, the thing is, whenever we
16 bring something to this table, this is where we bring it.
17 To discuss it here.

18 MS. JONES: I understand that, but I am still
19 not prepared. I understand everyone's position. But we
20 can't just sit here -- I mean, I can't sit here and just
21 start reading this, to hold the Board up, for me to
22 formulate what needs to be done.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

24 MS. JONES: So we can proceed with voting,
25 because we know how it is going to go. Let's just vote.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I am going to entertain a
2 motion on this item. But I just want to make things clear
3 here, that this is the reason why we bring agenda items to
4 this Board, to be able to discuss it in public.

5 We can't be going back and forth on issues in
6 regards to an agenda item, and then come back and say, you
7 know what, I was not included. And for now, I want to say
8 that this is why this was written.

9 We can tweak it. We are not saying this is
10 what is going to be. And that is why we were here as a
11 Board.

12 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman. David Richards,
13 General Counsel. One consideration I think you need to
14 take in thinking about a motion and a vote is, the audit
15 begins October.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Uh-huh.

17 MR. RICHARDS: We don't know if we are going to
18 meet before then. And having this in place looks better,
19 I think. And as you say, and as is the case, this can be
20 modified along the way.

21 But I think you need to have a framework in
22 place. If for no other reason, when the SAO looks into
23 the MVCPA, they see this document, that you have got a
24 roadmap, if you will, that can be tweaked along the way on
25 how you are approaching policy development as a board.

1 So I mean, I would encourage a vote today, just
2 to have this in place to look better for the audit. Thank
3 you.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, any other questions?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yessenia, do we have any
7 comments?

8 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. This is an action item.
10 I will now entertain a motion on Agenda Item 4.

11 MS. WHITEHILL: Mr. Chairman, Member Whitehill.
12 I move that the MVCPA adopt the process, outlined on page
13 65 of the meeting book, to develop and implement policies
14 that clearly separate the policymaking responsibilities of
15 MVCPA and the management responsibilities of Texas DMV.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. I have a motion from
17 Member Whitehill. Do I have a second?

18 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton. I second.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: A motion has been made. Is
20 there any further discussion?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I will now call
23 for a vote. All those in favor of the motion, say aye.

24 MS. BROTHERTON: Aye.

25 MR. GONZALEZ: Aye.

1 MR. SMITH: Aye.

2 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All opposed, nay.

4 MS. JONES: Nay.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the record reflect that I,
6 Mike Rodriguez, vote aye. The motion passes.

7 (Pause.)

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, we'll now move to
9 Agenda Item 5, the MVCPA Directors Report. Mr. Wilson and
10 MVCPA staff will present this agenda item.

11 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bryan
12 Wilson for the record.

13 Just, we had a wonderful intern that worked
14 diligently on several big projects for MVCPA this year.
15 And I apologize. I will forward the letter that she wrote
16 with the next Board update.

17 But she really -- or maybe Joe will. I had
18 better get Joe to do that. So but you know, she
19 translated a lot of -- she re-labeled our commercials with
20 our common -- so, you know, for 30 years, we have been
21 doing commercials and getting things. We have been doing
22 television commercials, radio spots.

23 So now we have that ready to go. Instead of
24 everywhere it said Automobile Burglary and Theft
25 Prevention Authority, we put Motor Vehicle Crime

1 Prevention Authority. Because those are all our
2 copyrighted materials.

3 She did a script for one of them that
4 everybody -- a lot of people like and remember from years
5 ago. Where it says, she loves me, she loves me not, as
6 this guy is walking down the street checking door handles.

7 And she did the script in Chinese, so that we can
8 hopefully, later on, pay a translation service to re-dub
9 the film in Chinese.

10 And it was a really exciting time for her. And
11 she got to do insurance letters, with maybe a little few
12 mistakes along the way, but we did really good. But we
13 got it all fixed, thank goodness.

14 But she learned a lot about mail merge and all
15 kinds of -- the work that we do working with law
16 enforcement and supporting law enforcement roles. So it
17 was pretty exciting.

18 And then of course, there is another mention on
19 page 79. And then, each time, as you know, on page 80, we
20 provide you an update of the budget. Sorry about the text
21 being a little small this time. I guess I didn't get my
22 editor glasses on in time.

23 But remember, at any given time, we are running
24 two or three budgets, right. So every time we do these
25 Board meetings, you are going to get, you know, either the

1 two prior, or the current one. So we will be doing '22
2 and '23. We just finished paying out all of our '21
3 money, and so that is why it is falling off.

4 And then by the time we get to the, you know,
5 halfway through the next year, we will start doing '24.
6 So but anyway, if there is any questions about the budget,
7 or personnel, I will entertain those at this time.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, any questions?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. WILSON: I am going to turn it over to Joe
11 for some of these others.

12 MR. CANADY: For the record, Joe Canady. If I
13 could just briefly go back to page 79, to personnel. It
14 is fitting that this is Dr. Wilson's last Board meeting.

15 At his first Board meeting when he started with
16 MVCPA, back then ABTPA, was at this very same hotel, at a
17 TAVTI Conference, which there was an MVCPA Board meeting
18 held at the location as well, during that same week. So
19 it is just full circle.

20 And if I could move forward, direct your
21 attention to page 81, grant activities analysis. Listed
22 here are the current fiscal year, from year to date on the
23 activities of grantees was performed. There is still
24 going to be some more coming in. It is not complete for
25 the fourth quarter, obviously. Grantees are still

1 conducting those activities.

2 One significant is 68(a), the confidential VIN
3 inspections. How there is likely going to be a
4 significant increase in those, when they come about, when
5 the total numbers are tallied for this year. And that is
6 going to be significant in some other reports, as far as
7 training.

8 Because obviously, that is the way that
9 investigators and officers are able to conduct these
10 inspections. They have to receive training to be
11 authorized to one, have the knowledge to do so, and have
12 access to the databases that are required to be used
13 during those inspections.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Real quick, Joe.

15 MR. GONZALEZ: Yes.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I am sorry for interrupting.

17 We are going to go ahead and take a ten minute break.

18 There is some of our guys who need to check out.

19 It is already 12:00. So before they get
20 charged, let's take a ten minute break. Check out, come
21 back, and then we will resume. It is 12:11. We will be
22 back at 12:21. Thank you.

23 (Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We're going to reconvene. The
25 internet is down. So we are going to go a little bit out

1 of order on this.

2 We are going to go into Executive Session under
3 Section 551.071, and Section 551.074. It is 12:31.

4 MR. WILSON: And you all can stay here.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I want to say 30, 45 minutes.

6 MR. WILSON: Members, we will need to go to the
7 room, then.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

9 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, do you need anybody
10 else back with you?

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We will be asking Mr. David
12 Richards to join us, and that will be about it.

13 (Whereupon, at 12:31 p.m., the meeting was
14 recessed, to reconvene this same day, Tuesday, August 23,
15 2022, following conclusion of the executive session.)

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. It's 1:18, and we are
17 back in session. And we are going to take up Item 7.

18 Do I have a motion on Item 7? It is an action
19 item from Executive Session.

20 MS. JONES: Sharon Jones, for the record. I
21 move that the MVCPA Board request that the new Director
22 position be posted as a Director 6.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a second?

24 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez, I second.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will now call for the vote.

1 All those in favor, say aye.

2 (A chorus of ayes.)

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All opposed, say nay.

4 (No response.)

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the record reflect that I,
6 Mike Rodriguez, vote aye. The motion passes.

7 We have a second action item under Agenda Item
8 7.

9 MS. JONES: I move that the MVCPA Board request
10 that two of its members serve with the hiring and interview
11 process. And then, there is a two interview process to
12 replace the new Director.

13 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton. I second.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member
15 Jones, and a second from Member Brotherton. Any questions?

16

17 (No response.)

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All those in favor of the
19 motion, signify by saying aye.

20 (A chorus of ayes.)

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All those opposed, nay.

22 (No response.)

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the record reflect that I,
24 Mike Rodriguez, vote aye. The motion passes. Okay.

25 We will now continue with the report from Joe

1 Canady.

2 MR. CANADY: For the record, Joe Canady. We
3 left on page 81, referring to page 82. This is connected
4 with the grant activities and analysis. Yesterday and
5 today it has been discussed from -- about the grantee
6 presentations from Houston PD, their presentation in
7 reference to the catalytic converters.

8 On page 82, there is a letter from -- or an
9 article written from Lieutenant Chapa with Harris County,
10 their Task Force Commander, in reference to the catalytic
11 converters. The successes that the Task Force has set up
12 there with Houston PD, a number of other state and federal
13 agencies, and local agencies from the area that are working
14 on the issue with catalytic converters. How much their
15 successes have meant to them in reference to the loss of
16 Deputy Almendarez.

17 I mean, it just really means a lot to them,
18 having people that are involved in this, you know, off the
19 streets, and in jail. And now, they are of course, seeking
20 prosecution. On the page 83, I would draw your attention
21 to that.

22 In 2009, and this is from Commander Dana Hitzman
23 from Houston PD. In 2009, Henry Canales was killed during
24 an undercover operation. They were, I believe, buying
25 stolen goods involving a burglary of motor vehicles on a

1 large scale.

2 Later this month, next month, the City of
3 Houston is naming their marine unit after Henry Canales.
4 The family has been invited. And they just want to do this
5 as a tribute, and a remembrance for him.

6 Also with that, Henry Canales' partner in
7 working undercover has recently transferred out. He was
8 the last one in that unit that that was there while Henry
9 was.

10 And finally, with them, the Houston PD has a
11 prosecutor assigned to their grant, part-time funded. And
12 that prosecutor has done such a good job, she is now being
13 transferred out of being associated with their Task Force.

14 So they are excited for her and excited about the new
15 opportunities with having a new prosecutor come in.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I just, one quick comment on the
17 letter from Lieutenant Chapa. You know, this was a
18 response to Deputy Almendarez.

19 I just want to say that, you know, in several
20 conversations that I had with Houston PD, and the other
21 task forces around that area, you know, they reacted in a
22 way that -- you know, it is just very commendable. They
23 came together, and they did an outstanding investigation.
24 An investigation that took down, as you can see, 445
25 catalytic converters.

1 You know, this was the issue. This continues
2 being the issue in that area. But I want to say that the
3 one thing that we can take from this is that when we work
4 together, this is the end result.

5 And we need to continue working as a team,
6 especially in areas where we have several task forces,
7 neighboring task forces with each other. And that we know
8 each other, and we care for what we do.

9 But I do want to say that he is -- that the
10 murder that happened on that night. The suspects that
11 murdered Deputy Almendarez, they are hearing us now. And
12 we are coming.

13 And we are coming to get all of them. We are
14 not going to stop. And continue having these conversations
15 with Dana, and making sure that we don't stop.

16 And the same thing, when Henry Canales was
17 murdered. There are several that are sitting here right
18 now that personally knew Henry Canales. And they still
19 remember him as a great guy. You know, that shouldn't have
20 happened. But this is what we do, undercover, talking to
21 CIs, talking to people that are just dangerous people, to
22 make sure that we get the job done.

23 And I just want to commend the area Task Forces
24 for the Houston area, Harris County, and Lieutenant Chapa
25 for taking the lead on this. And I just want to make sure

1 that we continue these efforts to continue combating this
2 catalytic converter, auto theft, burglary of motor
3 vehicles, and all the other stuff that comes with our job
4 description for under MVCPA. So thank you for that.

5 And we will continue in conversations with
6 Lieutenant Chapa. Because we do want to bring back the
7 family for Deputy Almendarez to give them something under
8 the MVCPA.

9 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman. Dean Smith. From the
10 insurance perspective, with catalytic converters, a lot of
11 the insurance carriers now are experiencing -- and I am
12 sure a lot of the Task Force Commanders are aware of this.

13
14 But a lot of the insurance carriers are
15 experiencing unscrupulous vendors selling replacement
16 catalytic converters and charging a core charge, knowing
17 that that catalytic converter was stolen. We all know that
18 that drives prices up. Insurance premiums go up.

19 And it continues to be a problem. There has
20 been some talk about that, about how to address parts,
21 manufacturers, and or resellers. Even dealerships that are
22 doing this.

23 I don't know how widespread it is, but we have
24 received numerous complaints about it, at least, within our
25 carrier, about this occurring. And so, I don't know what

1 the answer is to that just yet. But I wanted to bring it
2 to the Board's attention.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Member Smith.
4 Director Wilson.

5 MR. WILSON: Thank you. I appreciate that. I
6 know the legislative hearing audio that I sent you a few
7 weeks ago, the Criminal Justice Committee was looking into
8 that specific issue.

9 Houston presented their model policy that is now
10 a city ordinance there in Houston. That you can't -- you
11 just can't have a catalytic converter. And so, I know we
12 have talked about that with Dana Hitzman in the past. And
13 I think we will expect to see some changes in the
14 introduction in the legislation to address some of those
15 issues you just raised.

16 So thank you for getting that on record and
17 reminding us. That is a big part of not -- just remember,
18 our statutory authority is for economic auto theft. It is
19 not just for the theft of them itself. It is for the whole
20 enterprise that takes place that causes and drives the
21 system.

22 So it is something to keep in mind, even as we
23 are talking about future grant considerations. It is not
24 just the theft or the burglary, or the crime. It is the
25 economic impact of that throughout the system.

1 So the next report, as you well know that the
2 grants themselves under your authority are a contract. And
3 so, just, I am going to have Gresham just kind of go over
4 quickly, at a really high level, on page 84, the
5 modifications to your contract that took place under the
6 grant administrative manual.

7 MR. KAY: Mr. Chairman, Board members. Gresham
8 Kay.

9 Since the last Board meeting on June 8th, there
10 have been twelve budget change grant adjustments and three
11 program changes. We provide the list here, as Director
12 Wilson said, on pages 84 and 85.

13 For example -- if you will notice, for example,
14 with Harris County, sometimes there won't be a change to
15 the overall budget. But based on our grant administration
16 manual, if you are moving money into a restricted account,
17 like equipment, an explanation would need to be provided,
18 and that is why there was a grant adjustment there.

19 So this is a list of recent grant adjustments.
20 And if there are any questions?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any questions? Board Members?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: No questions.

25 MR. KAY: And if we can go to the next page, I

1 will just provide a brief overview for education and
2 marketing. So the MVCPA continues to use social media such
3 as Facebook and Twitter. We share information relevant to
4 vehicle crimes from grantee agencies of the Task Force.

5 And as part of that, as we were discussing
6 earlier, the PEPA grant which is now beginning will include
7 digital targeted advertising. And we also continue to send
8 promotional materials to the Task Forces when they have
9 events, and they request those materials from us.

10 I think Joe will do the law enforcement update.

11 MR. CANADY: For the record, Joe Canady. Page
12 87, with the law enforcement training report. Currently,
13 the MVCPA has three classes that are approved for training
14 by MVCPA officers, approved for TCO credit: the
15 intermediate motor vehicle theft training, the advanced
16 motor vehicle theft training, and the recently added class
17 of the vehicle finance fraud that Houston PD developed, and
18 we brought on board to be approved for TCO credit as an
19 MVCPA course.

20 During this fourth quarter, there was an
21 intermediate class that was successfully performed in El
22 Paso. There was a lot of other area agencies from New
23 Mexico. El Paso works in collaboration with agencies over
24 there on a regular basis because of the close proximity to
25 the border.

1 There was other border agencies, MVCPA Task
2 Forces that were in attendance. It was a very well class.

3 And the other for this fourth quarter was
4 vehicle finance fraud in Travis County. We are looking at
5 recreating that in other areas of the state. It is very
6 important for these dealerships to partner with law
7 enforcement to recognize situations where there are
8 vehicles that are -- individuals that are purchasing
9 vehicles from our dealership fraudulently.

10 And often, by the time it is found out, it is
11 too late, and they can't be found. And that vehicle has
12 been exported out of the country, or sold to an innocent
13 purchaser.

14 At the bottom, or almost at the bottom, this is
15 upcoming training, the tentative schedule. We are working
16 on trying to get dates lined out. We will be reaching out
17 to get approval, and guidance with that.

18 And then at the very bottom is the NICB training
19 class that is scheduled at South Padre Island. That one
20 may be already full. It is a very popular class for a lot
21 of the officers out there.

22 Any questions?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. CANADY: Thank you, members.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. No questions.

1 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, thank you for the
2 opportunity to serve this Board, and the law enforcement
3 community, throughout the State of Texas. That concludes
4 our report.

5 I am personally grateful for having known each
6 one of you. But also, these communities that are
7 represented behind me, and some listening online. It has
8 been a honor to serve in this capacity. I am very grateful
9 for the opportunity and the blessings that I have received
10 since I have been here.

11 As Joe said, full circle. October 15, 2014, I
12 walked into this building for the first time, for my first
13 day on the job. I hadn't even been to the headquarters.
14 And I walked into this room.

15 And I met you, Mike, and I met Joe, and Tommy
16 Wooley, and Tommy Hanson. And we started an adventure
17 together. And I am very grateful to end up back here.

18 So thank you.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Bryan.

20 So we now go to Agenda Item 8. Public comment.
21 We have two.

22 Reed Stacey.

23 MR. STACEY: For the record, Reed Stacey,
24 Detective with Dallas PD, and also, Past President with
25 TAVTI. Currently, as Past President with TAVTI, I serve as

1 our site committee chairperson. That responsibility is
2 setting up conferences throughout the state for our annual
3 training.

4 One thing that was presented by the Board in
5 kind of a side conversation was maybe looking into a future
6 training, you know, hosted by the authorities themselves.
7 And I would offer this. You know, training a weeklong
8 conference, it is expensive. You know, when we come into a
9 facility like this, we are bringing almost \$80- to \$100,000
10 in revenue for that week.

11 In the past, and as Commissioner Wilson
12 mentioned, he spoke of the very first time he met here. It
13 was at a TAVTI conference, where ABTPA at the time was
14 having a kind of a -- they call them a one-day training
15 seminar, where maybe some grant writing was discussed, and
16 some other topics. You know, whatever was set by the
17 Authority's agenda.

18 So what I would do is, if you guys want, I can
19 go back to my board and see if that is something we can
20 engage in, in the future. We already have a couple of
21 conferences set up, but we have space set aside that is
22 already covered, where it is no more money out of your
23 pocket for setting up a Monday's type of deal where you
24 know, it could be offered up, where you invite your
25 grantees.

1 And I know there is a lot of change. You know,
2 I have been part of this for 15 years. But if I look at
3 this room, I see a lot of people that have been here for
4 under four years.

5 And with that said, over all these years, you
6 know, through budget cuts and stuff like that, some of the
7 grant-writing stuff, or the public awareness type of
8 training classes may have not been provided to the newest
9 faces. So with that said, I would like to maybe give that
10 as an option for you guys, so where you all could partner
11 back up at our annual conferences, and you know host
12 something on you all's Monday type of event.

13 With that too -- because it is all about
14 networking and we know that, right. We are real good as an
15 individual, but we are a lot better as a team. And if we
16 get together again in that same mindset, where the grantees
17 and our actual association -- it is about 90 percent.

18 Ninety percent of the grantees are a part of our
19 association. But there is still probably ten to maybe even
20 more percent that aren't, and aren't privy to some of the
21 things and contacts that we have.

22 And in no means would we look to set the agenda.
23 That would be up to Mr. Canady and the staff, or whoever
24 is running it at that time.

25 But moving forward, we are already obligated.

1 You know, we will be down in Corpus in another month. And
2 then, we will be in Dallas in '24. I am flying out to El
3 Paso in two weeks to meet with four venues.

4 And if it is something that you guys want to do,
5 I have got to just know that, because I have to set aside
6 some extra space for you guys. But you know, I would love
7 to be engaged with you guys and, you know, maybe address
8 this with our Board. Because even as Commanders cycle out,
9 we have also started noticing that a lot of our boots on
10 the ground, our detectives, there are new faces every year.

11
12 And I was just speaking with the Lieutenant
13 earlier. Our position in auto theft is, it is always -- it
14 is a trend that is always moving forward. And a lot of
15 these new detectives, they are like on a three- and a
16 five-year, you know, cycle.

17 Well, to be an active detective, it takes you
18 probably five years to truly know your job. So with that
19 said, we have to expedite our training, and get them a lot
20 more, a lot quicker, where I had the ability to lean on
21 senior guys. That is not the case.

22 You know, you can look around. And the
23 seniority in auto theft, it is really drying up. I don't
24 know if it is just law enforcement in general, we are not
25 sticking around as long, or if maybe guys don't want to

1 stay in one profession within the law enforcement. Or is
2 it PDs that are developing policies and procedures that is
3 affecting the tenure of those detectives.

4 Me personally, in Dallas, if a new guy comes
5 into my unit, moving forward, he has got five years, and he
6 is out. In my opinion, that is problematic in the future.

7
8 Because as a larger agency within the state, I
9 have the ability, or the obligation really, to help a
10 smaller PD in either identifying trends or vehicles, and
11 stuff like that. But if I am a three-year Dallas detective
12 in the salvage unit, how is somebody from another PD going
13 to have the confidence within me, to give them the proper
14 direction, when in two more years, I am gone.

15 So it is something to -- I know, me and the
16 Lieutenant had a little side talk, that maybe the Board may
17 want to look at, you know, addressing some of these things.
18 That little five year in and out stuff.

19 If I am a patrol officer and I leave, and I am
20 detective for five years, they are going to kick me back to
21 patrol after that five-year stint. How am I going to be
22 that good, effective patrol officer? Or do I lose my CO
23 set as a patrol officer, too.

24 You know, there is a lot of things. There is a
25 lot of, you know, things to be looked at.

1 But going back to the simple topic. I would
2 love to help you guys, as maybe setting up a training
3 space, or something like that. That way, you could save a
4 lot of money.

5 Because we are all very short on time, as
6 detectives, too. We can't spend too much time away from
7 the office. If you open up a whole new annual training,
8 well, that is more time away from the office, where maybe
9 we could all collaborate together within one time frame.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. But you said it was --
11 2024, you said it was Dallas?

12 MR. STACEY: Yes, sir. So sorry. So this
13 year's, 2022, will be down in Corpus. And in 2023, we will
14 be in Dallas. I am going out to El Paso for 2024.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

16 MR. STACEY: And then possibly '25 in Houston.
17 We are trying to get things lined up ahead of schedule.
18 That way, if I walk away, the next guy is okay.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. And I think a lot of the
20 training that I am talking about that we need to bring back
21 is, we used to have anything you know, transnational
22 organizations connected to auto theft. That is not in your
23 go-to training for auto theft.

24 The other thing is grant writing, you know,
25 guidance. On how to, you know, go about even the grant

1 adjustment, things like that, that sometimes, you know, I
2 think most of the Task Forces that do that engage in
3 conversations with staff.

4 But if there is somebody that is new coming into
5 your department, they can always send them to get that
6 knowledge as to how MVCPA works. As you can see, we have
7 17 different jurisdictions that are just having a hard time
8 getting past that process. Because MVCPA is very
9 particular in how you are going to be getting granted that
10 money.

11 So I am in conversations, you know, here and
12 there, with what we can do. At the end of the day, it is
13 the networking that we are looking after, to make sure that
14 there is somebody out there that can do catalytic converter
15 investigations really well, that we have a training for
16 that.

17 If somebody can do temp tags investigations
18 really well, that we have a training for that, too. Social
19 media investigations. Facebook, right now. Snapchat is
20 killing us. But there is a lot of that going on, and we
21 just don't know.

22 So fraudulent titles, and stuff like that. I
23 know we do go with this. But there is trainings out there
24 that we never go back and touch. So it is a good thing.

25 And thank you for offering that. I think that

1 is something that we can have a better conversation as to
2 how we can go about it, with the Board.

3 And again, thank you for that.

4 MR. STACEY: I would encourage y'all to look at
5 the agenda for this coming year. Tracy Hicks with Houston
6 PD, he will be speaking on catalytic converters. And also,
7 social media investigations, and things like that.

8 But for sure, just, you know, I will be in
9 contract. And same, likewise. If there is anything we can
10 do as an association to assist you guys.

11 I know there is training. Anytime you set up a
12 conference, the biggest hurdle you have to tackle is
13 appeasing the attendees, right. If I am a 23-year veteran,
14 I don't need to know or sit through the same class as a
15 two-year rookie would.

16 So having those different avenues, and
17 breakouts, and stuff like that, it is always important.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Another public comment from
20 Tommy Hansen.

21 MR. HANSEN: Thank you. Tommy Hansen. Some of
22 this is a little bit related to the scoring thing on the
23 agenda, but I wanted to add some stuff to it.

24 But on Mr. Canales, I had the very honor of
25 working with Henry Canales for many, many years. We did

1 some undercover operations, and a lot of things. And we
2 were also friends.

3 He and I were both drag racers. I still am.
4 And I had the honor of towing his race car in his funeral.

5 So God bless Henry. In fact, his picture and name is on
6 the side of my car.

7 When we were talking about the scoring stuff, I
8 wanted to kind of touch on things, some historical stuff.
9 Excuse me. I just had eye surgery. Sometime I can see
10 with these. Sometimes, I can't see crap without them.

11 So the scoring thing has come up time after time
12 after time. And one of the problems with being too exact
13 with it is it is an impossible task, because the Task
14 Forces are so logistically different where they are located
15 geographically, demographically.

16 It is kind of hard to expect Houston PD or
17 Harris County to go all the way to assist the Victoria
18 Police Department on something, and driving hundreds of
19 miles. We live in Texas, guys. Hundreds of miles to go
20 assist anybody to do anything. We still do it, but it is
21 one of those things that makes it very different.

22 So that is why we have some of the Task Forces
23 that are more smaller, but don't have the theft numbers
24 that some of the larger agencies are going to have. Yet
25 they play a very important role.

1 Some of the examples of that are a couple of
2 groups that work the border. They don't have a big theft
3 problem. But every day, they are dealing with our thefts,
4 your thefts, everybody else's.

5 So if we base funding on certain things, and we
6 stick to that, it doesn't work. And then, you wind up
7 hurting us, and putting us back to where we were before.

8 Do we need new programs? Absolutely, we do.
9 Midland/Odessa has been on the table for years. They have
10 got a major problem. But the only way to fund
11 Midland/Odessa right now would be to eliminate somebody in
12 this room.

13 That is why getting our funding is very, very
14 important, on all of that. I can't stress that.

15 One thing that has made this program -- and
16 Mike, you have mentioned it several times -- as successful,
17 is regardless of the size of the Task Force, for the most
18 part. There was an incident with one area geographically,
19 I am familiar with. The Task Forces talk to each other all
20 the time. All the time.

21 In fact, I can tell you, the analyst at our Task
22 Force, Ms. Gina back there, gets calls from Task Forces all
23 over the state of Texas looking for help. So it is
24 phenomenal work.

25 So but the only way we can fund new programs is

1 to penalize somebody. And we can't do that. We cannot go
2 that route.

3 Stats only -- if you look at theft stats only,
4 we would be back to 1991, with only the large police
5 departments having funding. If we based everything solely
6 on theft stats. But you have got recoveries. You have got
7 agency assist.

8 God knows how all of us, no matter what the size
9 is, dealing with 68(a) inspections. That is a nightmare,
10 but it is a necessary evil.

11 And I would like to remind everybody that every
12 citizen in the State of Texas that drives a car, well, that
13 pays insurance and drives a car pays for this. They pay
14 for this service. And they also pay for it from the
15 insurance industry, with policies going up, because of they
16 are having to eat all the thefts.

17 So I just wanted to just say this is not new,
18 but we can't paint ourselves into a corner and get too
19 strict with the scoring. Now, obviously, there is minimal
20 things that you have to be able to do, and record-keeping,
21 and all of those things.

22 And you can't have an agency that has got two
23 thefts and one recovery, I get that. But I think every
24 one, most of all the Task Forces that we have now, even
25 down to the smallest one, play an extremely valuable role

1 in what we do every day.

2 And I will guarantee you, there is not a Task
3 Force in this room that at any point in time -- and we
4 talked about this, some of them, today -- would say, I
5 would like to have another \$300,000. But if it comes at
6 the expense of my fellow Task Force officer four counties
7 over, we will make it work.

8 Because they don't want to penalize them.
9 Because you know why. Because they are going to have to
10 call them tomorrow for assistance on something, or vice
11 versa.

12 So we all work together. And that is what has
13 made this program successful. Because unfortunately, in a
14 lot of law enforcement arenas, not everybody plays well in
15 the sandbox.

16 And I'll just leave it at that. But in the auto
17 theft arena, that is not the case. And it has never been
18 the case, as long as I have been doing this.

19 As long as I have been doing -- in fact, my guy
20 at the FBI office tells everybody that I have been in law
21 enforcement so long, when I started, the Dead Sea was only
22 sick. Got to put a humor to this.

23 But the bottom line is, that is what has made
24 auto theft different is we talk to each other. And we
25 always have, always have. And so that plays a part in the

1 scoring, so I just wanted to bring up from a perspective in
2 the streets about some thought process. And that is it.
3 So thank you very much. God bless you all. God bless Mr.
4 Wilson. And what have you got yourself into. Any
5 questions, comments for me?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. HANSEN: Thank you very much.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Tommy.

9 Yessenia, any other public comments?

10 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: No. Okay.

12 Agenda Item number 9, adjournment. I will now
13 entertain a motion to adjourn this meeting.

14 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez. I move to close
15 this meeting of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention
16 Authority.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a second?

18 MS. JONES: Second. Sharon Jones.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member
20 Gonzalez. A second from Member Jones. All in favor, say
21 aye.

22 (A chorus of ayes.)

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: This meeting is adjourned.

24 (Whereupon, at 1:50 p.m., the meeting was
25 concluded.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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MEETING OF: Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority
LOCATION: San Marcos, Texas
DATE: August 23, 2022

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,
numbers 1 through 145, 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: September 6, 2022

/s/ Carol Bourgeois
(Transcriber)

On the Record Reporting
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