

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION AUTHORITY
GRANTS BUDGET AND REPORTING (GBR) COMMITTEE
MEETING

Embassy Suites by Hilton
1001 E. McCarty Lane
San Marcos, Texas 78666

2:02 p.m.
Monday,
August 22, 2022

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Julio Gonzalez, Chair
Sharon Jones

STAFF:

Bryan Wilson, Director
David Richards, General Counsel

ON THE RECORD REPORTING
(512) 450-0342

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. GONZALEZ: Good afternoon. My name is
3 Julio Gonzalez, and I'm pleased to open the Grants Budget
4 and Reporting Committee of the Motor Vehicle Crime
5 Prevention Authority. It is now 2:02 p.m., and I am now
6 calling the committee meeting for August 22, 2022 to
7 order. 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 the Secretary of
10 State on August 11, 2022.

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

19 Before we begin today's meeting, please place
20 all cell phones and other communication devices in the
21 silent mode, and please, as a courtesy to others, do not
22 carry on side conversations or other activities in the
23 meeting 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's 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 and opened this
9 process for discussion. We are recording audio and
10 broadcasting audio and video on publicly available links.

11 Generally comments to the committee are limited to three
12 minutes; however, today we are set up in this meeting room
13 around tables to allow for greater participation. Anyone
14 who comments must fill out a comment sheet that are here
15 at the table, and comments must be pertinent to the issue
16 listed on the comment sheet.

17 Everyone who wants to address the committee
18 must be recognized and always state your name and
19 affiliation for the record.

20 There are few things that will assist in making
21 the meeting run smoother and assist the court reporter in
22 getting an accurate record: Please ask the chairman to
23 proceed and be sure to get recognized before speaking.
24 Please identify yourselves before speaking, speak clearly
25 and do not speak over others.

1 I would also like to thank our court reporter
2 who is transcribing this meeting.

3 To make sure we have an accurate recording of
4 this meeting, it is very important that committee members
5 and anyone presenting today identify themselves before
6 speaking and speak clearly and slowly.

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

14 The posted agenda stated that a quorum of the
15 MVCPA Board may be present at this meeting; however, board
16 members who are not members of the Grants Budget and
17 Reporting Committee will not vote on any committee agenda
18 items today, nor will there be any board action taken
19 today.

20 I see that Chairman Rodriguez is present for
21 information gathering and discussion.

22 And now I'd like to have a roll call of the
23 members. Please respond verbally when I call your name.

24 Member Jones?

25 MS. JONES: Present.

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

3 Please all stand and honor our country and
4 state with the pledges of allegiance. I will now lead us
5 in the U.S. Pledge.

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

7 MR. GONZALEZ: I will turn it over to Member
8 Jones to lead us in the Texas Pledge.

9 (The Texas Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

10 MR. GONZALEZ: You may be seated.

11 Thank you, Member Jones, for leading us in the
12 Texas Pledge.

13 We will now move to item 1.c., Comments from
14 the Grants Budget and Reporting Committee chairman.

15 I don't have much to say today. I am really
16 proud of the work that this body has done and the work
17 that we are about to accomplish.

18 I think that the expansion of the Flock systems
19 and the ALAR is going to provide dividends, exponential
20 dividends, not only to our task forces but also to every
21 law enforcement agency in the state. It is very valuable
22 intelligence, and I am glad that this body is funding the
23 expansion of that technology. And so again, very happy
24 with the direction that this organization is moving
25 forward, and I hope to continue that work.

1 The other thing that I wanted to recognize is
2 since many of y'all have heard, our director, Bryan
3 Wilson, will be retiring after 34 years of service to the
4 State of Texas.

5 I want to thank him for his service to the
6 state and to the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority.
7 He has accomplished quite a bit for us and we're
8 certainly going to miss him, but I guess he's ready to
9 move on to greener pastures, I guess I should say.

10 So thank you, genuinely thank you for the
11 service that you have provided to the State of Texas.

12 All right. We'll now move on to agenda item
13 number 1.d. Comments from committee members.

14 Member Jones, do you have any comments that you
15 would like to make, ma'am?

16 MS. JONES: No, sir.

17 MR. GONZALEZ: And we will now take up briefing
18 and action items. We will hear from Director Bryan Wilson
19 and designated staff on agenda items 1.a, b and c.

20 Director Wilson.

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

22 I appreciate the heartfelt words; it means a
23 lot to me. It's really great being able to serve this
24 board. I was just reminiscing with Sgt. Roden over here
25 about the day we met eight years ago, seven years and ten

1 months ago in this very hotel. It's so funny, the time
2 has flown so fast, but we've done a lot of good since
3 then.

4 So this first item, basically, when we wrapped
5 up the June meeting we said that there was about \$325,000
6 unobligated funds that the board would have to figure out
7 later whether they're going to do more MAG grants and
8 other things, so wanted to walk through these first items
9 that will need to be done tomorrow before we leave FY22,
10 and these are FY23 obligations.

11 Page 14 of your meeting book -- sorry I didn't
12 say that -- this is Bryan Wilson, for the record, in case
13 you didn't know that, Nancy.

14 So the three things we need to do is obligate,
15 out of that money we showed you back in June, three
16 different things. We need to obligate \$35,000 to continue
17 our grants management and tracking system; it's both the
18 tracking system for how the grants work, as well as the
19 payment authorization system that eventually will
20 interface with CAPPs, the state accounting system.

21 So that is the system of record that we use to
22 maintain not only did the application get submitted, it
23 goes from the application to the authorization and any
24 negotiation or changes that get made onto the creation of
25 the grant record, the official state record.

1 And then it becomes the tracking system for the
2 grantees to say, we've recovered this many vehicles, we've
3 made this many arrests, here's some stories that tell us
4 that both demonstrate and the progress report technically
5 demonstrates the activity that's being done to receive the
6 payments, and then they submit their expenditure report
7 saying this is how many officers, so it's really beginning
8 to end.

9 And then there's also the monitoring record.
10 We keep track of the comprehensive annual financial
11 reviews, and then we do site visits and monitoring visits
12 on behalf of the board to make sure that we physically
13 went out and said, yes, there's really an auto theft unit
14 here in this jurisdiction, and they're actually doing the
15 work and have the people. So the whole thing is the
16 official state record.

17 And we created this under an interlocal
18 agreement with Texas A&M, but it's been going onward
19 through a grant, so we're going to allocate the \$35,000
20 for the FY23 grant to continue the system, and they give
21 us different enhancements as grantees or staff identify
22 things that we could do better on the online system.

23 The second thing is although this agency, the
24 MVCPA is responsible for collecting about \$108 million in
25 insurance fees from the insurers who write motor vehicle

1 insurance, and we rely largely on an electronic filing
2 system with the Comptroller of Public Accounts.

3 Since most other taxes in Texas get paid to the
4 Comptroller, we agreed several years ago to write this
5 contract so instead of Bryan and Joe and Yessenia dealing
6 with shoeboxes full of checks and cash, that we could just
7 have this direct deposited straight into the State
8 Treasury, and then the Comptroller can manage the funds
9 directly instead of us sending a payment on a regular
10 basis over to them.

11 And we still manage the collections, we still
12 manage the pursuit of non-filers and non-payers, but the
13 Comptroller does the electronic system, so we pay them
14 \$10,000 to use their electronic system.

15 And then the last thing is one of the things I
16 mentioned at the last meeting: We didn't set a budget for
17 the Rapid Response Strikeforce, and it doesn't have to be
18 done. We can do it, but it's better to just go ahead
19 initially at the beginning of the year to set the amount
20 that grantees can expect to be utilized or available.

21 That doesn't mean that if, as we saw last year,
22 somebody came in for a \$50,000 Rapid Response Strikeforce,
23 the board can still choose to look at those and obligate
24 money if they wanted to, but it's better to just go ahead
25 and start out the year with some money budgeted for that

1 purpose.

2 So what we'll be talking about tomorrow is the
3 first step on page 14 is the obligation of the funds that
4 the board manages their budget in accordance with state
5 law. Are there any questions about those three items?

6 MR. GONZALEZ: Can you tell us in the past year
7 how much did we spend total on Rapid Response Strikeforce
8 grants?

9 MR. WILSON: I don't have that number. I mean,
10 in the annual report I think it was less than \$50,000. We
11 haven't done the FY22 report; sorry, Lieutenant. But I
12 know Pasadena was like \$44,000, so it will be a little
13 over \$50,000 for this year. We've had less Rapid Response
14 this year, but we did have one really big one.

15 MR. GONZALEZ: Because I was just going to say
16 if we can carry over the amount that was spent from last
17 year and have that as the budget line item for Rapid
18 Response.

19 MR. WILSON: I think we've been budgeting about
20 \$50,000 the two previous years we've done it, and we've
21 hit somewhere in there each year.

22 MR. GONZALEZ: Committee members, do you have
23 any questions on this agenda item?

24 MS. JONES: No.

25 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay, good.

1 MR. WILSON: Okay. So then the next thing
2 we'll take up is a couple of actual changes, still on page
3 14, but there will be some actions after we obligate. You
4 know, you have to do the budget first and then you do your
5 actions on awards, so the next thing we will -- let me
6 make sure I got this right.

7 When we set the agenda, I don't know, 10, 12
8 days ago, we thought there might need to be some changes
9 to a couple of task force grants that we would have to ask
10 this board to consider.

11 We've resolved those in accordance with TxGMS.
12 There were a couple of small outstanding issues about the
13 application allowable costs, but we worked through those
14 jurisdictions and got that worked out and still held to
15 our TxGMS standards.

16 Consider recommendations for MAG awards. If
17 you remember there were four conditional offers for the
18 grants, and so what we've done, I would like to inform the
19 committee, so we've worked out immediately three of those
20 grants.

21 We were able to go back to DPS records, they
22 were able to show us what they submitted. If you
23 remember, the threshold was they had to have a dollar
24 value loss in their community of at least \$60,000 to
25 qualify for \$20,000 worth of grants.

1 May be arbitrary, but it seemed reasonable to
2 the board to set a minimum threshold of loss value within
3 a community. So three of those immediately were able to
4 reconcile their DPS records, show us what they provided,
5 and it was greater than \$60,000.

6 One of those -- which is in a particularly
7 strategic location on Highway 77, I-10, 71 and something
8 else, anyway, about four major highways running through
9 this jurisdiction or this area -- they did not meet the
10 threshold, but we made an offer to allow them to join with
11 a nearby community in the same county.

12 Schulenburg is in southern Fayette County,
13 Fayette County was one of our MAG recipients, and
14 additionally they offered to join with La Grange. Between
15 the two of them they would greatly exceed the \$60,000, and
16 so we're just waiting on some final paperwork.

17 But our recommendation -- and I called the
18 committee members individually and just told them what we
19 were going to do to give you the opportunity -- with the
20 two jurisdictions combined as one grant, with one being an
21 administrative city, that they would qualify for the
22 grant, and we planned on issuing that final award soon as
23 they turn in some paperwork for us.

24 Are there any questions about that one, because
25 I know that was a lot.

1 (No response.)

2 MR. WILSON: Okay. Then the final thing was
3 we'd consider any issues with the Public Education and
4 Public Awareness grant, and again, we got all those
5 resolved. And matter of fact, in later pages you have the
6 actual contract.

7 I know I sent an email to you members a couple
8 of weeks ago that they provided the deliverables and
9 milestones that you had requested at the last meeting. It
10 took us three or four iterations, but we finally got
11 something where we could see that we could measure, and
12 then we put the approval process inside of their
13 deliverables.

14 So just because you say you delivered something
15 doesn't necessarily mean that it's what we were expecting,
16 so it's the deliverable and then the approval and then
17 that's what we pay off of. And I think I was trying to
18 represent your concerns the best I could. I think we did
19 a pretty good job, and you can review the contract in the
20 book.

21 So that has been issued and signed and
22 returned, so it's certified complete as far as I'm
23 concerned. I just need to notify the grantee and they're
24 ready to go. But I did want to give you the opportunity
25 to give input at this point before I issue the final

1 certification. It doesn't have to be done this second,
2 but I'm saying.

3 MR. GONZALEZ: I mean, I think it was our
4 recommendation that we just wanted to be able to look at
5 what it is that we are spending money on and just to have
6 that accountability factor.

7 Do you have anything?

8 MS. JONES: No.

9 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Bryan Wilson, for the
10 record.

11 And it does hit the tick marks that Chairman
12 Rodriguez had asked for where it included a broader array.

13 Last time we just did television and radio. He wanted to
14 expand it to social media; that was one of the inputs that
15 he provided at the meeting.

16 You guys said you wanted deliverables,
17 milestones, measurements, both of quality as well as
18 verifiable outcomes of purchases where if we're going to
19 pay \$5,000 for an influencer -- just kidding.

20 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, David Richards,
21 general counsel, for the record.

22 We want to see if we have any public comments
23 on the items that have been discussed by Director Wilson.

24 MR. WILSON: Kind of open me up to my critics,
25 huh, David?

1 MR. RICHARDS: Do we have any comments,
2 Yessenia?

3 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

4 MR. RICHARDS: Thank you.

5 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. And with that, I guess,
7 Member Jones, let's discuss items numbers 1.a, 1.b, and
8 1.c to see if we can reach an agreement on some possible
9 recommendations for the board at tomorrow's meeting.

10 So on this item, what specific recommendations
11 are you seeking, Director Wilson?

12 MR. WILSON: So we're going to be adjusting the
13 budget to obligate these three. The two actions, let's
14 see, I think they are on --

15 MS. JONES: Fifteen?

16 MR. WILSON: Yes, ma'am, thank you. There they
17 are; I knew I'd seen them earlier today.

18 The one action item, the recommendation number
19 one is to obligate the three pots of money, if you will,
20 for the agency in our budget at the bottom of page 15.
21 And then the second thing is to physically award the
22 \$35,000 grant to Texas A&M University, which the details
23 of that award are on page 16 through.

24 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Jones, I'm okay, I'm good
25 with the \$35,000 grant to keep the lights on with the GMTS

1 system, as well as the \$50,000 for Rapid Response
2 Strikeforce, with the understanding that that can be
3 increased as necessary, and the \$10,000 for the
4 Comptroller. What are your thoughts?

5 MS. JONES: I'm in agreement.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: All right. Member Jones, are we
7 in agreement concerning agenda items number 1.a, b, and c,
8 that we agree to recommend to the board tomorrow \$35,000
9 to Texas A&M University for the continued operation of the
10 FY23 Grant Management and Tracking System, \$50,000 for the
11 Rapid Response Strikeforce grants, and \$10,000 to the
12 Comptroller of Public Accounts?

13 MS. JONES: Agree.

14 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you, Member Jones.

15 We will now move on to the next agenda item.

16 Did I get number 2 in there?

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

18 Yes, I think you've covered everything.

19 MR. GONZALEZ: I think it's listed twice, it's
20 under recommendation 1 and recommendation 2.

21 MR. WILSON: Right. Well, one is an obligation
22 of the financial for your budget, and the second one is
23 the physical authorization of the award itself to create a
24 contract.

25 MS. JONES: Member Sharon Jones.

1 So do we need to discuss page 16 before in
2 addition to recommendation 2?

3 MR. WILSON: I'll be glad to answer any
4 questions or cover page 16 through 20. It's a copy of the
5 FY22 grant that I've now created to be the '23 grant.

6 I've contacted A&M. They have no increased
7 costs, they're fine with continuing the same thing. So
8 the way it works, if you look at the bottom of page 16,
9 you'll see that we have regularly scheduled payments of
10 \$7,500, and \$7,500 times four only equals to \$30,000.

11 I'm glad you asked this question, Major Jones,
12 because now that you reminded me and refreshed my memory,
13 I would like to get it on the record.

14 This contract is a \$30,000 contract, not a
15 \$35,000, but what we do is if the board or the grantees or
16 somebody comes up with a proposal to improve the system,
17 we have \$5,000 available to pay them.

18 Like when the board voted to authorize the MAG
19 grants, I didn't have any program for MAG grants. We did
20 the entire thing online because the board voted to do the
21 MAG grants, and I whole cloth created -- my staff and I,
22 not me -- we whole-cloth worked with A&M to create a new
23 MAG grant online application.

24 Again, kind of to the point that's very
25 relevant to this meeting today, if the board decides to

1 make major changes to the online system to accommodate a
2 new distribution method, a new scoring method, or
3 something that changes how we allocate grants, then we
4 have \$5,000 built into this contract.

5 Now, what if it costs \$20,000, \$30,000 to redo
6 the scoring system? We have to come back and the board
7 would have to figure out how we're going to pay for it.
8 But if it's just tweaks or marginal changes, A&M has been
9 very good to work with to fix those things that change the
10 scoring system.

11 MS. JONES: The 5,000 is derived from what,
12 just a suggestion, or is there something that says it is
13 5,000 and if we need to increase from 5,000 then we come
14 back to the board?

15 MR. WILSON: Correct, right. So if you made
16 some marginal changes, just say like we have a scoring
17 system that most of y'all have looked at, the board has
18 looked at, and I know Lt. Gonzalez has heavily used this
19 last system, so we have a scoring system that goes through
20 each of the elements of the grant and then you score.

21 And you say, you know what -- and I'm just
22 making up an example, I don't want to be like this is what
23 it is -- but just say you say, well, I don't really like
24 budget being 20 points, I want it to be 40, so you just
25 want to tweak the scoring system and just move numbers

1 around, and maybe you want to add a new feature called
2 distribution. I'm just, again, making this up.

3 Then you would go to A&M and say, these are the
4 changes we want to make in the existing system, how much
5 do you think that would cost, this is what we're planning.

6 And they say \$5,000. Okay, good. The director just
7 authorizes the additional expense above the core \$30,000
8 that we pay for evergreening and operation, and the
9 changes that we describe to them will eat the other
10 \$5,000.

11 But if you come back in and you say, you know
12 what, we're scrapping the whole thing, we're going to
13 redesign the entire scoring system and here's what we want
14 in the scoring system, how much will that cost? Again,
15 I'm making up numbers totally -- they say it's \$20,000.
16 That would have to go to the board to make a choice about,
17 okay, if you're going to scrap the system, this is what
18 it's going to cost you.

19 MS. JONES: Okay. I understand that. My
20 question is the 5,000 extra, because it's supposed to be
21 30- but it's 35-, that 5,000, where did that number come
22 from? Is that just a number that was decided upon, 5,000,
23 or is there something that says it shall be 5,000?

24 MR. WILSON: The contract is written where the
25 30,000 is evergreening and ongoing maintenance just to

1 keep the system alive and do occasional little tweaks.
2 The 5,000 is built in to say if we choose to do an
3 enhancement -- and I'm going to be clear, in computer
4 parlance it's an enhancement, it was doing this, now we
5 want it to do something else -- then we have built into
6 the contract that if we identify clearly what the 5,000 is
7 for -- like we did with the MAG grants -- then they can
8 tell us, okay, what you're asking me to do fits within the
9 5,000.

10 Then I give them a work plan, the director
11 gives them a work plan, identifies specifically what the
12 enhancements are -- and again, the perfect example was the
13 MAG grant, we didn't have any MAG grant, now we have a MAG
14 grant, and it had to be an application, it had to be a
15 resolution, it had to be a payment system, creating a
16 physical invoice for me to submit to the Comptroller to
17 pay, and then a report system.

18 MS. JONES: Okay. But who decided the amount
19 5,000 as opposed to 4,000 or 10,000?

20 MR. WILSON: The programmer looked at the
21 material that we had, we told them what we wanted, and
22 they said 5,000 would work.

23 But whatever it is, whatever the board or the
24 director wants done to make a change, you have to go to
25 the programmer and say, This is what I'd like, how much

1 will it cost? And if it's more than, if he says, you know
2 what, my estimate -- again, I'm making up numbers -- my
3 estimate is 400 hours of programming to make the changes
4 you're asking, then 400 times whatever their rate is comes
5 out -- again, I'm making up numbers -- \$20,000, it has to
6 go to the board. If it's 5,000, the director can do.

7 MR. GONZALEZ: So basically you're saying it
8 was the vendor's recommendation of \$5,000 in the contract.

9 MR. WILSON: Correct.

10 MR. GONZALEZ: Got it.

11 MR. WILSON: And for this last time in June I
12 just asked y'all -- they did so much work above the 5,000
13 but I asked you to pay the 5,000 only, and they were cool
14 with that, they were happy. But they're a really strong
15 service organization.

16 MS. JONES: Thank you.

17 MR. GONZALEZ: All right. We will now move on
18 to agenda item 2, and I will turn the discussion of this
19 item over to Director Wilson.

20 MR. CANADY: Joe Canady, MVCPA.

21 In March, the board awarded a Rapid Response
22 Strikeforce grant to the City of Pasadena Police
23 Department for Flock cameras. The grant was supposed to
24 go through August 31 of this current fiscal year.

25 There has been some delays between Pasadena,

1 between their city and TxDOT to install these cameras on
2 TxDOT owned fixtures. They are in the process of working
3 this out. To allow them to conduct their grant and
4 perform the activities that they listed in the approved
5 and awarded application, staff is recommending giving an
6 extension to Pasadena.

7 MR. GONZALEZ: And I just want to add I have
8 heard, even with my own agency, of difficulties in getting
9 these Flock cameras up on TxDOT property, so I completely
10 understand.

11 I know that there are certain procedural steps
12 that have to be done and quite a bit of paperwork that
13 needs to be done in order to get these Flock cameras up.
14 So I guess is that the difficulties that they're having?

15 MR. CANADY: That is the difficulties, and they
16 did request an extension. They're the ones who contacted
17 us to request the extension after they informed us of
18 their difficulties. But it is from a TxDOT fixture that
19 they're having difficulty.

20 MR. GONZALEZ: And I guess what's their ETA
21 now?

22 MR. CANADY: Four to six weeks is what they
23 provided us in their extension request.

24 MR. GONZALEZ: Is there anything that the MVCPA
25 can do or leverage its partnership with DMV to be able to

1 kind of streamline this process with TxDOT? Because we
2 have a lot of task forces that are investing in the Flock
3 and ALAR technology, and so Pasadena is not going to be
4 the only one that's going to encounter these issues.

5 MR. CANADY: At this time we're not aware.
6 MVCPA has reached out and asked them if there is
7 assistance that could be provided, and they believe at
8 this point they are close and have the issue worked out.

9 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Jones, anything to add on
10 the item?

11 MS. JONES: I am aware of the fact that it
12 takes a while to get the cameras installed. We've been
13 waiting, we've tag-teamed with DEA, and it's been before
14 COVID, the agreement signed off on, all approved, it's
15 taking a while to get the cameras up in certain locations.

16 And I am all flocktified, I've done my research, I've
17 spoken -- yes, flocktified, that's a new word, coin that,
18 coin that.

19 (General laughter.)

20 MS. JONES: I've done research, I've spoken to
21 a lot of different agencies, smaller agencies, the large
22 ones, the troopers, and there are some gaps that we can
23 discuss separately, but I am pro Flock.

24 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, for the record,
25 Bryan Wilson.

1 MR. GONZALEZ: Yes, sir.

2 MR. WILSON: I just want to highlight two
3 items. First, I just want to make sure that we're on
4 record for explaining exactly why we're needing to do the
5 extension. So this was an FY22 grant that the board
6 issued, and so in state governance and in accordance with
7 state law as well as the Texas GMS, you have until August
8 31 to continue the obligation.

9 If this extension request had come after August
10 31, you would have no right as the board to make the
11 obligation. You would have to either cancel that grant
12 and reissue new '23 money, or whatever.

13 So I want to be clear the reason this is coming
14 to you right now, We just found out about it, we told
15 them to write to you quickly while we were having this
16 board meeting -- actually, I think found out the day
17 before we were finalizing the agenda -- so that you still
18 have legal authority to obligate the '22 funds into next
19 year. And so that's the first issue.

20 The second issue, Mr. Chairman, is I did reach
21 out to DMV to Government Relations Division to find the
22 contact at TxDOT. Now, there is some sort of superseding
23 agreement between DPS, TxDOT and many jurisdictions that
24 controls the placement of Flock cameras in local
25 jurisdictions on state highway property.

1 And so we've provided everything we know to the
2 grantees and to the individuals, but because as a rule
3 TxDOT manages this by region, different regions have
4 different outcomes with the Flock system and there's
5 really, to our knowledge, no way for us to intervene or to
6 interject into that system, because DPS and TxDOT and
7 local governments already have those contracts, interlocal
8 agreements, if you will, in place.

9 And so as far as I know, and after doing the
10 research and talking to Government Relations and them
11 reaching out to TxDOT, I don't know of anything else we
12 could do beyond what's already in place.

13 MR. GONZALEZ: Well, thank you for your
14 efforts, and I guess we can just hurry up and wait.

15 MS. JONES: One quick comment. Member Jones,
16 for the record.

17 I wanted to be clear the delay with the
18 cameras, I'm not saying it's TxDOT; there are a lot of
19 outside influences, trying to get electricians, trying to
20 line everything up, trying to get the parts, so it is not
21 that it was TxDOT.

22 When I contacted TxDOT, the first person I
23 spoke with was absolutely onboard 100 percent. We met
24 with them, continuously we meet with them, but there are
25 some circumstances that are beyond TxDOT's control and

1 definitely DEA's and DPS's as well.

2 MR. GONZALEZ: Are there any public comments
3 for this agenda item?

4 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

5 MR. GONZALEZ: All right, Member Jones, let's
6 discuss this agenda item and see if we can reach an
7 agreement on a possible recommendation to the full board.

8 I would say that we recommend extending the
9 Rapid Response Strikeforce grant for Pasadena because
10 there were just circumstances outside of their control and
11 I believe that they are making a good faith effort to
12 install these Flock cameras.

13 What are your thoughts, ma'am?

14 MS. JONES: I agree.

15 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Jones, are we in
16 agreement that we will recommend for tomorrow to the board
17 that the MVCPA extend the Rapid Response Strikeforce grant
18 for Pasadena?

19 MS. JONES: Yes, sir.

20 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. Thank you.

21 We will now move on to the next agenda item.
22 We will now take up agenda item 3, and I'll turn it over
23 to Director Bryan Wilson.

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

25 I just wanted to call your attention to page

1 22. We're quickly moving to August 31 or September 1,
2 when we try to have all of our contracts signed. Of
3 course, there's been years past when it's been December or
4 later before we've been able to sign every contract. So
5 the obligation was made in June, so we're good as far as
6 the obligation goes, but we always like to have the
7 paperwork done by September 1.

8 So on 22 you see that we've got 19 completed,
9 certified complete; they've met all the criteria under
10 TxGMS, as well as our own processes, the Grant
11 Administrative Manual, and then we have five that are
12 waiting for city adoption or county adoption.

13 You know, they have to go through their own
14 stick-shaking and things to make sure their legal team
15 reviews it, and they have so many readings in
16 commissioners court or city council, depending on the
17 action to be taken. So we're close; I think we're going
18 to hit September 1 or right around.

19 Any questions about this?

20 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Jones, do you have
21 anything?

22 MS. JONES: None from me.

23 MR. GONZALEZ: Are there any public comments on
24 this item?

25 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

1 MR. WILSON: So, Mr. Chairman, for the record,
2 Bryan Wilson.

3 There's no action to be done; this is just a
4 report. I'm sorry I failed to mention that at the
5 beginning.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: Then we will move on to agenda
7 item 4. Director Wilson, all yours.

8 MR. CANADY: Joe Canady, MVCPA.

9 On the MAG grant awards, again, on these we are
10 waiting on 17 that are incomplete at this point; 26 have
11 been finalized and accepted by the grantees and certified
12 as complete by MVCPA. We anticipate in the coming weeks
13 for these to start clearing out as well, too.

14 Again, with a lot of these grantees on the MAG
15 grants this is their first time with the grant process
16 through the MVCPA, so they may have been unaware and they
17 haven't been doing this over and over for years, so it's a
18 little bit slower process.

19 MR. GONZALEZ: Well, I just want to say this
20 looks like it is a ton of work for the MVCPA, and so I
21 want to thank the staff for its efforts.

22 I know as a previous task force commander, I
23 was always calling and asking questions, and so I could
24 only imagine with the number of awards we've given out how
25 many questions you guys are fielding daily. So thank you

1 for your hard work.

2 Member Jones, do you have anything on this?

3 MS. JONES: On the 17 that's incomplete, are we
4 providing like the guidance? Bryan has nodded yes. We're
5 making it as easy as possible, especially since it's the
6 first time. Correct?

7 MR. CANADY: Correct.

8 MR. WILSON: Yes. Bryan Wilson, for the
9 record.

10 Yes. We've done a lot of hand-holding and
11 walking through. You know, what was really the most
12 surprising thing about this for me was that a lot of these
13 jurisdictions are small jurisdiction and they didn't even
14 have a Comptroller's payee identification set up in the
15 state system. I called Yessenia a liar and she said, No,
16 really. I didn't really call her a liar, but I was just
17 shocked.

18 I've been doing grants for all these years, and
19 I couldn't imagine that some of these jurisdictions had
20 never received a payment of any kind from the State of
21 Texas. And so we had to literally send them the
22 Comptroller's forms and get them registered, like many of
23 you have done, I think all of y'all have done.

24 I guess Major Jones was already in the system
25 as an employee, but all of our other board members have to

1 register to receive their travel reimbursement and things
2 like that.

3 While we're on the subject about all the help
4 that people needed and what we've been through, we were
5 paid to work for the MVCPA to do this work and we were
6 glad to do it, and it was a lot more work than we probably
7 thought at the time.

8 We had to create a new accounting system in the
9 GMTS and all that. But back on page 12 -- we'll talk
10 about tomorrow -- I just want to call out several people
11 at DMV who really took on quite a bit of work in the
12 Financial Services Administration, and their names are
13 there, Nhi, Diana, John, Lisa, Jimmy, Nagwa, and Matthew
14 just took on a huge load.

15 All of a sudden we went from 24 grantees to 67
16 grantees almost overnight, and they just stepped up and
17 did it. I'm just so grateful to those folks at DMV that
18 did that.

19 MR. GONZALEZ: I'm certainly glad that we are
20 expanding the number of stakeholders within the state of
21 Texas with the MVCPA, so I think that brings quite a bit
22 of folks to the table and expands our reach, and so we
23 have more people or more entities that are involved or
24 that are invested in the success of this organization.

25 Yessenia, are there any public comments on this

1 agenda item?

2 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

3 MR. GONZALEZ: Then we will move on to agenda
4 item 5. Director Wilson.

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

6 Agenda item 5 is just we were going to talk
7 about the public education award, but like I said, we were
8 able to resolve all the outstanding things related to the
9 PEPA grant -- y'all know how I love to say PEPA -- the
10 Public Education and Public Awareness grant, so this is
11 just a report to show you the contract, and it's been
12 delivered and already signed returned.

13 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Jones, do you have any
14 comments on this item?

15 MS. JONES: No, sir.

16 MR. GONZALEZ: Yessenia, are there any public
17 comments?

18 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

19 MR. GONZALEZ: Then we will move on to agenda
20 item 6. Director.

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

22 This is the real rubber meets the road on grant
23 administration. Eight years ago, about seven years and
24 ten months ago, I walked into this building for the first
25 time, and the board had just adopted what was called the

1 redesigned method.

2 And what it did was it took some pretty fluid
3 reviews, what was recorded as actually being somewhat
4 arbitrary and capricious amounts of grants being awarded,
5 to try to bring at least some level of accountability to
6 how grants are awarded. And I think it was a valiant
7 effort. It needed to be tweaked along the way, and we've
8 made a few tweaks.

9 So on page 40 I'm calling your attention to the
10 statute that controls these grants, and in that statute it
11 talks about that one of your core functions as a board is
12 to award grants, and specifically, you are to award grants
13 that ensure that grants are to help increase the recovery
14 rate of vehicles, the clearance case, and then the number
15 of arrests.

16 So this is for auto theft, it's for burglary
17 from a motor vehicle including parts, and it's also
18 dealing with fraud-related motor vehicle crime. So that's
19 what you're allowed to give grants for primarily.

20 There's some other things in statute I won't
21 cover here, but we're talking about our task force grants
22 specifically, and it says in (c) kind of in the middle of
23 the page, it says the authority shall allocate funds
24 primarily based on where motor vehicles are stolen, fraud-
25 related crime, and as well as burglary.

1 So it's a tall order, because one of the things
2 that you have to have is you have to know where these
3 events are occurring and how often, but as we've learned
4 since '19 and the law was adjusted, we know that there's a
5 lot of recordkeeping that's not being put behind what the
6 law is telling us to do.

7 Certainly when we have motor vehicle theft, we
8 know largely in Texas where it's occurring, but what about
9 local economic development considerations and things like
10 that where some jurisdictions might choose to delay
11 reporting by 72 hours to DPS to see if the vehicle is
12 recovered or not.

13 Well, if there's some evidence that some
14 jurisdictions do that, we've been told numerous times
15 through law enforcement agencies, which means that you
16 could have a 30 or 40 percent reduction in overall theft
17 or other kinds of crimes that are related to this statute.

18 So the problem is the data is one thing and the
19 reality of what you have to do is another, but we've
20 always tried to do that. Matter of fact, in March of
21 2015, I came back to the board when they adopted the
22 original redesigned model in October, and I said, This is
23 not going to work, we're placing way too much emphasis on
24 what you tell me as a grant applicant and very little
25 emphasis on -- and David probably remembers how hostile

1 that meeting was as the lines for the podium went way back
2 there somewhere -- and we said to make it primarily based
3 on motor vehicle theft, you have to put more points into
4 that system.

5 So we've had these discussions over the years,
6 we've had some tweaks, we've raised the points for the
7 value. So there's one thing about describing the grant,
8 and the second part is actually about how do you allocate
9 money based on what you read.

10 So if you tell me that an area with 17,000 auto
11 thefts, what does that mean if you put all the money
12 there, then that means you won't any coverage in the rest
13 of the state but yet the whole state is contributing to
14 this pot of money.

15 So we have to balance that, and so that's what
16 we're beginning to talk about, if we're going to make
17 changes, we have to remember, one is the work that's being
18 done and the description of the application, and the
19 second is about the issue with how do I decide how much
20 money to place here or here.

21 We have border security concerns as an agency.

22 What is the value if I give a grant to the border that
23 maybe has 20 thefts a month but they're recovering 200 to
24 300 vehicles a month? They were stolen somewhere else but
25 they're being stopped at the border. Does that mean

1 something as to determining how much time I'm spending at
2 the bridge, because we have a statutory duty in our law
3 that says we prevent stolen vehicles from going into
4 Mexico.

5 So the last thing I wanted to make sure you're
6 aware of before we embark on this discussion is that in
7 TxGMS there's a section in there where it says state
8 agencies are responsible for ensuring transparency,
9 objectivity, and integrity of the grantee selection
10 process.

11 So it's our job to make sure that people can
12 see -- and again, I wasn't here; David might have been
13 here for one of those meetings, but the board used to try
14 to go into closed session to make determinations for
15 grants. And since I've been here, I've not allowed the
16 board to do that, and I don't mean like I've had control,
17 but we've been very faithful to be objective, transparent
18 and to have all of the discussions out in recorded
19 sessions.

20 And Nancy has been here for most of those, I
21 think; she's got the record to prove it. We have changed
22 how we do business, and we will continue to do that with
23 transparency and integrity.

24 So the question is how much money should each
25 grantee get and how much money should be available to

1 possibly new task forces in the future and more MAG grants
2 and other kinds of grants that might have available,
3 prosecutor grants, Lieutenant.

4 Everything is on the table as we move into the
5 next grant cycle. So just the big picture: we're having
6 a discussion -- this is still summer, as best I can
7 tell -- having a discussion in the summer, there's not
8 vote called for today or for tomorrow's meeting relating
9 to this subject; then sometime in the winter, roughly in
10 November-December, this board has to make some choices
11 about how they're going to go forward to meet these two
12 criteria; by roughly somewhere between January and March
13 you have to issue a request for applications for the next
14 cycle.

15 Now, remember, the legislature is still in
16 session from January to June, so you don't even know how
17 much money when you're issuing the call for new
18 applications, you don't know what else is on the table,
19 whether you're going to get cut, same amount, or
20 \$24 million as the law requires.

21 So this is why it's so important to have this
22 discussion, get input, decide how you're going to meet
23 both the standard and the law, and then move forward. So
24 that's the big picture that I wanted to share with you.

25 I'm not going to read page 41 where I talk

1 about the history of MVCPA, but I think we've done a good
2 job in the system, in GMTS. Our system is very
3 transparent, you can see the comments, the concerns of
4 board members, as well as staff, about individual grants.

5 Those grants have turned into negotiated
6 documents where people put things that were unallowable.
7 We struck it, we're not paying for something unallowable.

8 We thought things were unreasonable: 25 officers for 100
9 thefts, well, that's not reasonable, so we modified those
10 and recommended modifications to the board.

11 Are there any questions about where we are of
12 what I've just covered?

13 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Jones, I know you're very
14 passionate about this subject, so I will turn it over to
15 you.

16 MS. JONES: It doesn't matter what process we
17 come up with, it will not be perfect, no process is
18 perfect. But what I do expect is accountability, whether
19 you are recovering stolens or they're showing up in your
20 city, you're running into them, they're being stolen from
21 your city, the media, what we're putting out to the media,
22 what we are telling our -- we need to make sure that the
23 grantees are held accountable and so when we're asking
24 questions about, hey, how did you allocate this money, how
25 was the money spent, that we hold them accountable and

1 have answers and not just show up with no answers, and
2 then we'll give them the opportunity, of course, if
3 there's something they don't know, to provide answers
4 later, but I do expect accountability.

5 And then from ourselves as a board, I expect us
6 to be transparent, so we should not be holding our
7 thoughts to ourselves. If something needs to be tweaked,
8 then let's discuss it.

9 We need input from the grantees because they're
10 the ones who have to complete the process, they're the
11 ones filling out the application. I don't necessarily
12 agree that we just come up with a formula and say, here,
13 make this work, because we're not the ones out there at
14 three o'clock in the morning, checking the tags, crawling
15 under the vehicles.

16 And so I think it's very important that we have
17 input from our stakeholders, but definitely we need to be
18 transparent, hold ourselves accountable to the citizens of
19 Texas, and we definitely have to hold the grantees
20 accountable.

21 MR. GONZALEZ: I agree, and looking at past
22 performance -- I'm looking at the current scoring criteria
23 values, and I see 15 points for extra credit. I'm not
24 sure what extra credit means, and depending on what it
25 actually means, I mean, it would make more sense to me

1 that a measurement or a key performance indicator for past
2 performance be added as a measure.

3 You know, are you completing the objectives of
4 the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority, are you
5 meeting our statutory calls for reducing auto theft, for
6 fraud UUV, for burglary of motor vehicles, what are you
7 doing for that would be my questions. So certainly past
8 performance is a suggestion that I would have for you, Mr.
9 Wilson.

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

11 You know, Major Jones, I really appreciate what
12 you just said about the formula, because one of the big
13 things that was a part of that formula redesign that
14 happened back in 2014 was the allocation of money based
15 on -- as it turned out, while the scoring criteria
16 provided an input, in other words, it gave a value, did it
17 get 97 points or 90 -- the problem was that the bulk of
18 the formula was actually based on the request.

19 So if you're City of Dallas or one of the large
20 jurisdictions, it's a big ask to try to raise the
21 percentage of your match to ask for \$5 million -- I'm just
22 making up the number -- because you still have to have 20
23 percent, right, behind that.

24 So it's very unlikely that the city is going to
25 reach out, big cities, but some of the local smaller

1 jurisdictions did ask in those years for a huge increase,
2 very large increase proportionate to their auto theft.

3 And despite the scoring and the good things
4 that I think we did back in 2014, the problem was the bulk
5 of the formula actually was built on how much you asked.
6 So if you're in a small jurisdiction and you have 100 auto
7 thefts a year and you ask for a million dollars, two
8 things happen on the set formula that had been adopted is
9 you got most of the million dollars and you knocked all
10 the larger jurisdictions. That's how that particular year
11 Dallas ended up going to 387- or 500,000, because a
12 smaller jurisdiction asked for a really large amount which
13 they had the match to do.

14 And so the formula, what you just said about
15 formula is a really critical piece of thinking through
16 what are the consequences about how we can allocate funds.

17 Again, I think we have a very solid review process, we
18 have five things in the law and you judge the application
19 on how well it describes the local jurisdiction.

20 At the end of the day, when we talk about a
21 state grant going to a local jurisdiction, we're saying
22 that the state is paying the local jurisdiction to do part
23 of its responsibility.

24 DPS cannot hire enough officers and be in
25 enough locations to cover the entire state. You are all

1 over the state, but you can't do everything all the time,
2 so here's an area where we want to get local governments
3 to do the state's work. Right? I mean, that's what a
4 grant is at the end of the day. So those are critical
5 comments of what y'all are saying.

6 Joe put together some things. By the way, Lt.
7 Gonzalez, as kind of an amen, the extra credit thing
8 always drove me crazy, because it was like, I mean, it's
9 not like third grade.

10 MR. GONZALEZ: Can you define what that is,
11 extra credit, how is it being used right now?

12 MS. JONES: Give us an example of true extra
13 credit presented by a grantee.

14 MR. WILSON: Well, what it was was if they did
15 something above and beyond that nobody else had thought
16 about. Well, I mean, I had several of my staff members
17 who would give them ten points on extra credit. I'm like,
18 what did they do? Well, they ran a covert operation.
19 Well, everybody is supposed to be running a covert
20 operation or whatever.

21 So even though people who scored, always each
22 scoring cycle I've tried to teach them, okay, this is what
23 this means, but generally, extra credit was supposed to be
24 something new, innovative. But at the end of the day,
25 many of the staff and board members that reviewed would

1 give people credit for anything that was provided.

2 So I many times asked the board in the past to
3 strike it, and it didn't ever make sense to me. I felt
4 like the functions, tell me what you're going to do to
5 combat auto theft, burglary of a motor vehicle, or fraud-
6 related motor vehicle crime or border security, those were
7 our statutory mandates.

8 So I'm good with just getting rid of the extra
9 credit altogether. So I think it's undermined how board
10 members and staff have applied points that didn't seem
11 like they should be there.

12 MR. GONZALEZ: I agree. It sounds like it's
13 very subjective, and I am wondering how equitable, you
14 know, that was applied.

15 MR. WILSON: Most grantees, this is at the
16 federal level as well as the state -- Bryan Wilson, for
17 the record -- apply some level of objective and some level
18 of subjective criteria, and to me that's the most healthy.

19 There is room for subjectivity about how you
20 describe your operation, but what I've always encouraged
21 the board -- back to that March 2015 meeting -- was to ask
22 that a large percentage of the points should be on how
23 many vehicles were stolen in your area, how many
24 burglaries were in your area, how many fraud-related
25 motor vehicle crimes were in your area. The statute that

1 I showed you a minute ago doesn't say that's the only
2 method to allocate funds; it says that's the primary
3 method.

4 And David and I, we've had lots of discussions
5 over the last eight years about what does primary mean.
6 Well, it has to carry some weight, that is critical. We
7 have somewhere close every year, and it's been going up,
8 of roughly 20,000 vehicles stolen in roughly a 30 mile by
9 30 mile area in Texas. Okay. So you know, Harris County,
10 Houston, every year it's approaching 20,000 vehicles.
11 What does that mean?

12 MR. GONZALEZ: And the number of UUV offenses
13 is not covered in the need section, the 40 points of the
14 need?

15 SPEAKER: It is.

16 MR. WILSON: Right. After that 2015 meeting,
17 the board allowed me to -- so what was happening, board
18 members and staff members who were scoring were deciding
19 for themselves what that meant, and the 40 points for
20 need, I asked the board and they allowed me to change that
21 to I went to DPS for motor vehicle theft information and I
22 recorded based on the top 20, top 40, top 60, top 80, and
23 I would assign if you're top 20 you got 20 points of motor
24 vehicle theft.

25 Now, as Major Jones knows, in '19 I lost my SRS

1 report for theft of parts and burglary of a motor vehicle,
2 so this last cycle that was part of the problem when I
3 asked the board to consider extending the current grants
4 is because I was foot-shot on making the other assignment
5 of 20 points.

6 Now, we cobbled together information, but it
7 really wasn't as reliable as my old SRS DPS report that
8 used to clearly lay out burglary of a motor vehicle and
9 theft of parts where I could assign top 20, top 40, top
10 60.

11 And I guess, at one level, Mr. Chairman and
12 Major Jones, that has to be part of your consideration as
13 we go forward, is what data will support meeting that
14 statutory requirement.

15 Again, it's an FBI index crime, motor vehicle
16 theft is an FBI index crime, but what we need to see is
17 maybe we switch to self-reporting for the other two, I
18 don't know. But you at least need to think about if we
19 can't get solid reliable data for theft of parts and
20 burglary from a motor vehicle, then we need to consider
21 maybe that the agencies or applicants self-report and
22 we'll maybe lower the score, put more with auto theft.

23 I don't know, you've got to think through what
24 that means if the data is not there to support what the
25 primary statutory authority is.

1 MS. JONES: A major factor we have to consider
2 are the DAs, because if the DA is not going to accept the
3 charge, those agencies cannot report a charge. So if the
4 DA is not accepting the ten stolens that we got Saturday
5 night in an operation, the agency, that jurisdiction, the
6 task force command is not going to be able to report auto
7 theft, so we need to be careful that they're not penalized
8 because the DA is not accepting those charges.

9 But then maybe there's something else where the
10 brainstorming comes in, and this is why we need to meet
11 regularly, not just as a board but as a group where people
12 can exchange ideas.

13 So if I can't report this auto theft because my
14 DA is mainly focusing on armed robbery, we respect that,
15 then what else can we do with the grant funding that we
16 were given, because we're already hearing from some of the
17 jurisdictions, well, my DA is not taking that, or like you
18 said earlier, they're going to wait three days and then it
19 looks really great for the citizens of that community, oh,
20 we have a low auto theft rate, but in actuality it was
21 stolen, we just waited three days and we went and found it
22 at Jimmy John's house in the backyard in the shed.

23 So we just have to make sure that what we're
24 doing makes sense, because if we stick strategically and
25 we just stick solely with some of this criteria, then

1 we're eliminating others, so we just have to come up with
2 something.

3 One of the things I really want to get is input
4 from the grantees, the audience that's sitting in front of
5 us, behind you, Bryan and Joe. Like these are the people
6 who's going to give us the answers, because we can't sit
7 here and make decisions for the entire state of Texas
8 without their input, because that's where the failure
9 comes in, so that's something we need to think about.

10 And then something else, who scores, who
11 determines the scoring? Like if Austin PD or Plano PD
12 sends in their application, who's on the scoring
13 committee? Like who decides and what's the criteria for
14 that person to actually score? Do they understand?

15 I'm very concerned about the committee scoring,
16 whoever is scoring, to make sure that they truly
17 understand law enforcement, the needs of the community,
18 the factors that come into play when we're asking for
19 certain crimes to be reported. So who makes up the
20 scoring committee?

21 MR. WILSON: The current policy on scoring is
22 that the staff, the grants staff, except the auditor --
23 I've always kept the auditor out because the auditor is
24 going through looking at the entire budget, making sure if
25 it's unallowable or allowable under just the rules of the

1 thing, so I've never had the grant auditor score -- but
2 the director and the two grant coordinators score.

3 And then in the past the policy has been that
4 the Grants Budget and Reporting Committee members score,
5 but that has been hit or miss depending on who was on the
6 committee and who was available to do that.

7 Now, prior to each scoring event I have always
8 conducted a training, shown them how the system works in
9 GMTS, shown them what the criteria are, what the values
10 are, walked through, you know, this is what the
11 expectation for this category is, and tried to walk
12 through each person who agreed to score if they're a
13 committee member.

14 Staff are required to do it, let's be clear.
15 We sit down in a meeting and walk through the scoring
16 system and what the values and expected values are.

17 Again, in 2015 I was able to get the board to
18 allow me to set some things that were not -- in other
19 words, they were objective, they were just you're in the
20 top 20 jurisdictions, you get 20 points for motor vehicle
21 theft, in other words, the value.

22 So I was able to pull out some of the points
23 where you don't get to say -- because the first time it
24 was like they had given -- it was like a small
25 jurisdiction with ten auto thefts and they gave it a 20 or

1 whatever, and I was just like, no, you can't do that. So
2 we've always tried to hold integrity as a big part of the
3 scoring process.

4 But at different times board members would or
5 would not score or they would review them and make
6 comments and not score, or they would score and not make
7 comments, so if somebody got a three, I had no idea. The
8 current system that we have in place provides comments and
9 a score so that if you give it a three you can say, well,
10 because this is totally unreasonable, you've only got ten
11 auto thefts and 26 detectives is way too many for three
12 auto thefts.

13 MS. JONES: So you said the Grant Committee and
14 you said staff?

15 MR. WILSON: The director and the two we had in
16 the past grant coordinators. I know Joe is now a law
17 enforcement specialist, but he would score.

18 MS. JONES: So it would be you and Joe and
19 someone else?

20 MR. WILSON: And Gresham, I mean, under current
21 staff.

22 MS. JONES: Okay. And then who else?

23 MR. WILSON: The two or three board members
24 that are on this committee, although it's always been open
25 to any board member who wanted to. I don't remember.

1 David, do you remember? I don't think anybody else ever
2 scored.

3 MR. RICHARDS: David Richards, for the record.
4 There have been on very few occasions other
5 members.

6 MR. WILSON: Yeah, Armin, that's right, he
7 wasn't on the Grants.

8 MR. RICHARDS: Right, exactly.

9 MR. WILSON: Okay, yeah.

10 MR. GONZALEZ: I know for the last year I
11 wasn't on this committee but I did make comments on the
12 applications, but I did not score.

13 MS. JONES: So maybe we need to define a
14 scoring committee and if you're on the committee, you
15 score.

16 MR. WILSON: It would be good to clarify that
17 policy because we moved from the redesign -- what was it
18 called, the liaison group or whatever -- then we created
19 this committee and the committee was supposed to drive the
20 scoring process, but I don't know that it's been
21 consistent with some predecessors -- your predecessors did
22 not want to create a record.

23 So I mean, it just kind of devolved. We had
24 kind of a clear policy, but it didn't always get carried
25 out and I can't make the board do anything.

1 MR. GONZALEZ: Right, and perhaps maybe you and
2 I can be a part of the team with the staff.

3 MS. JONES: Correct. And also we need to have
4 discussions with scoring, like with the grantees -- not
5 with them but have discussions, sit down and have a
6 meeting like this, can be open record, but literally go
7 through and make sure that we're all on the same page and
8 understanding. Is that allowable?

9 MR. WILSON: Yes, absolutely.

10 MS. JONES: Instead of doing it individually.
11 And then I had my thick packet of my little notes that I
12 wanted to ask when I got here that was my first time, and
13 I came and I had notes for each agency and I didn't get to
14 ask one single question.

15 So I think that the scoring committee needs to
16 meet just like this, invite the grantees here, or whoever
17 we are, so that if I have a question, instead of me having
18 my little stickies, they're here and they can just answer
19 it, because that helps me determine the process and the
20 procedure of what needs to be done, as opposed to just
21 winging it and assuming that I know the answer.

22 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, David Richards,
23 for the record.

24 Member Jones, we could have like a public
25 hearing where we invite grantees to come and offer

1 comments and you can interact, or you can establish a work
2 group, accomplish the same thing. Either way, we can do
3 that very easily.

4 MR. GONZALEZ: I think that it would help out
5 with some of the other issues that we are having and that
6 we are facing as a board in the sense of if we can have
7 that task force commander here and we can discuss what it
8 is that they are agreeing to, I think that lends itself to
9 the accountability factor that we've been talking about.

10 When certain deliverables are not being
11 delivered, it makes it a whole lot easier for Major Jones
12 and I to sit here and say, No, no, no, you stood right in
13 front of us and said you were doing X, Y and Z, and X, Y
14 and Z are not being done. So I think that would play to
15 lend a helping hand with that.

16 I also see that Pennsylvania, their auto theft
17 prevention authority, they utilize NICB Hot Spots. That
18 might be more up to date data than what we currently have,
19 so I would like to be able to explore that, the NICB Hot
20 Spots. I mean, I know we have a great relationship with
21 NICB and I think that can certainly assist us with that.

22 And just as a side note, I do think that the
23 biggest gap that we have as an agency, as an organization,
24 is the prosecutor piece. I know we briefly touched on it,
25 but I would say the prosecutor piece, and piggybacking off

1 of what Major Jones said, you know, she's absolutely
2 right, you know, it can be very difficult to explain to a
3 district attorney the concept of engaging in organizing
4 crime via VIN swaps and title fraud.

5 So if we can replicate programs such as Tarrant
6 County where you have a district attorney that is assigned
7 to a task force, you know, you've just got to train them
8 once, you know, this is the cab swap and this is the bread
9 and butter of what our auto theft task forces do. So
10 that's just a little sidebar, not exactly relevant to the
11 discussion here at hand.

12 But I think Major Jones speaks for both of us,
13 we're certainly on the same page with accountability and I
14 like the idea of being able to speak to the task force
15 applicants.

16 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, so several times in
17 the past we have done exactly what you've said, and that's
18 probably what the expectation that you were coming is
19 where we would have the grants meeting before the full
20 board meeting to award and give all the members a chance
21 to ask in an open meeting where each grantee would give a
22 five-minute presentation about their grant and then have
23 the opportunity for the board to ask questions. And that
24 was very positive and very helpful, it's just that it
25 didn't get done in this last cycle.

1 The other thing, to your point, Lieutenant, the
2 reality is you can build in the scoring system, if you
3 have a prosecutor or a prosecutorial agreement as part of
4 your task force, you get 20 points. You want to talk
5 about extra credit or whatever, that might be actually of
6 added value if you have a part-time or full-time
7 prosecutor built into your program. That's where you
8 could give additional points.

9 The only other thing I was going to say, kind
10 of going back to Major Jones's earlier comment about
11 considerations for scoring, is that in the criminal courts
12 what we did was we used experts from around the state. We
13 used the dean of the law school to review the grants with
14 us.

15 Actually, in those days the Governor's Office
16 would send over a grant reviewer from the Criminal Justice
17 Division -- I think it's called Public Safety now, or
18 something like that. But we would actually get other
19 grantees to come review our grants with us and then they
20 could score.

21 So instead of just being the group, the board
22 members and the staff, you actually had maybe a law
23 enforcement academy director or TCOLE, or somebody that's
24 well versed in law enforcement, to your point, maybe
25 another law enforcement agency, and then review that, and

1 then you have a broader opportunity to see other input.

2 That was very successful, and a lot of federal
3 programs actually use that system for review to make sure
4 you don't get too myopic with just our little group.
5 Again, we want our group to provide input, but when it
6 comes to making the determination, you want a broad
7 appeal.

8 So if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman, Joe put
9 together some examples of the kind of disparity that we
10 have in our current grant system at the bottom of page 42.

11 Would you like him to go over that just briefly?

12 MR. GONZALEZ: Sure.

13 MR. CANADY: For the record, Joe Canady.

14 When we're talking about self-reported data and
15 relying on that versus other data or in combination with
16 data, this chart shows examples of the self-reported data
17 that's provided by the grantees. It ranges from, on motor
18 vehicles recovered by task force, 67 to nearly 3,000;
19 cases presented to prosecutor ranges from 11 to 784. So
20 that's the range of numbers that we're looking at out of
21 the 24 grantees for task force grants.

22 MR. GONZALEZ: Kudos to whichever task force
23 has arrested 1,200 people for UUVs. So if they're in
24 here, kudos to you.

25 MR. CANADY: Thank you.

1 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, Bryan Wilson, for
2 the record.

3 I mean, this is, again, kind of when we're
4 talking about a scoring system, you've got a wide range
5 about what is your purpose and what is your role in the
6 system.

7 We're running a statewide auto theft program,
8 we're improving communication, we've got three statutory
9 performance measures for three different crimes.
10 Obviously, I guess you can't technically recover a vehicle
11 on a fraud-related motor vehicle crime, but still it's
12 three core elements for the crimes that it applies to.

13 Part of the communication and determination is
14 how do we get the information to continue task forces. It
15 takes two, two and a half years to build a reliable task
16 force officer that fully understands what their role is.

17 To be able to understand all the different
18 kinds of trailers, semi-trailers, trucks, passenger
19 vehicles to do the work that we're requiring, we figured
20 out that it takes two, two and a half years to build that
21 officer with the credentials and capacity to do this kind
22 of work, so it's not something we can turn on and off.

23 MR. GONZALEZ: I would echo Major Jones's
24 statement about encouraging members of the audience today
25 to speak, because this is going to affect your task

1 forces, the allocation of funds and how we score.

2 So I would encourage our stakeholders today to
3 please give us input and what we're missing, what you
4 like, and your thoughts and concerns.

5 Major Jones, do you have anything else before I
6 open the floor?

7 MS. JONES: No, sir.

8 MR. GONZALEZ: Any public comments on this?
9 No?

10 MS. JONES: Yes, somebody has something. If
11 this affects you, we cannot speak for you, we're giving
12 you the opportunity to speak for yourselves.

13 MR. WILSON: You can speak and then fill out
14 the card later.

15 MR. GONZALEZ: The chair recognizes Sgt. Bryan
16 Roden. Please state your name and provide your comment.

17 MR. RODEN: My name is Bryan Roden. I'm a
18 sergeant with the Dallas Police Department, and like Mr.
19 Wilson said, I've been here for a long time, or at least
20 eight years. And I want to say thank you for not saying
21 what we did that night because I can't quite remember and
22 I didn't want it being on the record.

23 But you know, this has been an issue with us
24 for a while. It started out with put the money where the
25 problem is, and you'll see later in my presentation that

1 we went through some drastic cuts and our activities
2 stayed the same. There's been a few things for me that I
3 really wanted to see was these definitions and everybody
4 playing on the same field when it comes to definitions.

5 Kudos to the person who arrested 1,200 people;
6 that's three a day. You know, there's been issues where
7 like the jurisdictions, are we counting jurisdictions, or
8 are we counting task force stats?

9 The definitions that each of us have may differ
10 slightly when we're looking at our objectives and the
11 markers that we have to have, so I've always been an
12 advocate of trying to come together and all of us getting
13 on the same page, because what I didn't really want to see
14 happen was one agency use one definition, another agency
15 use another definition, and those get skewed to where
16 one's markers are risen up and they're able to put these
17 objective markers down, and we just need to all be on the
18 same page.

19 And it was my understanding for a long time
20 that the money was supposed to go to where the problem
21 was, and that hasn't always been the deal. I remember
22 several meetings, one Mr. Richards -- and you know, he
23 doesn't speak very much but he pointed out to this board
24 that we keep saying that we're going to do these
25 definitions and we're going to put the money, allocate it

1 to where we say, and then when it gets to come down to the
2 time where you guys -- and I say you guys, not you
3 particularly but the board -- issues the money, you know,
4 Mr. Richards -- I hope you remember -- he said we're about
5 to lose face with the state because we keep saying we're
6 going to do one thing and then we don't.

7 And for the city I've always graded and always
8 written my grant to appease and try to meet the objectives
9 that have been set forth in the request for application,
10 but then when it gets down to the distribution of money,
11 does that really come into play?

12 We spend a lot of time writing the grants to
13 best suit us and to what the board wants, but when we come
14 down here, it's that stuff either now it doesn't matter,
15 we just need to give money just to give money, and we
16 really need to take those things into consideration, not
17 just to save the face of MVCPA but the grantees as well.

18 We put a lot effort and a lot at stake into
19 writing our grant, and I want it to mean something. When
20 we put it down and the board asks us for certain factors
21 and certain things, we try to do it to the best of our
22 ability, and if we're not all on the same page, I don't
23 want to see our grant and our city's efforts just fall to
24 the wayside.

25 MS. JONES: Thank you for your comments and

1 your thoughts. I echo them completely. Last year's grant
2 process, I, too, like you, went with the definition, and
3 then at the end it seemed that we just systematically gave
4 away money.

5 And so at the end, after we were all done, I
6 had so many questions, so I'm like what just happened, I'm
7 confused. We're supposed to be going by certain types of
8 criteria, and my opinion, I just felt that we just gave
9 away the money. That meeting went so quick, it was like,
10 next, you want a million, you got it; you want 30,000, you
11 got it; and we just checked off the box and it was
12 finished very quickly.

13 So I totally agree with you. I stressed my
14 concerns last year, and throughout the year I've been
15 stressing my concerns, and last year I made a comment at
16 one of the board meetings like I'm sticking to what we
17 have in writing.

18 A lot of you put so much into what you wrote,
19 some of you have professional grant writers and some do
20 not, but even the ones who did not, they still tried and
21 however it was written they met the criteria, and then
22 there were some that I had questions on.

23 I'm not saying that it did not meet the
24 criteria, but maybe did not articulate as well as they
25 should have, and that's why it's very important that we

1 meet with you guys and be able to ask questions, because
2 we're going to be held accountable for this money that we
3 have to get it right; there's no room for error. So I
4 totally agree with you.

5 MR. GONZALEZ: Do we have any other public
6 comments?

7 MS. KNIGHT: I am Captain Shelley Knight. I'm
8 with the North Texas Auto Theft Task Force, and as much as
9 I hate getting in front of people, I felt the need to get
10 up here and say something.

11 I'm very new to this grant, this is my first
12 year, I just started actually in March of this year, and
13 I'm learning, but I'm a very big fan of the accountability
14 that you were talking about.

15 I don't want to get up in front, but I think
16 it's the most important thing that we do. I need to be
17 able to get up in front of you and tell you what you can
18 expect from my people, and I want you to be able to ask me
19 questions and I'm going to answer them to the best of my
20 ability, and I really think that that will be a good thing
21 with this grant process.

22 Like I said, I've never done it before, I've
23 never done a grant process before. I've worked with a
24 grant, but I've never had to go in front of a board to do
25 these committee meetings, and I just think having some

1 very well explained details of what you need from us and
2 eliminating all the confusion anywhere where it's just set
3 in stone this is how it is, this is what you need.

4 I know that our grant was cut quite a bit. We
5 used to have a rather large group. I'm down to three
6 detectives for five counties, and to me that's pretty sad,
7 and I would like to get more but I have to be able to
8 justify why I need that to you.

9 That's all I have.

10 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you.

11 MS. JONES: And to echo what you just said, we
12 talked about a factor being the DA, but another factor is
13 the agency itself, and agencies have priorities, and
14 violent crime in most cities, as far as I know, will trump
15 auto theft.

16 And I can use my own agency as an example,
17 Texas DPS. Our priority is the Texas border; that's our
18 priority, violent crime, transnational gangs, those are
19 some of our priorities. It's the same for other cities.
20 If your leadership comes in and tells you, hey, you had
21 ten officers assigned to auto theft but I need eight of
22 those officers to work crimes against children, robbery,
23 violent crime, assault, that's what's going to get done.

24 But when that's happening, communicate that to
25 us, you should be letting us know. We're meeting

1 consistently, just let us know, hey, my task force just
2 went from eight and we just went to ten, and here is
3 what's happening and expect like low productivity from us
4 because there's no way that two people can go out and on a
5 daily basis just work 100 auto thefts.

6 And also, the auto theft cases that are
7 presented, even though some of those task force members
8 are being proactive, they're also working what is passed
9 on to them from the officers on the street. When there
10 was an auto theft, it was reported and it gets passed on
11 to the task force members, then that's what they're
12 working, as opposed to maybe proactively going out to
13 prevent auto theft. So we just have to be very careful
14 and understand the culture of our grantees.

15 MR. GONZALEZ: Go ahead, Director.

16 MR. WILSON: It's a lot to unpack, but if I
17 can, just kind of a high level rehearsal of what happened
18 in August. So in 2019 we had a very thorough review
19 process for FY20 and '21, and we had all the grantees come
20 to our building and they presented in detail exactly what
21 you're proposing.

22 In 2020, once we got into the year, the
23 legislature, as a result of the pandemic, did an across-
24 the-board cut of 5 percent. We lost several officers, a
25 lot of our programs had to scale back, it was a pretty

1 brutal year, '21 continued.

2 Remember, you may or may not remember, in '20 I
3 cut most of that money out of our administrative budget
4 and we went down bare bones, but the second year we
5 couldn't help but lose officers.

6 So when we got to '22 and a little bit more
7 money, it was this director's recommendation to the board,
8 because we had such a thorough review process, we felt
9 like there weren't going to be any significant changes,
10 that we continued and just increased the percentage.

11 Maybe not the right thing to do, we weren't
12 giving away money, we did have a really solid score and we
13 felt like the system worked pretty well in '19. We could
14 have done that again, but so many of these law enforcement
15 agencies were really hurting, we were out of equipment,
16 our equipment was by then at least four years old, our
17 trucks were worn out, our technology was antiquated, we
18 didn't have trackers that worked on the cell towers that
19 are available today.

20 So I'm not trying to make excuses, but we did
21 carefully consider as a board whether to go through the
22 entire process again or just try to catch up where we
23 should have been five years ago after a \$2.5 million cut
24 out of our budget five years ago and then an additional 5
25 percent after that.

1 So again, I think the board did the best they
2 could under really rough circumstances, but now we're
3 really working on prospectively saying, okay, that was the
4 past, we have a statute that says it's supposed to be 20
5 percent, Will we get 20 percent? I don't know, I don't
6 know.

7 But we need a better process, and part of the
8 process we have, I want to reiterate, the review of the
9 grants, there's some data problems, there's some
10 allocation problems, but the review, is this a good
11 description of a program that I can reliably figure out
12 that if this jurisdiction does X, they will arrest people,
13 they will recover vehicles, and they will stop these other
14 crimes.

15 Of course, as you know, a lot of our programs
16 aren't fully funded so we don't do fraud-related motor
17 vehicle crime or burglary. I mean, City of Dallas, City
18 of Austin, we heard a few months ago, they don't touch
19 burglary.

20 So you know, that's the problem with not fully
21 funding is because now we have pieces of programs -- like
22 you were just saying a minute ago, Major, you've got
23 pieces of programs that people are holding together
24 because we haven't fully funded what our statutory
25 requirement is.

1 MR. GONZALEZ: And I think that goes back to
2 the necessity of having these individual conversations
3 with each task force so that we can find out those
4 nuances. I would even go as far as to say, you mentioned
5 earlier a timeline, you know, our RFA needs to be out by a
6 certain date and we have to have these applications back
7 in on a certain date.

8 I would say add in there this review that we
9 are discussing, a two-day review from the Grants Budget
10 and Reporting Committee with the appropriate timeline.

11 MS. JONES: Absolutely.

12 MR. WILSON: And really, to wrap this up, I
13 just want to -- and I'm not telling you that we have to
14 wrap it up now, but I want to say going forward, we've had
15 a couple of people provide input. We kind of need to
16 know, before we get to November or December, what is it
17 that this committee expects staff to do next.

18 I mean, obviously we have a draft of an RFA, we
19 can create it, but the request for application, or RFA, is
20 where you communicate: please submit your application,
21 here are the standards -- if you'll notice there's a whole
22 section on priority funding -- this is what we, the State
23 of Texas and this board, specifically, this is what we say
24 is our priority, prosecutors.

25 In other words, I guess at some point, to wrap

1 up this conversation, the staff are going to need to know
2 where do you want to go next. You know, we'll certainly
3 have the transcripts to make sure that we go through -- we
4 always do after-action reports and things like that after
5 the board meets, but we need to make sure that we know
6 what should be showing up in November.

7 Today is the discussion, and we were hoping to
8 get more input from the grantees, but what is it that you
9 want for November to begin to formulate some of these.

10 Lieutenant, you just said you want to look at
11 Hot Spots. Major Jones, you said you want clarity about
12 what some of the data is. So is there anything else? I
13 mean, we'll certainly go through this.

14 MR. GONZALEZ: So I would say Hot Spots, past
15 performance accountability, and then also, I know that you
16 have monthly webinars with your grantees, maybe give them
17 during the next webinar the opportunity to give feedback
18 on this allocation and scoring system, that way, you know,
19 everyone gets a voice at the table.

20 MS. JONES: I agree. We just need to also make
21 sure that it's progressive, not just wait until right
22 before it's time to award grants to start asking
23 questions. The grantees, they can start giving us
24 feedback.

25 Like one of my questions would be, and is, we

1 had a discussion and we awarded money for vehicles, and I
2 know there was discussion about leasing a vehicle versus
3 purchasing because vehicles were not available. I haven't
4 heard anything since then. I don't know if the vehicles
5 were purchased, if they were leased, I don't know
6 anything.

7 MR. GONZALEZ: Public comment. The chair
8 recognizes Sgt. Bryan Roden.

9 MR. RODEN: For the record, Bryan Roden, City
10 of Dallas.

11 It was me that went before the board last
12 meeting to ask for the exception on the leased vehicles,
13 and before that, when I was in that meeting, you know, the
14 City has always been very judicious with its spending, and
15 I wanted to actually report back to this committee and the
16 board tomorrow that I have not leased any vehicles, I did
17 not actually use that exception that was granted to me,
18 and I'm very proud of that fact.

19 What we did, we fulfilled our obligations and I
20 was able to find two vehicles that we were budgeted for,
21 and I was able to make those purchases to stay within our
22 obligations. So that recommendation that I asked for, the
23 exemption, was, you know, like in case all else failed,
24 but I'm glad to report back that I didn't have to use that
25 exception and that we fulfilled our obligation and

1 purchased two vehicle.

2 MS. JONES: Thanks for the update.

3 MR. GONZALEZ: Do we have any other public
4 comments from members in the audience?

5 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: There's no action items on this
7 one.

8 All right. With that, it is 3:43, and I am
9 going to move that we go on a ten-minute break. Ten
10 minute recess starting at 3:43.

11 (Whereupon, at 3:43 p.m., a brief recess was
12 taken.)

13 MR. GONZALEZ: We are now back from the recess
14 at 3:55 p.m. and we will begin with agenda item 7,
15 Selected grantee reports.

16 The committee calls the Dallas Police
17 Department.

18 Director Wilson, do you have comments on this
19 item?

20 MR. WILSON: No, sir.

21 MR. RODEN: For the record, Bryan Roden. I'm a
22 sergeant with the Dallas Police Department, and I just
23 want to thank you for this opportunity for us to be able
24 to come here and present.

25 Like I said and Mr. Wilson has said before,

1 I've been doing this a while, and I've always come
2 prepared to be able to answer any questions or give an
3 account to what we do, and so I appreciate the time to be
4 able to come and present to you.

5 MR. WILSON: Bryan, can I just say one thing?

6 MR. RODEN: Yes, sir.

7 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, this meeting is
8 being recorded in both audio and visual, and
9 unfortunately, I just wanted to tell anybody that's
10 watching remotely that they're not able to see the
11 PowerPoint. We will have the PowerPoint as part of our
12 materials online at a later date if they need to see any
13 of the material that's being presented.

14 Apologize for the interruption. Thank you.

15 MR. RODEN: And before I forget, I just want to
16 say thank you for your years of service, Mr. Wilson. It's
17 been a pleasure working for you and with you back when we
18 were the ABTPA and now the MVCPA, so we're going to miss
19 you, and we appreciate all the help that you've given us
20 and the City of Dallas. So congratulations on your
21 retirement.

22 So again, my name is Bryan Roden. I'm a
23 sergeant with the Dallas Police Department. I've been the
24 task force manager for a little over eight years, 19 years
25 on as a Dallas police officer, and I've been a part of

1 this organization back, again, when it was the ABTPA and
2 now the MVCPA.

3 So some of the things that we were asked is on
4 section 3, the application statement of grant award, what
5 are the things that we've done well and not well, and some
6 of our section 3 accomplishments. We really try to focus
7 in on organized crime.

8 We've been able to identify and target groups
9 engaging in organized crime related to auto theft. These
10 investigations are more long term, requiring more
11 evidence, surveillance and background work than a routine
12 suspect just joyriding in a car. There's a lot of
13 evidence that needs to be analyzed and looked through.

14 Some of these groups that we've been able to
15 identify individuals we discovered have ties to drug
16 sales, fraud offenses that we're now investigating, human
17 trafficking and business burglaries.

18 Some of the suspects that we've been able to
19 delve into have been investigated federally for burglaries
20 committed all over the country, and they also have ties to
21 businesses.

22 Some of the locations that we've been able to
23 identify have been kind of acting under the ruse of legal
24 salvage buyers. These businesses that we come in contact
25 with were falsifying documents to get rebuilt salvage

1 titles and used title work to VIN-swap stolen vehicles,
2 and these are particularly in the Mopar and GMC vehicles,
3 the Dodge Hellcats, Chargers, and GMC products.

4 So far this we've filed six cases engaging in
5 organized crimes that's been accepted at the DA's office.

6 That number may seem low, but when we file an engaging in
7 organized crime case there's always the original offense
8 that went with it, so the theft or the UUV -- most often
9 it's a theft -- so it's actually really twelve that we've
10 filed, six engaging off the original cases that we
11 discovered these offenses for.

12 Right now we have two active warrants on
13 suspects related to these engaging in organized crime
14 cases, and in just those two suspects right now that we've
15 been chasing, we've recovered over \$3 million worth of
16 high end vehicles.

17 Some of the tasks that we've done well and
18 counting. We've expanded our program to include uniformed
19 officers. One of the things that I tried to start a
20 couple of years ago, but I really kind of pressed was not
21 to wait till they commit UUV offenses before we get
22 involved.

23 When we expanded our program to include
24 uniformed officers, we've been able to arrest over 150
25 people so far this year, and back when we first started,

1 the idea was that why wait till they commit UUV offenses,
2 if we can identify suspects and know their patterns and
3 behaviors, we just stay on them and stop them from
4 committing offenses. Every time they'd turn around we
5 would arrest them for something. Even if it wasn't for a
6 UUV charge, we could get them on something, and the more
7 time they're in jail, the less they are out on the streets
8 committing these offenses.

9 With those uniformed officers also we've been
10 able to recover 626 vehicles so far this year. And just a
11 quick caveat, all the stats that I go through on my
12 PowerPoint are just from our grantee's perspective. This
13 is not city-wide stats, this is just stats that we do in
14 our office for our task force. We've filed over 150
15 criminal complaints with the DA's office prosecutions.

16 And earlier this year, we were able to build a
17 digital forensic lab -- not we; it really wasn't
18 spearheaded by me but actually Lt. Gonzalez and our
19 organization. We built a digital forensic lab so we can
20 quickly deposit and get information back on cell phones,
21 key programmers, computers, anything really, and we've
22 been able to execute over 20 search warrants on these
23 devices at our digital forensic lab. Doing that, we've
24 been able to clear over 250 cases.

25 So far this year we've had over 150 interviews

1 with suspects and witnesses, and we've answered over 800
2 after-hour call-backs from patrol officers and other
3 people in the City of Dallas. We've also conducted over
4 2,500 VIN inspections at our office as well.

5 We've expanded our fraud program to include
6 businesses, trying to mirror the program that they have in
7 Houston. By no way are we even close to what they've been
8 able to do, but we have forged some good alliances with
9 several dealerships in the area.

10 We've responded to in-progress calls, we've set
11 up buy-backs and stings to be able to prevent from fraud
12 happening from major dealerships. It's something we're
13 still working on but we've got a pretty good foothold on
14 it and we're expanding.

15 While all that stuff -- it was asked what have
16 we not done well. With all that right there, our
17 expansion into more organized crime cases, fraud-related
18 offenses have taken more time than expected. Also, we've
19 been asked to investigate a paper tag issue, as you all
20 know, this year. It was a major priority for the state
21 and the city as well.

22 We investigated several locations, made
23 undercover buys and spent hours on surveillance. This
24 took precedence over other projects. These efforts did
25 lead to an arrest, search warrant on businesses, phones,

1 eventually ending in a successful prosecution.

2 All that being said, some of the things we
3 haven't done well are shop inspections and our community
4 engagements. Reasons for this, one is due diligence in
5 each case has risen drastically.

6 The effects of Richard Miles and Michael
7 Morton, we are held to a greater standard when submitting
8 basic prosecutions, even more so when dealing with complex
9 prosecutions.

10 Our overall auto theft crime rate dictated more
11 aggressive investigations and arrests. We are on pace to
12 hit 12,000 offenses this year. I'm exhausting efforts to
13 bring those numbers down, and I'm not suggesting these
14 aren't important goals, but with the resources we have, I
15 wanted to get the most bang for my buck. I feel the
16 state's money is better spent on investigations and
17 arrests to get the actual auto thefts number down.

18 Resources we needed to be able to meet these
19 for an expanded auto theft world, besides more hours in
20 the day, money. I wanted to expand our program to have a
21 dedicated fraud detective in our office. This would free
22 up time for community events and inspections.

23 Also I would like to add two additional
24 uniformed officers. With what we're doing in the future
25 with our bait car -- we were able to secure a Hellcat, and

1 I'll talk about it here in a little bit -- was that it's
2 going to exhaust a lot of efforts when we start deploying
3 this bait car, and we're trying to build another one next
4 year.

5 With the additional officers, and our city has
6 invested heavily in our Flock system -- and I think last
7 count was close to 100 cameras in the city or maybe even
8 more -- and I'm starting to write operations on these
9 Flock cameras. It's exhausting efforts, not to say with
10 all the other daily activities we have, with the two
11 uniformed officers we're able to proactively hit these
12 Flock cameras when cars go through them, be able to deploy
13 more than just one bait car, and we should have a greater
14 impact on the city's auto theft crime rate.

15 I would like to see some software. You know,
16 it asked what the MVCPA could provide. There is a program
17 that Houston uses called Insight. I've been trying to
18 request that. It's something that there's a lot of good
19 possibilities with it to help be able to identify fraud
20 suspects very quickly. The more we expand into that
21 program, the more I see the need for it.

22 There's also a program -- and I'll be able to
23 send these to Mr. Wilson and the board -- called Abrites,
24 and it's actually a VIN puller. We just recently found it
25 out, and we just started kind of heavily relying on it,

1 and it's actually a device that plugs into the OBD reader.

2 Now, what brought us to that was a complainant
3 said that her passenger doors were stolen and put on a
4 suspect vehicle. Normally with a passenger door we're
5 really unable to have any identifiers on that door to be
6 able to prove that it belonged to the complainant saying
7 that she lost her car.

8 This device plugs into the OBD reader and pulls
9 VINs from dozens of locations around the car, and we were
10 able to do that and prove that the passenger doors
11 belonged to the complainant.

12 We've used this several times on our lot and
13 our office and been able to recover several vehicles with
14 different stolen parts on the car from different stolen
15 vehicles. It's really become a good tool to use,
16 especially on vehicles that are put together from
17 different stolen cars.

18 And we actually contacted NICB to see if they
19 would be interested in helping us purchase this equipment,
20 and so it's something that recently came out, we'd like to
21 try to get more of these devices; they don't cost a whole
22 lot. But I think that other agencies would benefit from
23 it as well.

24 So talk about your task force's impact on your
25 jurisdiction's UUV crime rate, what have you done, what

1 are you doing, and what's the plan moving forward.

2 I would say that our force has made a
3 significant positive impact on the crime rate. As you see
4 in this graph, 2017 our program was harshly underfunded --
5 Mr. Wilson has talked about it before -- we were averaging
6 under 7,000 offenses and our funding stayed at \$555,000
7 for several years, and as the funding stayed at \$555,000,
8 you can see the auto thefts went up.

9 2019 to 2020 funding was brought up a little,
10 and with improved funding we expanded our program to
11 include two uniformed officers to spearhead our proactive
12 policing and curb the rise in auto thefts. Auto theft
13 crime rates started to drop.

14 With uniformed officers, our philosophy
15 shifted. Our goal was to arrest known offenders for
16 whatever charge we could. The idea behind that was
17 simple: don't wait until an auto theft offense before we
18 get involved; the more these suspects are in jail, the
19 less they're stealing. Total arrests from our task force,
20 including but not limited to auto theft charges, was over
21 250 that year, with 340 case files.

22 In '21 into '22, auto thefts were up and we
23 were cut funding mid-biennium. We spoke about that
24 earlier. I believe the rise of this cause was simple:
25 technology really began to work against us. ECM thefts

1 were challenging and problematic, and the new trend in
2 Mopar thefts and the ease of these auto thefts with key
3 programmers started to become prolific. We continued our
4 proactive approach, but with auto theft always evolving,
5 we must evolve our tactics and police strategy.

6 So in '22 moving forward, I'm on pace to hit
7 12,000 offenses this year, but we have secured a Dodge
8 Charger Hellcat bait car to target these Mopar thefts. I
9 mentioned the expansion of our uniformed officers, and
10 with the new bait car we can finally have a tool that will
11 target these specific auto thieves.

12 This car will not be used for burglary
13 deterrent but specifically for organized crime suspects
14 that are stealing Mopar high-end packages. We're in the
15 process of seizing another Hellcat Durango and hoping that
16 another bait car can be built in the upcoming fiscal year.

17 We're still prioritizing organized crime investigations,
18 specifically in the suspects in the GMC and Mopar thefts.

19 We've partnered with non-grantees like
20 Carrollton, DPS, and Plano to assist in these
21 investigations. Right now we have our equipment, we have
22 trackers, pole cameras, and suspects, vehicles and
23 residents from other agencies.

24 DPS has been very helpful with us on pole
25 cameras. We have two on two suspects' houses right now.

1 Carrollton has a tracker on a vehicle that we've been
2 watching daily. So it's really a give-and-take with us:
3 we provide them a lot of help and they provide us with a
4 lot of help.

5 What challenges do you have addressing UUVS?
6 Well, it's no secret that public opinion will influence
7 policing. This year it took a news story to reveal what
8 officers have been complaining about, and that was the
9 paper tag issue.

10 When this story broke earlier this year, our
11 task force was directed to focus on this issue,
12 specifically to make undercover buys on illegal tags. Our
13 task force stopped a lot of investigations to concentrate
14 on this issue.

15 Investigations in themselves are challenging
16 enough, especially after the addition of the Richard Miles
17 Act, so to start and finish an undercover operation, issue
18 an arrest warrant, search warrant and successful
19 prosecution while the media was running this story was a
20 pretty tall order.

21 To summarize, managing everyone's expectations,
22 relaying the procedural difficulties of investigations,
23 that they don't just stop at the time of the arrest.
24 That's a good marker as to how many people we arrested,
25 but that's not the end game, nor is the recovery of a

1 vehicle the end game, but successful prosecution.

2 There is a big misconception that recoveries or
3 even arrests should be our goal, when the recovery is just
4 the beginning, like the arrest. The prosecution sent to
5 the DA's office is what tips the scale in our favor. You
6 can recover stolen vehicles but how does that dissuade
7 criminals? You can arrest every criminal but if you can't
8 keep them in jail or file a successful prosecution, how
9 does that deter crime? The end game is not a recovery but
10 an arrest and a successful prosecution.

11 So far this year we've had 8,196, and that was
12 really on the date of this report a few days back when I
13 completed it. You can see the progression. In 2020 we
14 had 10,630, '21 a little over 11,721, and I'm on target to
15 hit 12,000 this year. We average about 250 a week.

16 Talk about your task force clearance rate,
17 arrests and exceptional for UUVs. So again, all the stats
18 that we provide here are just from our task force. Our
19 task force rate clearance hovers around 18 percent. We've
20 cleared 191 by arrest, 54 by exceptional arrest, and I
21 filed now over 150 case files this year. We average about
22 14 case files per month.

23 So talk about your task force impact on your
24 jurisdiction BMV and fraud-related motor vehicle crime
25 rate, if applicable. Our city is designed that each of

1 our substations have separate detectives that investigate
2 the respective BMVs, but we do investigate -- we just
3 started investigating all fraud-related UUV offenses that
4 come through the city. So we've received training from
5 Houston PD. They came down, the sergeant actually came
6 down to our office, and gave quite an extensive training
7 on this matter.

8 We set up meetings and we have a lot of auto
9 dealers that we stay in constant communication with, they
10 call us regularly. Like I said, we've done stings and
11 buy-backs to prevent fraud and keep the consequences of
12 fraud from happening. And I have even been issued a Park
13 Place Lexus shirt, so when I go and do these buys and
14 stings, I can play the part.

15 How effective do you think your grant program
16 is in obtaining prosecutions and convictions? I think
17 pretty good. We are highly effective at obtaining
18 prosecutions and convictions.

19 For years I've been lobbying prosecutions as an
20 objective marker back when it was the ABTPA. As a
21 detective in our office, your goal in any investigation is
22 a prosecution and conviction. There is on evidence to
23 suggest that merely recovering vehicles or 68-A
24 inspections will deter criminals. In fact, the only thing
25 that will deter criminals is an arrest followed by a

1 prosecution.

2 We've had over 150 cases so far this year that
3 we sent to the DA's office, and I've only had one that was
4 not accepted. We have a good working relationship with
5 the DA's office. Although the outcomes are not always
6 what we want regarding sentencing, it is almost certain if
7 we send in a prosecution, we get a conviction.

8 Recoveries by our task force. Year-to-date --
9 and again, all these recoveries are direct touch, and just
10 to kind of, I guess, explain that, if we're out at a scene
11 and a detective in the salvage squad asks a patrol officer
12 to recover that vehicle, just because he didn't do the
13 report doesn't mean he wasn't out there, we still take the
14 recovery for that report.

15 They have to be on scene or directly related to
16 the scene, so a lot of times if we have a huge chop shop
17 and there's several recoveries, we'll have our designated
18 uniformed officers do those reports, but we're out at the
19 scene so we take the recovery.

20 So far we've done 626 this year, and we average
21 about 56 a month. The City of Dallas has recovered over
22 3,121 year to date, so we do a pretty good part of that,
23 just our task force.

24 Intelligence sharing. I submitted and I passed
25 out some of the recent stats or the bulletins that we

1 provide. Our task force develops its intelligence by
2 direct investigations and vetting information for
3 accuracy. The City of Dallas has a world-class fusion
4 center. It has the capability of reaching every city
5 probably in the DAW area, and I know every city that's
6 adjoined by the City of Dallas. Some of these are
7 bulletins that we've provided, they've gone to the VCC.
8 They've also been submitted to the fusion center that's
9 been disseminated out, so most agencies around DAW area.
10 And again, all of these that I submitted to you was also
11 submitted into the VCC.

12 Describe your service's interaction and support
13 of the coverage agencies listed in your grant application,
14 if no coverage agencies in your area. We provide 24/7
15 coverage and support for the City of Dallas and
16 surrounding agencies, including non-grantees.

17 We work very closely with agencies in every
18 aspect of the investigation. We provide support, we have
19 been provided equipment and support for investigations
20 too. It's a constant take, give and flow.

21 We stay in communication with our surrounding
22 agencies and have direct ties through them through email
23 groups, the fusion center, and the VCC. We are constantly
24 sharing information, bulletins, trends, and meet regularly
25 one-on-one to collaborate. I've seen more detectives from

1 Carrollton in my office the past couple of weeks than I
2 have my own detectives just because of COVID. So we have
3 a good working relationship with everybody around us.

4 Is there any questions or anything like that?

5 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you Sgt. Roden. I thought
6 that was an excellent presentation, very informative, gave
7 us quite an overview of everything that y'all are doing.

8 And so I want to thank you for your leadership
9 and your work to further the goals of the MVCPA. You
10 clearly are doing everything you can maximizing the use of
11 your resources, and so thank you for that incredibly
12 informative presentation.

13 I would encourage you to seek out that
14 collaboration with that DA and see how you can add on that
15 portion of a district attorney to your task force.

16 As far as software, I'm not sure if the MVCPA
17 can explore ways that maybe we can get licenses, buy them
18 from the MVCPA and issue them to our task force members.
19 I think there's quite a bit of red tape and bureaucracy
20 levels to go through when purchasing software at a local
21 level, and so maybe if we can centralize that. I'm not
22 sure if that's something we can look into, Director?

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

25 It is possible that many of the vendors that

1 are already on the state contract or through sole source
2 procurement. In other words, it's just like a few years
3 ago I was trying to get Berla to train our officers when
4 NICB said, well, we've already trained twelve of our
5 agents that are available. So it was like, okay, you
6 don't want to pay for something twice. I'm not sure if it
7 wouldn't if it wouldn't be better anyway, but we kind of
8 dropped that.

9 But like DMV had found a system when they had
10 their Criminal Investigation Division, or whatever that
11 stood for, they had a unit that had software called
12 Hamari, so like you would get a cell phone on a Craigslist
13 ad and they could run through all night long while the
14 investigator would tell all the places where this same
15 phone number had been used.

16 There's thing that we could probably do. DMV
17 was going to buy that and I tried to tag onto the
18 purchase, but if the task forces don't communicate or at
19 least agree on some type of software that would be helpful
20 for them, then I don't know if we could do a one-off or
21 things like that.

22 It would be buying 24 licenses and saying
23 everybody can use this, or even ten if it's just practical
24 for large ones. It is possible. If it's on the state
25 contract, it's very easy to do, but if it's not on the

1 state contract, there are things that we could do to
2 support.

3 MR. GONZALEZ: And then with respect to paper
4 tags, I certainly hope that the workload with respect to
5 paper tags has been reduced. I do know that DMV has made
6 great strides in their efforts to curtail the fraudulent
7 use of the paper tag system. And just anecdotally
8 speaking, I know that for me I'm seeing a lot less of them
9 out there on the streets.

10 Now I'm just seeing the ones that are just
11 completely made up on photoshop, but not necessarily the
12 tags that are legitimately obtained through the eTAG
13 system. So hopefully that reduces the workload on your
14 task forces.

15 MR. RODEN: And just to respond to that real
16 quick, we all have seen a remarkable decrease in those
17 type of tags that have been issued, and it seems like the
18 ones we see now are more like noticeable, which is good,
19 because we notice them on a lot more stolen vehicles than
20 we had before.

21 There's a lot of illegally printed paper tags
22 on legitimate cars, and now we're seeing more just bogus
23 paper tags on stolen cars. So the issue has made some
24 headway, and I appreciate the DMV's efforts in that.

25 MR. GONZALEZ: Major Jones, do you have

1 anything?

2 MS. JONES: Fraud investigations, what
3 percentage or how many fraud investigations do you guys
4 have? I know you're not working them but how many cases?

5 MR. RODEN: Well, we do work them, and so they
6 usually come in the form of offenses that come to us, a
7 false statement to obtain credit, and these are the
8 offenses that come to us where it's very obvious that the
9 people are using these false statements to steal the
10 vehicle, that they never intended to pay for it.

11 So we're averaging around ten a month on those.

12 Some of them come in with good information that we're
13 able to work, some aren't. We just got into one, it was
14 actually Friday when we got a good suspect who was trying
15 to get the car brought back. So we've seen a lot of them.

16 Now, not every fraud offense we work, just the fraud that
17 is geared towards people stealing vehicles, and not
18 bringing them back.

19 MS. JONES: You're planning to ask for one
20 fraud investigator. Correct?

21 MR. RODEN: Yes, ma'am.

22 MS. JONES: Is one fraud investigator enough?
23 And if you got an additional investigator, can that person
24 also cover the community engagement and shop inspections
25 if you got more than one?

1 MR. RODEN: Oh, you know, humbly I would ask
2 for one because one is more than zero, but I don't think
3 it would ever be enough in the City of Dallas when it
4 comes down to it. There's so many business inspections
5 that we need to perform.

6 I think with one fraud investigator, and if I
7 could get two, yeah, we would definitely be able to do
8 more of the community engagements. And I think what
9 happened with the community engagements, after COVID those
10 have been slow to come back.

11 You know, I don't know if it's just been
12 society is just kind of more scared to get back together,
13 or what the case may be, but we just haven't had as many
14 of them as we had in the past. So I think there is an
15 aspect of that, too, that I probably didn't talk about,
16 but that could be some of the reason why our community
17 engagements have fell down, but definitely the shop
18 inspections.

19 And the reason the shop inspections have fallen
20 is just because each case there's just such a higher level
21 of due diligence on each case. Usually, you know, three
22 to four years ago filing a prosecution would take three to
23 four to five hours, now it's taking days to get
24 everything, all the information that's required from the
25 district attorney's office to them.

1 So to answer your question, yes, two would be
2 very adequate, and I'm just trying to play a juggling act,
3 should I ask for one detective and then two more officers
4 for the uniformed aspect to make these arrests on people
5 that we file on or put warrants out on. So it's a
6 juggling act that I am trying to balance, but I would say
7 yes.

8 MS. JONES: My suggestion would be to ask for
9 what you need and not just go with the minimum, and two is
10 one and one is none. And what will probably happen -- and
11 I'm not saying that you will get two, but what I foresee,
12 based on your numbers, that you're going to get one person
13 to do the number of fraud that you just said, and then you
14 want to do shop inspections and then you're going to come
15 back the next year and say I need an additional person.
16 That's what I foresee based on the numbers that you
17 presented.

18 And my question goes to technology. If you
19 would send an email, perhaps through the lieutenant, of
20 the software that you mentioned. And also for this
21 board's purpose, technology is key and it's kind of like
22 you have an iPhone, remember you used to have the Nokia
23 phone and now we're up to, I don't know, is it iPhone 15?
24 I don't know what's happening these days, I have to ask
25 my kids.

1 But technology is important, and so criminals
2 are very smart; they come up with a way to always
3 circumvent the system, and we need to be smarter and don't
4 let them outsmart us, so definitely technology is key, we
5 just have to find a way, like Mr. Wilson said, to figure
6 out the licenses and how many can use one particular
7 software.

8 But I like the idea of the technology, because,
9 yes, you're correct, when you plug it in, it literally
10 gives you all types of information that you need to even
11 speed up an investigation. Where it would take a lot more
12 manpower and paperwork, that one little piece of equipment
13 just gives a lot of information.

14 Thank you for the details and putting a lot
15 into your presentation.

16 MR. RODEN: Well, you're welcome, ma'am. Thank
17 you for your comments, and I'll definitely ask for two and
18 exactly what I need, so be ready for that when it comes.

19 MS. JONES: Just be able to justify it.

20 MR. RODEN: I'm good with that.

21 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman?

22 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you, Sgt. Roden.

23 MR. WILSON: Can I ask one question?

24 MR. GONZALEZ: Yes, sir.

25 MR. WILSON: Thank you for your kind words.

1 But also, going back to the part about the arrest is just
2 the beginning, are you just saying on that slide that that
3 is the beginning, or can you kind of clarify what you
4 meant by that? I guess I wasn't quite following.

5 MR. RODEN: Yeah. I can answer for myself, and
6 what we have to do in the City of Dallas and what has to
7 go to the DA, and really arresting somebody is just the
8 beginning of any type of investigation.

9 If I arrested somebody at a chop shop for
10 chopping up however many vehicles there are, if I can't
11 put together a successful prosecution -- I can recover all
12 those cars and I can put him in jail, but if I can't do a
13 successful prosecution and I can't prove what needs to be
14 proved up after the fact and after the arrest or the
15 things leading up to the arrest, then my notion is what
16 have I done except recovered some vehicles and arrested
17 somebody. And if he gets out without a successful
18 prosecution, he really just learned that he's gotten away
19 with this crime.

20 So you know, my whole philosophy in the office
21 has been like if you get a case, the end goal is a
22 prosecution that's accepted by the DA's office and not
23 just if I pull a car over and there's somebody who's
24 stolen in it, putting them in jail.

25 That's one thing, but getting everything to the

1 DA so they can keep this guy in jail or get a conviction
2 is something else. So there's a lot of work that is done
3 after the arrest and after the recoveries, and so I don't
4 want that to be kind of pushed to the side.

5 And that's why for years I've always said for a
6 time we would like have our own markers. Like if we
7 wanted to add a category into our grants and goals, we
8 could, and one of the things that I've always added was
9 prosecutions, and to me that's like the suture that keeps
10 everything together is a good prosecution sent to the DA's
11 office.

12 MR. GONZALEZ: And just to piggyback on that, I
13 know that one of the items -- I know I talk about these
14 prosecutors, but I would love to see prosecutors in
15 multiple task forces and specifically focused not only on
16 engaging in organized crime cases but also to focus on
17 prosecution of the habitual offenders of auto theft.

18 And it takes significantly more amounts of
19 resources for a prosecutor to sit down with defense
20 counsel and say, okay, no, we're okay to do 20 years
21 unless you provide a task force with some amazing
22 intelligence about chop shops and whatnot. It's a lot of
23 strain on a district attorney's office to be able to take
24 on those cases, and so I think that if we span into the
25 prosecutors, that's going to give us another tool in

1 addressing auto theft via addressing the habitual offender
2 statute.

3 MR. RODEN: I agree, totally agree.

4 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Sgt. Roden.

5 MR. GONZALEZ: Any other public comment on this
6 item?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. GONZALEZ: All right. Thank you, Sgt.
9 Roden.

10 We will move on to Houston.

11 MR. MENENDEZ-SIERRA: Hi. I'm Lt. Luis
12 Menendez-Sierra from Houston Police Department. Thank you
13 for having me here. I'd like to start off by apologizing.
14 My commander was supposed to be here, but she had a
15 matter to attend to last minute and she could not attend.

16 So we'll try to go through each one. I don't
17 think my PowerPoint is as fancy as Dallas, but I'm working
18 on it.

19 So as far as what we've done well, we have been
20 doing a good job in the identification and arrests of MVT
21 and FR MVC groups. Over the past seven months, task force
22 officers have identified and arrested twelve major auto
23 theft rings. These crews are responsible for everything
24 from Chevrolet trucks to Lamborghinis.

25 We had one that was just specializing in those

1 high-end vehicles that led us all over the country, to
2 Florida, up north, everywhere. They were just kind of
3 VIN-switching all these, renting out these very expensive
4 cars, VIN-switching them, and next thing you know they
5 were in Houston.

6 So that's still in progress, still trying to
7 get the entire group under there, so I can't give too many
8 details on that one, but we have made arrests on that.
9 The crews were suspected to have been responsible for tens
10 of millions of dollars in theft.

11 Although we have not underperformed in any
12 areas statistically, we do believe we could improve our
13 BMV numbers. We are working to put together more
14 operations that have BMV target areas, such as major
15 sporting events.

16 Just recently they started targeting our
17 Houston Astros games, so our guys started spending some
18 late nights out there just trying to patrol and making
19 sure that we could try to find them, but we weren't very
20 successful on that end. They kind of hit it and then
21 moved on to another location. Sadly, it was all over
22 there news, because that's just what happens.

23 So we're going to try to focus on also malls,
24 shopping centers, and anyplace where large groups of
25 people drive and leave their vehicles unattended. Since

1 auto theft crews are difficult to catch, more time was
2 expended on those crews than on BMVs. As always, more
3 manpower would help in these cases and the possibility of
4 allocating more overtime funds for use in these
5 operations.

6 Talk about your task force impact on your
7 jurisdiction's UUV and MVT crime rate and what you have
8 done, what you're doing, and what's the plan going
9 forward. Although we have seen an increase in MVTs in
10 2022 compared to 2021, we have been coordinating with our
11 division of crime suppression teams and division of gang
12 units, using our bait vehicle program, which we're proud
13 to say has a 100 percent conviction rate. We have added a
14 unique vehicle. I won't list it because everyone is just
15 going to know what kind of cars we're putting out there,
16 so it's starting to scare me.

17 And we're trying to get more intel on location
18 of possible VIN switches and locations where vehicles are
19 parked while they cool down. We're also reaching out to
20 neighboring task forces to share information or assist
21 where needed, just as sometimes we ask these departments
22 for assistance.

23 We're always evolving with the current trends
24 to keep up with the changing methods auto theft suspects
25 are continually using to commit motor vehicle theft. For

1 example, one of our more technical officers has learned
2 how to program General Motors ECMs using HP tuners.

3 We also have a local school that's kind of
4 partnering, helping us and they teach automotive
5 electronics, and they've been helping us understand how
6 all that works and how the criminals are actually doing
7 it. That officer is now trying to learn how to use a scan
8 tool to reprogram key fobs. Once they figure that out,
9 they'll share that information with the rest of the task
10 force as well.

11 What challenges? Just like Dallas, a lot has
12 to do with prosecution. I can tell you that we just
13 arrested a guy on seven felony bonds, five of them were
14 arrests that we did on the same charge, and he's already
15 out again.

16 So it can be quite frustrating, but these
17 people go right back, as soon as they're given bond, go
18 right back to doing the same thing and we'll gladly put
19 them right back in jail. Thankfully my guys don't get
20 discouraged; they just keep going and doing the same
21 thing.

22 The DAs are just not evolving with auto theft
23 related crimes. They get moved out of intake quickly, and
24 sadly, because intake is a revolving door, they're still
25 asking us if the steering column is broken, and that's

1 just not 2022 anymore.

2 Most of the cars are push start and that's just
3 not how cars are stolen, and they're still not getting
4 that. And once they do get it, they're moved over to be a
5 chief somewhere, and so we no longer have them.

6 Of course, we do have a dedicated DA but it's
7 during daytime hours, and so this affects our patrol
8 officers and our guys. If we get called out at night we
9 have to call DA intake, and intake is usually the rookie
10 DA, and that's where we're running into issues.

11 In 2021 how many UUMVs did you have in your
12 jurisdiction? There were 16,589 MVTs total. Of course,
13 this includes any crime where a vehicle was stolen. So
14 far year-to-date, which is up to July '22, there have been
15 10,086, but we only saw increases from '21 to '22 in
16 March, April and July.

17 How many UUV cases does your task force file
18 each month? So far in '22 the task force has cleared 399
19 cases, 76 arrests which only count as individual bodies,
20 or 19 percent of the cases involved arrests. We average
21 44 cases cleared per month, 38 BMV cases, 18 arrests, or
22 47.3 of the cases so far this year.

23 In the first seven months of 2022 there were
24 5,039 vehicles recovered by the Houston Police Department.
25 The task force was responsible for recovering 332, or

1 6.58 percent of that, and we average around 47.4
2 recoveries per month.

3 Year-to-date we're at 399. We do not claim a
4 stat unless we physically touched it, we do the report, we
5 reclaimed the vehicle, everything. We don't claim any of
6 the other. I wish we could claim the 5,000 the department
7 does, but we don't.

8 Dallas spoke about our fraud program. We have
9 a great sergeant and officers that are assigned to our
10 program, so good that we've been asked to teach everyone
11 else in the state. They started keeping stats, just
12 started as in-progress fraud preventing in July, and in
13 just July there were eleven instances of fraud prevented,
14 saving dealerships approximately \$923,635 in possible
15 losses.

16 Like I said, the fraud unit has been training
17 dealerships on how to spot possible fraud before it
18 happens and training other police departments on how to
19 get these cases prosecuted.

20 How effective do you think your grant program
21 is in obtaining prosecutions and convictions? Having a
22 dedicated DA has helped immensely in obtaining convictions
23 in these cases. We provide them with basic auto theft
24 training and opportunities for them to come out to our
25 different operations. Through the training we provide our

1 assigned DA, we believe it makes us successful in
2 obtaining prosecutions and convictions.

3 Unfortunately, the way the court system is set
4 up in Harris County, there is a two-year backlog in cases,
5 and keeping track to provide an accurate number of
6 convictions is kind of difficult. I was just in court a
7 couple of weeks ago on a case that I arrested four years
8 ago, so it's give or take. Some courts are up to date,
9 some courts are four or five years behind.

10 I think I went over that, how many vehicles we
11 recovered, how many by other jurisdictions. We can't
12 speak to what other jurisdiction are doing but the
13 officers of the Houston PD recovered 9,284 in 2021, and
14 we're up to 5,039 in 2022.

15 How does the task force develop and share
16 intelligence information? We use bulletins, which right
17 after this slide there will be some example bulletins. We
18 use Microsoft Teams webinars and the VCC, and just
19 recently we signed up with the Homeland Security
20 Information Network; they gave us access to that to start
21 our catalytic converter task force.

22 We've been getting people to sign up around all
23 the agencies around. We had a meeting, we had over 25
24 agencies, over 100 officers showed up to that meeting.
25 Sadly, I have 15 that signed up for the service so far and

1 100 pending, but it's just like anything else, it's hard
2 to get people to use new technology, to sign into a new
3 system, to get log-in information for a new system. I'm
4 trying, but we'll get there eventually. If they want the
5 information and that's how we're going to be dispersing
6 it, that's what they'll have to do.

7 These are just some of our bulletins. We send
8 these out through our fusion center to all the agencies
9 around the area locally unless we believe there's a nexus
10 to autos in the local area, then we'll put that on the
11 VCC.

12 Describe your services and interaction in
13 support of the coverage agencies listed in your grant
14 application. We have one metro detective assigned to our
15 unit. He eats and sleeps with us in our office; he is
16 there every day, he is a tremendous asset, has been with
17 the task force for a very long time.

18 He collected and distributed license plate
19 information on catalytic converter theft suspects and has
20 entered the most extensive list that I've seen on those
21 suspects into the Flock system. I get about 100-and-
22 something alerts a day on my phone from hits that we got
23 from our cameras. This list is entered into the Flock,
24 and all the officers that are on the Flock are getting the
25 same alert.

1 Our issue has become responding to the alerts,
2 getting on the radio and saying, hey, there's a stolen or
3 a catalytic converter staff. We're so short staffed right
4 now that it's hard to find a marked unit sometimes, so
5 some of our officers have been out there sitting on some
6 of these Flock cameras.

7 They've been pretty successful at recovering
8 some vehicles, but we're just trying to figure out how to
9 balance the juggling act of having our hands in so many
10 different pots, it becomes difficult sometimes.

11 Who was the audience information was shared
12 with? I guess our agency, surrounding municipalities,
13 sheriff and constable departments in several surrounding
14 counties.

15 Was it shared with the MVCPA Virtual Command
16 Center? The largest cases of note are shared on the MVCPA
17 VCC. We try to contribute to the VCC every week, however,
18 during certain weeks there are certain items shared on the
19 VCC where other weeks we have no new information of note
20 to share.

21 We try to keep it to bigger cases. We don't
22 share information on we recovered a vehicle down the
23 block, we just try to make it our bigger, more information
24 that might impact the rest of the state.

25 Was it shared during the MVCPA law enforcement

1 webinars? We always try to share new trends and other
2 pertinent lines we believe other agencies might deem
3 useful. Due to the VCC, I got some good information on
4 those Kia and Hyundai thefts.

5 We didn't think we had an issue, then we
6 started researching and figured out that starting in July
7 we do seem to have an issue with that, so it's affecting
8 all of us, we're just trying to keep up. And it's not
9 even a USB; it can pretty much be anything you stick in
10 there kind of unlocks the ignition column is what we've
11 found out. The video shows a USB drive, but it's pretty
12 bad. I don't know what Hyundai and Kia are doing about it
13 but their cars are getting stolen left and right.

14 We also started figuring out that people are
15 starting to strip them, which we didn't think there was a
16 market for that, for parts of Hyundais or Kias, but it's
17 starting to become one, I guess because of all the thefts.

18 So that's something that might be seen by the task forces
19 as coming soon, because we never thought people would
20 steal Kia engines for a living, but they're starting to.

21 What do you need from the MVCPA? We always say
22 manpower, but even that I was just discussing that it's
23 becoming difficult even if we were having the funds to get
24 an additional officer.

25 The department is going to have difficulty

1 finding that officer for us to get because everyone is
2 short, we're so short all across the department, we're
3 over 500 officers short. Even if we have the funding for
4 additional manpower, it's going to be difficult to get
5 that officer assigned to us and taken from another, like
6 you said, Major, what the department feels is a major
7 issue, whether it be violent crime or whatever it is that
8 they want us to focus on.

9 Updated equipment. A lot of our surveillance
10 equipment is kind of getting old, so we would need new
11 cameras, new just surveillance equipment that we can use
12 when we're doing these buy busts.

13 We do stay constant on Craigslist and other
14 sites, Marketplace, to try to make deals, buy busts.
15 We're still very actively doing that, so some of our
16 equipment is kind of beat up and broken from just
17 sometimes these things turn into scuffles or trying to get
18 these people into custody.

19 Vehicles. Although we have mostly leased
20 vehicles, some of our other vehicles, I know we have an
21 Expedition now that has about 198,000 on it, we kind of
22 need to replace it, but the limits on the spending kind of
23 holds us back on what we can get.

24 I know we try to stick to smaller vehicles but
25 our guys have so much equipment, they have vests,

1 computers, one of my guys has a printer, he likes to print
2 out all the teletypes, it's getting where a car can't
3 really fit everything that we have, and so we kind of need
4 bigger vehicles, and of course, we need just more spending
5 authority to be able to buy bigger vehicles.

6 And that is it. Do you have any questions?

7 MR. GONZALEZ: LT, that's a fantastic
8 presentation that you have there. I thought that was
9 incredibly informative. It's clear that you guys are
10 doing quite a bit over there in Houston. I want to
11 applaud you for your efforts with the fraud UUV and as
12 well as your efforts on sharing this intelligence
13 information.

14 I didn't know that the Kia and Hyundai issue
15 was here in Dallas. I'd seen about it, I thought it was
16 more a TikTok teenager kind of trend. You know, that's
17 very interesting to know.

18 With respect to technology, I know you
19 mentioned bait cars. What are your thoughts? Do you
20 think we should focus or should we make that a priority on
21 expansion of bait cars or does that -- the arrests from
22 bait cars are they more kind of like your teenagers and
23 not really going to address the auto theft rate, or is
24 that something we should prioritize?

25 MR. MENENDEZ-SIERRA: Our bait vehicle, the 100

1 percent conviction is because it's just so lock-and-shut
2 case. But yeah, I'd have to agree with you, I don't think
3 we're getting the best sort of criminal on that or the
4 career criminal on that. I think if we keep focusing on
5 the other aspects that we're doing where we're trying to
6 get these bigger rings, I think that's more important.

7 MR. GONZALEZ: Major Jones?

8 MS. JONES: HSIN, the people who attended the
9 training needed to sign up, do they have to sign up
10 through you as a task force, or can they sign up directly
11 through HSI to get HSIN?

12 MR. MENENDEZ-SIERRA: So what I did was get a
13 roll call of everybody that was there. They were all sent
14 an email saying, hey, you're going to get HSIN log-in
15 instructions. Then I got with our guys at the fusion
16 center who set it up with HSIN.

17 Once they sent that information out, they had a
18 couple of days to do it. If not, then they have to call
19 the HSIN help desk. I had issues with it because it kept
20 saying what are your previous addresses, and I never lived
21 at any of those, so it is a little cumbersome sometimes,
22 but then they just have to call me and I can tell the guys
23 to send them a reset email to get it over. It is through
24 HSIN but done through us.

25 MS. JONES: The reason I ask is because I know

1 that it's pretty cumbersome, so I thought maybe they
2 relaxed the procedures a bit.

3 MR. MENENDEZ-SIERRA: No, ma'am.

4 MS. JONES: And you mentioned the limit on
5 vehicles, the spending authority, is that an MVCPA limit?

6 MR. WILSON: Is that what you're talking about,
7 the lease cap that we're talking about or we've been
8 talking about removing?

9 MR. MENENDEZ-SIERRA: Yes.

10 MR. WILSON: Okay.

11 MS. JONES: So that's something that the board
12 can address. Correct? And I don't know what it is, but
13 if it's \$10,000 and that gives you a Kia and you're not
14 going to be able to fit the equipment in those cars, a lot
15 of our investigators, they want trucks or SUVs. So we
16 should be able to increase limits based on the supply and
17 demand. Correct?

18 MR. WILSON: Yeah. There's two things going
19 on, and help me if I'm getting off base. So when we took
20 the \$2.5 million cut from the legislature, the board was
21 trying to figure out how do we keep from losing officers,
22 and they made a decision that one of the things that they
23 would do -- first off, they cut all administrative
24 positions almost across the board. There's very few
25 administrative positions left. I think Houston has one

1 and there's a few, San Antonio, but most of them they cut
2 across the board.

3 The second thing they did is said we're placing
4 an artificial cap on the lease value of a vehicle, and
5 then they also put one on the purchase price of \$25,000,
6 but it wasn't a prohibition above 25-, it just said we
7 will automatically authorize a purchase for investigators
8 of \$25,000, if it's more than that, they'll have to come
9 to the board. And you've answered some of those emails in
10 the past where I said, hey, this is more than 250, 40-,
11 50-, and I recommend it, and so you've agreed and we've
12 paid for that.

13 But part of the thing -- and, Lieutenant, if
14 I'm wrong, correct me -- the reality is a lot of it has
15 been because Houston's grant is built around mostly its
16 people over the last four or five years of budget cuts, so
17 I think part of the problem is they haven't had any money
18 other than the people money that they've had for a long
19 time.

20 MR. MENENDEZ-SIERRA: That's part of it.

21 MR. WILSON: All right. So that's the piece.
22 If the legislature keeps holding us at 14.9- or less like
23 they've done the last five or six years, then he'll either
24 have to let go of an officer and buy a truck or whatever.
25 I mean, therein lies the problem. We collected \$108

1 million for this purpose last year, and we were only able
2 to give them just a little less than --

3 MR. MENENDEZ-SIERRA: 1.2-.

4 MR. WILSON: Million dollars?

5 MR. MENENDEZ-SIERRA: Yes.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: Just to provide some context, I
7 know my agency gives me a rental lease vehicle, and I just
8 got the renewal paperwork for it, and I just have a sedan,
9 mind you, I don't have a truck; I don't have anything
10 fancy, but it jumped from \$700 a month to \$1200 a month.
11 It's not an MVCPA-funded vehicle or anything like that,
12 but that's just for a simple sedan.

13 And so I would venture to say that all task
14 forces are being confronted with this issue of rising
15 costs for leases and rentals, as well as an aging fleet,
16 and so I think that's something that certainly we need to
17 take a look at how we can help our task forces with that.

18 MS. JONES: Thank you for the details. Great
19 job.

20 MR. MENENDEZ-SIERRA: Thank you, ma'am.

21 MR. WILSON: Can I ask one question? Is that
22 okay, Mr. Chairman?

23 So Luis, the issue, and again, you may not have
24 the answer, but it keeps circulating over and over and
25 over that this board is going to have to figure out that

1 officer shortage.

2 You need manpower, you need people to do this,
3 and there's very few officers either coming through
4 academies or transferring from other departments, even if
5 they would qualify under your department's criteria.

6 So what are any other solutions to that issue
7 if you can't hire more officers? I mean, in your mind is
8 there anything going on -- and it's really a question to
9 all the presenters today -- what's the backup plan? I
10 can't get another officer. I think your department when I
11 first got here had 17 or 18 officers; are you down to 14
12 or 15 now?

13 MR. MENENDEZ-SIERRA: We have eleven officers.

14 MR. WILSON: Okay. So we're even worse than I
15 thought. And so what would be a possible backup to the
16 manpower if you can't find additional officers?

17 MR. MENENDEZ-SIERRA: I think a lot of it would
18 have to be technology and different ways we can use
19 technology. But if I had more answers for that, I'd
20 probably be a chief somewhere by now. I'm not sure. I
21 think it's an issue that's nationwide; it's going to get
22 tougher and tougher.

23 MS. JONES: I have a question or thought. What
24 about hiring civilians, non-commissioned, to do the
25 administrative portion? You mentioned that the metro

1 officer, like he's doing a lot of basic entry, the
2 catalytic converters into the system.

3 So maybe you can get an administrative
4 assistant or person, whatever the title is, for less than
5 an officer, so maybe use funding to hire administrative
6 personnel for the data entry portion and then have those
7 officers be more investigative-wise.

8 MR. MENENDEZ-SIERRA: That's a good idea. I
9 think Flock is just kind of new to all of us, and so he
10 kind of took it upon himself to start doing that and just
11 figuring out, yeah, this is a lot of work, especially
12 since you have to put your name to each entry, so every
13 hit that comes on that says contact Officer Sorvino at all
14 types of hours of the day, so you can imagine it's a lot
15 of work. But again, Flock is new and something that we
16 didn't anticipate.

17 MS. JONES: But I'm not just talking about
18 Flock, I'm just talking like in general any administrative
19 function that an officer is doing, maybe pass that off to
20 non law enforcement and let the officers focus on criminal
21 and investigative activities.

22 MR. MENENDEZ-SIERRA: That's a good idea.

23 MR. GONZALEZ: Just to piggyback off of what
24 Major Jones was saying, intelligence analysts, there are a
25 lot of non-sworn intelligence analysts that could assist

1 with the day-to-day operations of the unit, and as well as
2 with compliance with the Richard Miles Act, maybe just
3 scanning in all your documents or something and making
4 sure that everything, all the evidence is there.

5 I'm not sure, but certainly I think it would
6 probably be easier for a lot of agencies to go the non-
7 sworn route.

8 MR. MENENDEZ-SIERRA: Yes.

9 MR. GONZALEZ: Are there any other public
10 comments on this item?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you, LT.

13 We will move on to San Antonio.

14 MR. LINT: Good afternoon. Want to thank you
15 guys both for allowing us to be here. I represent San
16 Antonio, but I have a special place to thank Mr. Wilson.
17 I've been doing this for only about two years, but without
18 his knowledge and expertise, I don't know where I would
19 have learned the information that I have. So thank you
20 very much for that, and I wish you the best in retirement.

21 And then I'll be harassing Joe after that.

22 All right. So I'm Lt. James Lint with the San
23 Antonio ReACT Task Force.

24 What we do well: The one thing I can emphasize
25 with us in San Antonio is the total team concept. We do

1 not handle the burglary of motor vehicles or fraud in our
2 unit itself, but the units that we do have -- so we have
3 six property crimes units as well as the financial crimes
4 unit, so one of the things that we emphasize in our unit
5 is being able to interact with these other groups, the
6 lieutenants and sergeants, so we can share information.

7 One of the things we're able to do, especially
8 with the VCC, is that when I get the information about
9 catalytic converters, I was able to get that out to the
10 property crimes units so they can understand what was
11 going on.

12 At some point in time we've had one of our
13 units on the south side of town get ahold of us and ask
14 for assistance, and that's when we created the catalytic
15 converter task force.

16 We created three sets of teams and they're
17 composed of members of the task force, property crimes,
18 code compliance, and SAFFE, which is our community police
19 unit, as well as patrol officers that gave us the
20 uniformed presence on these actions.

21 It was Sgt. Nick Jones, who is with the south
22 property crimes unit, and we've worked with him to
23 basically go over all the regulations for catalytic
24 converters so that each member of the team would
25 understand what was going on. There was a huge emphasis

1 on the ReACT members because of the knowledge of vehicles.

2 We reached out to our GIS, so when we talk
3 about technology, we need to know all the locations in San
4 Antonio that we need to be concerned about. We had a
5 total of 28 of the metal recycling facilities that were
6 around San Antonio. We set up a schedule -- Nick Jones
7 really helped us on this to make sure we kept in line --
8 four weeks we did it for the first process and started
9 hitting the locations.

10 This would be just an example of what the
11 return would look like. So Danny's Recycling, they found
12 some converters there as well as some materials, and then
13 Vehicle Crimes -- that's our unit by name in the
14 department -- was able to put an investigative hold on an
15 F250 that was not where it should have been.

16 These are the man-hours, so we had 146
17 man-hours that returned 113 salvage inspected vehicles.
18 Six cases were created, and there was one in particular
19 that stood out. Enterprise Lone Star had over 100-plus
20 converters that were not documented properly, and now
21 they're getting the federal government involved in this
22 for pending future federal charges.

23 So that's one of those things that I talked
24 about when we talk about sharing this information, and
25 it's been a great tool for us to use because without that,

1 property crimes, that's not part of our thing, we do
2 vehicles, well, it is connected to it, and when we share
3 that information, it's a two-way process and it's done
4 really well for us.

5 This is just an overview to give you an idea of
6 how many stolen vehicles San Antonio has experienced from
7 2011 to 2021. They've kind of gone up the scale. You can
8 see last year we hit 8,700 stolen vehicles, and we're
9 actually on pace to surpass that, about a 28 percent
10 increase. Break it down to 2022, and we look at the
11 various ones throughout each of the months, and 2022 so
12 far we're just up to July, we don't have the numbers for
13 August just yet.

14 Total recovery rate, we're standing at about a
15 68 percent recovery rate. This includes both local and
16 surrounding agencies that had those recoveries. 2021 had
17 75.9 percent, 68 is the overall percent over that period
18 of time, so it's a pretty good return.

19 It's one of those things we do have to present
20 to our city council on a regular basis because we do
21 invite them quite often. Recovered stolen vehicles by
22 month, so during this grant cycle this is the amount of
23 stolen vehicles that have been recovered each month. And
24 these are the recoveries that we've had in San Antonio
25 from outside jurisdictions.

1 Now, I know that some of the other presenters
2 have talked about technology. We've had a situation where
3 we not only have a new reporting system, we also a new
4 case management system, so there are certain things that
5 we're learning it tracks and does not track very well.

6 So one of the things it does not track very
7 well is outside agency recoveries. So we know when we
8 have a 68 percent recovery rate we're looking at an
9 overall, but we cannot distinguish us and the outside.
10 That's when we do internal numbers within the unit itself.

11 A little small here, but this is basically how
12 we as a unit track everybody that's on the team. Starting
13 in 2020 when we started getting into a lot of difficulty
14 with the defund movement, pilots were created, and one of
15 the assessments that they had was an audit on the unit
16 itself, so we had to do case audits. So you can see here
17 new cases, arrest cases, filed at large, PFIs, unfounded,
18 ROCs, and open cases.

19 So during the grant cycle so far we've had a
20 total of 731 adult arrest cases, 37 juvenile, 149 have
21 been filed at large, we've had 1,489 PFIs, and many of
22 those are just vehicles being stolen but there's no
23 evidence, no videotape, no witnesses that give us
24 information and the car is still in the wind.

25 Now, one of the aspects that help us utilize

1 our resources is our community outreach. One of my former
2 sergeants who recently retired, we do a lot of media
3 outreach with KENS-TV, KSAT station, we use our community
4 policing.

5 I like the fact that the signs that were
6 provided by MVCPA, those signs you'll see in many places
7 in San Antonio, but right now we are shorthanded, so
8 hopefully we can get some more pretty soon. We also have,
9 besides the six property crimes units, each substation
10 also has its own community police unit, and every one of
11 them has been asking us for more signs, so I thought about
12 printing it on paper but I didn't think it would last very
13 long.

14 Here's one of the examples that we have.
15 MVCPA, we do the VIN etching process, and sometimes it
16 takes a lot of work and time to put things together, but
17 when you're out there we get media involved as well. And
18 it's one of the best examples that we have of community
19 outreach, because every single one of those cars is
20 somebody we're making contact with, and it's surprising
21 how much information they're getting from us and how much
22 they did not know.

23 And so we've put it out not only in this
24 aspect, but we also include social media, which includes
25 our own Facebook through the department to get that

1 information out, such things as the Top Ten. This is
2 something that we not only supply to the VCC as a way of
3 seeing maybe other areas are having the same numbers, the
4 same type of vehicles.

5 And I'll talk about this a little bit later,
6 but when you talk about the Kia and the Hyundai, when you
7 see those numbers are kind of on the lower end but we
8 found some interesting numbers on that recently too.

9 So we put this on our Facebook account so that
10 it's out there all the time, we also supply it to the
11 media, and this is an example of what it has on our
12 Facebook. Facebook also has some of those same videos so
13 people can access it easily.

14 Now, there's another program that we had with
15 the new system with Mark 43 that we have, called
16 SpiderTech, so whenever a citizen has a call to the San
17 Antonio Police Department, they're going to receive a text
18 or email that's basically saying, hey, you've contacted
19 the San Antonio Police Department, here's your case
20 number.

21 Now, there's also a follow-up, so let's say you
22 have a stolen vehicle and an officer or detective is not
23 able to determine something in the case and it gets PFI'd,
24 they'll get a similar one like this here where it will
25 tell them that the case was PFI'd because we didn't have

1 video evidence, we didn't have a witness, we don't have a
2 recovered vehicle.

3 That's something we modified, so when I saw one
4 of these, I said this section down below where it says
5 Lock, Take, Hide, we had an opportunity to talk to the
6 company to see they can make it to suit us a vehicle crime
7 unit, so people can see this and this is shared with the
8 public, so every time there's been a report of a stolen
9 vehicle, that person has received one of these.

10 Now, something about the intelligence sharing.

11 So NIBIN, it is very rare that we actually find any of
12 these vehicles, especially with an arrest, that there's
13 not a firearm or narcotics involved.

14 My unit, luckily right now we do have a new
15 sergeant that's also a SWAT member so we can increase our
16 training in order to take this into account. We've been
17 on many of those -- my department doesn't like me to use
18 the term -- jump-outs, but we do jump-outs on these
19 vehicles, and it has to be a lot of training to do it the
20 right way because of these firearms.

21 So we get those through NIBIN, and those
22 firearms come back to us and we see if its connected to
23 additional crimes. And again, that's the other thing,
24 everybody talks about stolen vehicle being just a piece of
25 property, it's not; it's the associated crimes that you

1 have with this, including human smuggling. Probably just
2 a few months ago we had a stolen vehicle, there was four
3 juveniles in the car and a 13-year-old was killed.
4 There's a high cost to these stolen vehicles.

5 Now, one aspect I'm going to get to -- I didn't
6 have a slide on this one -- is what does the task force
7 not do so well. It's a program that we used to have, we
8 used to have a bait program, so back in the '90s San
9 Antonio used to have a pretty large bait program.

10 It was done away with, and now we're in the
11 process of doing it again, but unfortunately, it's taken
12 us almost two years, we finally have our first vehicle
13 being tested out now by ITSD. We're getting a total of
14 three vehicles rigged right now with the equipment.

15 And I have put pressure on them to get it done
16 like ASAP, because I have got one detective left that
17 actually has ever been part of a bait program. He's got
18 all the training and he's retiring in April, so I'm trying
19 to get him to get us as a team ready to go when this bait
20 program comes out, because it's going to take a lot of
21 time and hours to do this the right way, so I may be
22 contacting Dallas or Houston to get some information.

23 Unauthorized use of motor vehicles. There are
24 actually very few cases that we have each month that are
25 classified specifically as unauthorized use of motorized

1 vehicles. The UUMVs are usually stolen as a theft, and
2 then when we find the suspect and the vehicle they go into
3 a UUMV. Right now this about what we're averaging each
4 month throughout this fiscal year: 122 in January to 110
5 this past month. 516 cleared by adult arrest, 54
6 juvenile, exceptionally cleared and filed at large, then
7 we've got 144 pending for investigations, total of 1,041
8 in that same time frame.

9 Right now we're sitting at a cleared by arrest
10 rate of about 54 percent, and cleared by exception it's
11 only at 9.1 percent. We're averaging close to 51 per
12 month, with ten exceptions cleared each month.

13 I'm going to touch on something that each of
14 the other ones, Houston and Dallas, both touched on the
15 same thing: prosecutors. I'm going to go into a little
16 bit more detail with some of the stuff.

17 San Antonio, when we used to have a task force,
18 especially in the '90s, they used to have 30 members, they
19 actually had their own embedded ADA, they had a fire
20 marshal, they had a lot of different resources, but over
21 time, especially with changing district attorneys, we lost
22 that.

23 Well, one of the things that we did back with
24 the district attorneys, these are our ICRs, initial case
25 reviews, so this is a sample of what we may see that gets

1 emailed to us.

2 So all the follow-up units in San Antonio have
3 created an ICR email so we get direct communication from
4 the district attorney. This gives us a chance to see why
5 they're dismissing cases or why they're going to pend
6 dropping that case.

7 So I reached out to one of the district
8 attorneys. Her name is Emily and she just happened to be,
9 by chance, the ADA that used to be in the unit. I told
10 her I would like to start meeting with the ADAs on a
11 regular basis to find out how we can prevent this from
12 happening.

13 So what she did, she actually assigned two
14 first chairs, Melissa Saenz and Lauren Glaskopf, who come
15 by once a month, and they will actually spend their time
16 with us, two to three hours on like a Wednesday or
17 Thursday afternoon, and all the detectives that have a
18 case they'd like to talk about. I have to tell you the
19 first meeting was a little rough, my team let them have
20 it, but they're used to that, so it worked out really well
21 for us to get better.

22 And this especially applies to unauthorized use
23 of vehicles. The problem with that so many times we have
24 officers out in the field making arrests, and they ask
25 very few questions, if anything. The case is filed, we

1 get it and we're looking at it, well, everything is here,
2 they were in a stolen vehicle, like we normally would do
3 any time, you send it in and file the case. Drop, drop,
4 drop.

5 So we got with them and said what is it that
6 you want for us to file this case properly. Now, I'm not
7 an auto theft investigator by trade; I actually did sex
8 crimes and family violence with kids, so back then I knew
9 that we had a really good relationship with our district
10 attorneys, so that's the same process I want to do here.

11 So they sat down and we went through these
12 case. I think we presented about a dozen cases that first
13 afternoon and each one of them was a UUMV, and they told
14 us exactly how they wanted it.

15 The best example I have is a case where a
16 female was caught in a car, she is a known criminal, she
17 had firearms on her, narcotics, she said, I got the car
18 from King. That one statement allowed the DA to drop the
19 charge.

20 Now, two months later they brought the charge
21 back because she was connected to someone much bigger they
22 wanted and they wanted us to refile the case. We're like,
23 whoa, whoa, if that's what you want, then let's get with
24 you.

25 So we got with them personally and said this is

1 what we need. So basically it's something that we
2 normally do as detectives, but my team is also attending
3 the roll calls telling the officers this is what we need
4 on these type of cases, and it's asking those more
5 additional questions.

6 I mean, we had a case where actually an officer
7 said in his report, I read the Miranda rights so I
8 couldn't ask her any more questions. So part of what we
9 do is show them how to do that, so it's going from the DA
10 to us to the officers, and trying to work together to take
11 these cases out of this.

12 We've been doing this since about May, and I
13 have definitely seen a decrease in ICRs, but the ones like
14 this one, you'll see them is because of the evidence.
15 Senate Bill 111 has created a huge task on our unit trying
16 to keep up with this to where now I would say we've
17 probably had about a 20 percent decrease in the amount of
18 time in the field because of Senate Bill 111 and getting
19 all that information done correctly.

20 Because our system and the Bexar County system,
21 they're not very compatible so if the information is not
22 done a certain way, it will get lost and has to be
23 resubmitted over and over, so it's one of those things,
24 again, with technology where it's a plus but also can be a
25 hindrance if it's not done correctly.

1 Now, when we talk about hands on -- and forgive
2 me, they know me; I like to move around, it's just the
3 way -- okay, I'll try to stay still. So when it comes to
4 certain items, so when we've had audits with MVCPA and
5 they ask certain things, it's good for us to know,
6 because, like I said, our system does not always track
7 very well, but we track everything in our unit.

8 So if there's something more in particular,
9 like one of the ones I saw with fraud-related crime,
10 that's where we kind of added here. So this is just in a
11 one-week period, so we had like 29 recovered vehicles,
12 eleven arrests, and \$477,000 just in that.

13 Our year-end costs have gone up so we're
14 probably on pace to hit about \$12 million in recovery this
15 year. Now, our arrests are a little bit lower as well as
16 the recovery, though, and that's because when we lost
17 Bexar County -- Bexar County withdrew from the unit -- and
18 I'm also running with two vacancies, so we actually have
19 five less investigators now and one less sergeant.

20 But the thing is the time hasn't stopped so
21 it's like if you think about overtime, you look at
22 overtime money, we kind of blew out the city's money by
23 the time we hit the end of February and we still had eight
24 months to go. So far they haven't thrown anything at me
25 yet.

1 And I do want to touch on something, too, with
2 fraud-related motor vehicle crime. That's not a
3 responsibility, that's not part of my unit, but financial
4 crimes does it. Now, on one of our meetings, I heard a
5 name, and it was Sgt. Schlosser from Houston PD.

6 So I reached out to him and said, What could we
7 do to bring you up to San Antonio? And he said, Well, let
8 me put you on my little wheel here. So that gave me time
9 to reach out, so I reached out to the six property crimes
10 units, I also talked to the financial crimes lieutenant,
11 who I've known for a number of years, and with his
12 connections and Sgt. Schlosser, we were able to also bring
13 in our auto theft dealership, which was the first time I
14 actually had a chance to meet with them.

15 It was an excellent training opportunity -- and
16 if Sgt. Schlosser was here, I need to tell him thank --
17 because just recently we had two more follow-up meetings
18 with all the dealership group and they are very interested
19 in some more training, very specific for what we need in
20 order to present a case.

21 We also had our financial crime detectives;
22 there's two of them specifically that deal with financial
23 crimes, with the fraud. So this is something that we're
24 going to be developing a network.

25 Now, how we share like intelligence bulletins

1 is something they want to do as well, but we have to be
2 careful, we told them, because the information we have is
3 not necessarily what we can give them, so that's a process
4 that we're going to have to work on to find out how much
5 we can do.

6 So probably Sgt. Schlosser, someone will be
7 reaching out to you again to start that process to get
8 this going, because we'd like to create a network.
9 There's about 78 dealerships in San Antonio, and quite a
10 few of them have expressed a lot of interest.

11 So what will happen, sometimes we'll get a case
12 to our unit and if the officer calls us from the field,
13 they say I've got this that happened at a dealership, and
14 they may not know exactly where.

15 I tell them just do it for theft of a vehicle,
16 get it to us, let's see what we have. We'll review the
17 case, and at the end we determine it's fraud, so I'll
18 reach out to the lieutenant or one of those sergeants in
19 the financial crimes unit and say, I'm sending this your
20 way and let your detective know so I can talk with them.

21 Well, one of those detectives, he's been doing
22 it for a number of years and getting ready to retire, but
23 he's got a case involving two females; they have over a
24 dozen vehicles that have been taken by fraud. And this is
25 one of those things if we had a little better network I

1 think we can share that information with everybody, so as
2 soon as you see that popping up, you know who it is. And
3 after I talked to Sgt. Schlosser of the success he's had
4 there, that's something I definitely want to continue with
5 here.

6 So intelligence bulletins. So one of the
7 things that we haven't had a lot as far as reaching out,
8 it's been several months since we've done it on more of a
9 statewide; a lot of it has been more local.

10 So each year in San Antonio we take part in the
11 San Antonio Auto and Truck Show. While we were there we
12 had a chance to meet Brandon Walston, he is with the San
13 Antonio Auto Auction.

14 So he shared some information with us, and we
15 put this out for all of San Antonio, several different
16 cities, and also some of the counties around us,
17 particularly Atascosa, Wilson, and Guadalupe.

18 And we had a guy try and take a car from the
19 auction lot, only problem was he was using an ID that was
20 not his, but we didn't know who he was, so this
21 information we shared it with those local agencies, we
22 were able to identify him, and it turned out he was with
23 another county, so they're going after him now on that.

24 Now, this one is we have a Hellcat theft ring.
25 I think Dallas may be familiar with that, Lieutenant.

1 This was DAW. So Michael Reed, one of my detectives, does
2 a lot of work with this type of equipment, so they reached
3 out to us and then we reached out to Houston as well, kind
4 of like a triangle between the three.

5 This is the suspect that was developed and some
6 of the information we had on our side. This is one of the
7 reports in our system, how it kind of looks when you bring
8 up a suspect. So it's one of those things that comes in,
9 we share it with everybody local.

10 We have a couple of our investigators that
11 really enjoy doing the larger equipment, and then we
12 pulled this information and we shared it with Dallas and
13 Houston to let them know about that.

14 And our Guadalupe operation, I can touch on it
15 since the chairman is still here. One of the things that
16 we had back in September, Bryan Wilson reached out, and
17 Laredo PD was needing some assistance. They had good
18 information, so with the Laredo and the Laredo FBI got
19 together with us and we formed up a task force that
20 started in September, continued the operation all the way
21 up through the later part of March, and we identified
22 somewhere around 30-some suspects in various locations.

23 So right now basically where we are is waiting
24 for warrants to come out from the U.S. ADA from the South
25 Region so that we can hit those places.

1 The same idea got developed with Guadalupe. So
2 Guadalupe reached out to us because they had some concerns
3 about a property up there where there's a lot of equipment
4 and it was bought in Guadalupe, Buda, Comal, Travis and
5 us.

6 Once they got the information that came down to
7 us, we put a task force together with my detectives, and
8 they ended up hitting that location. Suspects weren't
9 there, but there was a lot of equipment. Well, the guys
10 they were looking for were very familiar to us; they are
11 habitual criminals in San Antonio. The amount of
12 equipment we recovered at that location was over \$371,000
13 of property.

14 Now, when you talk about working as a team and
15 sharing intelligence, one of our property crime units,
16 they had a Smoothie King that was hit in the northeast
17 area of town. They put some information out. They didn't
18 have this picture, but they had information that it was a
19 white Chevy with a flatbed trailer.

20 One of my detectives was like that, I think, is
21 the same suspect from Guadalupe. They went around the
22 area, tracked down a video of this, showed it to some of
23 the camera work from the Smoothie King. Sure enough it's
24 him, same guy.

25 Well, we happen to have picked up a cell phone

1 from that operation. Now, we reached out to our district
2 attorney's office, our district attorney's office did not
3 want to do a cell dump. So we called Guadalupe.

4 Guadalupe said, Sure, we'll take it.

5 Out of that dump we were able to locate where
6 they took a lot of the equipment from the Smoothie King,
7 and we recovered \$20,000 worth of property from another
8 restaurant that was being built all because of that
9 warrant dump off of that cell phone.

10 So it's one of those things you can say it's an
11 associated crime, yeah, to auto theft, but because of what
12 we do in auto theft aspects, bringing in property crimes
13 in a lot of the other agencies around us, without that
14 information this guy would never have been caught, and now
15 he has pled out to a six-year term. Now we're after his
16 partner.

17 Lastly, one of the type of things that we do,
18 and this is something, we do not have a national analyst
19 assigned to us, we have one from fusion, but she is out on
20 loan to robbery and then we kind of loaned her out from
21 there to us.

22 But she's helped us tremendously, and she
23 creates a hot list off of the vehicles that are going
24 across the border, so a lot of times we're aware of the
25 amount of vehicles almost on a daily basis that are

1 heading south. And so this is put out regionally through
2 our fusion center.

3 And last part is we have also within the
4 unit -- or excuse me -- in the department people that work
5 our GIS, and they put this out continuously, so as of 2021
6 you can see the amount of vehicles we were at at this
7 point in time, and now we're at 6,600, so that's a plus
8 28.6 percent increase.

9 Now, something I wanted to pick up on a couple
10 of things. Information was put out -- I forget which
11 department put it out, but they talked about Kias and
12 Hyundais, and just like in Houston or like in Dallas,
13 we're like it can't be that bad.

14 Well, when I got ahold of our analyst I asked
15 her could you check into it. Well, sure enough we did
16 have an increase. I'm sorry I couldn't get it up here,
17 but our average was between 20 to 40 on any given month.
18 In June alone we had 70 Hyundais and then the very next
19 month it was 69; Kias went from 46 to 91.

20 So we're like what's going on. And what we
21 noticed was most of those were targeted into a particular
22 area of San Antonio, the northwest area. So we contacted
23 our property crimes, and they were having a lot of
24 problems at a couple of key locations.

25 Well, my unit, we think of ourselves as a team,

1 so we get together and start talking about it, and my
2 detectives were like, hey, I got a case like that, I got a
3 case. Well, let's start getting this information
4 together.

5 So we created an Excel sheet we sent it over to
6 our analyst, and our analyst was able to develop
7 information off that. She sent that over to our fusion
8 center, and they were able to generate a chart with actual
9 faces, and it's a whole group of juveniles in that one
10 particular area that are hitting those. In fact, this
11 morning when we were driving over here, my guys were
12 actually pursuing another one. So the team took down the
13 vehicle but still need to find out what the result of that
14 is.

15 But it's something that that vehicle was being
16 tracked by the financial institution that has the loan on
17 the vehicle. They had a tracker on it by chance, and then
18 our eagle was out there pursuing it, and then our covert
19 units were able to go in and get the area on lockdown, but
20 I do believe they did slip out.

21 But it's knowing that the vehicles are being
22 taken in the relatively same area and then dumping in a
23 lot of the same area, so we know it's part of the same
24 crew. Just the difficulty is trying to get juveniles
25 because we're not actually allowed to interview them, so

1 it's a difficult process trying to get that. So it's one
2 of those things that we're working with the DA just trying
3 to find a better way to do that.

4 And something I'll bring up, something I guess
5 to say what are things that you can help us with. One of
6 the things is training. My unit in the two years that
7 I've been in it has had over a 70 percent turnover. I've
8 lost my two sergeants and quite a few experienced
9 detectives, but this is because of retirements and
10 promotions. I'm pretty sure I didn't do that myself.

11 But I've also got three more that's going to
12 retire by April, so by the time that April rolls around, I
13 will only have three detectives left that were there
14 before I got there, no legacies, they're all gone.

15 So it's getting that training, and I know
16 recently I saw I think it's going to be September for the
17 advanced training. I couldn't send my whole unit. I'd
18 love to send them all up there, but it's one of those
19 things of continuing the training so we can keep the
20 knowledge going because we've lost too much of it.

21 Another one is, Major Jones, you talked about
22 civilians. So I have three administrative staff in my
23 unit, and one of them who is here today, she helps take
24 care of the grant. Without her, I wouldn't be here right
25 now; I'd have you up here, Captain.

1 But the thing is that's her main job, so I've
2 got two other ones, and they help because they take care
3 of the validations, and something else they really help
4 out, and we've been training them how to do, is help us to
5 review cases.

6 In order for the sergeants and myself to be the
7 only ones reviewing cases, we couldn't do our other jobs
8 because they're coming in so much. You take one single
9 case, it takes us 20 to 30 minutes just to review it just
10 to make sure it's correct, that's just one, and so without
11 that we couldn't get the job done.

12 Well, almost a year ago I had a civilian crew
13 who was going to retire. I told the city: She's getting
14 ready to retire, about three months away, how long does it
15 take to hire somebody new so we can get them here and
16 train them? Oh, we don't do that until she's gone. I'm
17 like, Well, who's going to train her? So we went through
18 a whole process, and it took a year before I got another
19 civilian in my unit.

20 So when you talk about that, I would love to
21 pull in a couple of admin associates that we could use and
22 train them, because what happens now I'm relying on light
23 duties.

24 I have to reach out to my department and say do
25 you have a light duty anywhere. We can bring them in,

1 train them to do certain things, but they're there for a
2 certain period of time and then they're gone. Years ago
3 this unit had at one time seven admin staff in the unit,
4 so you had people there that their job was to take care of
5 all the administrative stuff.

6 So when I talk about Senate Bill 111, when I'm
7 talking about trying to get chains of evidence, they have
8 to tag videos, they have to tag pictures, they have to
9 collect our stolen vehicle affidavits, all that
10 information has to be put in for a detective to file a
11 single case.

12 You are talking several hours just to tag
13 things properly. They're not investigating, they're just
14 fixing the case. An admin could take care of that, and it
15 would give them time to be in the field.

16 And that's what's hurting us now more than
17 anything else. They're staying busy, we're really chewing
18 up that overtime, but it's the only way they can do it. I
19 have detectives coming in on their days off just trying to
20 keep up, and it shouldn't be that way. But I know we're
21 not the only ones. I mean, every department is suffering.

22 One of the programs that we came up with almost
23 two years ago was the special assignment. We'd reach out
24 to patrol, I liked to bring in two special assignment
25 uniforms so we could use them as our force out there, go

1 take care of certain things, also help us hit locations.

2 But that's something I have to make a request,
3 it has to go through the chain of command, then I have to
4 see if patrol will let me have them because it's based on
5 their red books where they can let them go to us for a 60-
6 day period.

7 So it's one of those things I have it for a
8 while, then I don't have it. So right now I'm in the
9 process of trying to get that back out because that's a
10 tremendous help to us. If I can get a dozen, I would do
11 that. And like Major Jones said, if I could ask for
12 somebody, I want another sergeant and two more detectives.

13 See, just like that last, that's exactly what I got.

14 Otherwise, questions?

15 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you, LT, for your
16 presentation. Y'all got a lot going on over there in San
17 Antonio.

18 MR. LINT: We always like to do more with less.
19 I did that in the Marine Corps and I do it now, so it will
20 never change.

21 MR. GONZALEZ: I hear ya. You know, with
22 respect to your special assignment officers, Dallas has
23 something similar to that, and I want to say that the
24 benefits pay out over time.

25 When that officer goes back to patrol, I mean,

1 the arrests that they can make and the knowledge that they
2 have of auto theft, I mean, it's like having a detective
3 out there.

4 MR. LINT: Yeah, that's one of the biggest side
5 pieces of it, because when they do that, it's almost like
6 we're training them. So when we were first doing it, they
7 were just coming in in uniform and fill them out, and one
8 of them came up to me: What do you mean the eye on? And
9 I realized they didn't know what we were talking about,
10 said all right, let's change this up.

11 So the first few days we just dress down like
12 us, you're going to ride with us, we're going to teach you
13 the lingo, what we do, and then we're going to get you in
14 uniform so that you can help us.

15 And so when they get that knowledge, to me
16 they're part of the team and they learn everything we
17 know, and when they're back out there I've gotten many
18 calls from others: Oh, I heard this from so-and-so, I
19 want to try that out. And it's an opportunity.

20 To me, it's also a training opportunity, not
21 just for them but it's also for the future advancement.
22 You want them to have that knowledge and information and
23 they bring it back to the unit, but a lot of times it's
24 where they go, I want to do that someday, and it motivates
25 them to want to get to that position.

1 MR. GONZALEZ: And I also just wanted to
2 commend you on your community policing efforts and your
3 community engagement efforts with the signs. Let's try to
4 get them signs if we can.

5 MR. LINT: We are totally out, and of the six
6 SAFFE units, I've got five of them have asked multiple
7 times, so yes, we truly do need some more.

8 MR. GONZALEZ: One of the things for you to
9 consider is I know Austin has a community police officer
10 as part of their task force to do that community
11 engagement, and their salary is offset by the MVCPA, and
12 so that may be something for you to consider.

13 MR. LINT: It's a tremendous program. Our
14 chief has done a lot with it, and when you're out there
15 you just realize the feedback. So when you have a lot of
16 stuff that's going on in the environment out there, when
17 you can sit down in uniform and someone says, hey, I want
18 to thank you. A lot of that is because of the contact
19 they've had with other officers, especially the SAFFE
20 units, because that's their primary job, that's what they
21 do.

22 MR. GONZALEZ: And I think with law enforcement
23 today it can be difficult to get a property crimes
24 detective because of so much emphasis on violent crime,
25 violent crime, but it just seems to me like there is

1 significant importance placed on the community policing
2 aspect of a police department, and that seems to be a
3 little easier to fill.

4 MR. LINT: In fact, our last VIN etching event
5 was hosted with us and our SAFFE south unit at South Park
6 Mall, and they loved it out there, it really did well.
7 The guys were a little tired, the team came back
8 exhausted, but it was good.

9 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Jones, do you have
10 anything?

11 MS. JONES: Do you have a percentage of linkage
12 to the border, whether coming or going?

13 MR. LINT: No, ma'am. I mean, really the only
14 thing we have is we can see the amount of vehicles coming
15 and going because Kim Pointer [phonetic], who is the
16 analyst that we use, she tracks it, so we specifically
17 target SUVs and trucks, is what we wanted to know about.

18 And so we don't have an overall number, but I
19 know if I reach out to her she can probably -- she does
20 stuff with computers I don't understand, and they've
21 actually given her applications that most of the other
22 department does not have, back doors, so to speak, into
23 our CAD system and she can get that out. But it's pretty
24 high.

25 MS. JONES: I'm interested, because San Antonio

1 is like the staging -- it's your city, but it's the
2 staging area if they're coming in from the border to stop
3 there, there's the handoff and then it goes, and then
4 coming back it's the same thing.

5 For various reasons, there are a lot of
6 reasons, a lot of them don't want to have to go into the
7 major, major cities, going through Austin and Dallas.
8 They don't want to get caught, so they just pass that off.

9 And then they're linked to -- I mean, the
10 thefts are linked for a reason, they're linked to human
11 trafficking, narcotics, the weapons. I'm glad you're
12 checking NIBIN. You guys should check all weapons,
13 doesn't matter, always run them through NIBIN.

14 But it's like literally a staging area, the San
15 Antonio-San Marcos area. And it's easy, you go on I-10,
16 you get on 130 that leads into 35, and then they also kind
17 of go around the little small roads, just trying to get it
18 through.

19 MR. LINT: I think they like to get here as
20 fast as they can, because I know Guadalupe will lock them
21 up.

22 MS. JONES: And Williamson County will do the
23 same thing.

24 MR. LINT: One of the best examples, we had a
25 case where the suspect had 21 cases at the DA's office and

1 he was still out. What finally stopped him was he got
2 into a chase with one of our traffic guys, wrecks out,
3 jumps out the front windshield with a gun in his hand.

4 A citizen who was not paying attention hit him,
5 landed him in the hospital, and then our guys had to go
6 down, talk to the judge, and said, look, these are all
7 these charges, and it was from Corpus Christi all the way
8 up to Comal, and that's what finally got him locked up.
9 But yeah, ours is one of those areas.

10 MS. JONES: Why did you lose Bexar County?

11 MR. LINT: Bexar County, so we had heard rumors
12 that they may be going out, but unfortunately, it was
13 August 25 when we finally got notice they were leaving
14 August 31, and what they told us was manpower, so they did
15 not have enough personnel to handle their investigations.

16 Now, we keep good contact with the
17 investigators there, but what's happening now is they've
18 become more generalist because they're handling multiple
19 types of cases, and that's what's been going on, so they
20 just couldn't keep up.

21 So one of the things, I know we still have some
22 of the money from that, and that's what I'm working on
23 right now to actually get an ADA embedded back into the
24 unit. But it's a process that takes a while, so right now
25 the information I've sent up the chain, and I thank Bryan

1 Wilson again, who helped me with some of the language we
2 had to put on the document, so if it doesn't pass muster
3 with our legal, I'll let you know.

4 MR. WILSON: Don't bother.

5 MS. JONES: He does not care, that's what I
6 just got out of that.

7 MR. LINT: A few more days. I'll let Joe know.

8 (General laughter.)

9 MS. JONES: So finally, my last comment again
10 as far as the administrative staff, they are a huge value.
11 At Texas DPS we use them for -- once the investigators
12 write the reports, we use them to check the reports, and
13 they're trained to look for certain things in the reports.

14 And also, when you get a large seizure of money
15 and the suspects have rolled the money and just shoved it
16 and you have to get the fire department to cut the part
17 off the car to get the money out, the bank is not going to
18 count it like that, so we use them a lot, like press the
19 money out. They're running the cards, when you get 200
20 seizures on a traffic stop, instead of tying up an officer
21 or an investigator, let them swipe those cards and see how
22 much money is on there. They're a tremendous asset.

23 And when it comes to those types of
24 investigations, they get excited because it's not the
25 normal daily -- they turn into cops, so wait, you don't

1 have a badge and a gun, calm down, calm down. But yeah,
2 they're tremendous help, and we cannot function without
3 them at all.

4 MR. LINT: We've actually have a VIP program
5 and they're actually volunteers, and we bring a few of
6 them over and we train them up, and they get excited with
7 the most mundane. I'm like just let them do it. I mean,
8 it helps us because it takes a lot of time off our hands.

9 MS. JONES: Absolutely. Great detail, good
10 job.

11 MR. GONZALEZ: Are there any public comments on
12 this item?

13 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

14 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you, LT, for the
15 presentation.

16 With that, agenda item 8, Discussion of MVCPA
17 FY24-25 plan of operation. Director Wilson, I'll turn it
18 over to you.

19 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Bryan Wilson, for the
20 record.

21 On page 49, today is one of those rare
22 occasions when you get to be the Grants, the Budget and
23 the Reporting Committee all in one place. I won't keep
24 you long, but I just do want to tell you two things.

25 Like I said, on page 49 of your board book is a

1 chart of what's due on December 1. Your next statutory
2 report is to the legislature on December 1, called the
3 Plan of Operation, and this is your report.

4 It has four elements in the statute -- let's
5 see if I can remember them; I'm getting old because that's
6 why I'm retiring, right? -- but you have to provide the
7 assessment of what's going on with motor vehicle theft,
8 burglary and fraud-related crime.

9 You have to provide a detailed analysis of what
10 you're doing for that, you have to state what it is that
11 you want to do to solve the problem, and then finally, a
12 financial analysis of what it would take for the
13 legislature to fully fund that activity.

14 So this is your grant process. Right? I mean,
15 really what you're telling is a plan of operation that
16 provides that.

17 So over the next few weeks there's going to be
18 surveys that in the past we asked the chiefs of police, we
19 asked the sheriffs, and we asked the task forces what do
20 you want?

21 So when you get those questions, as Yessenia
22 and Joe will provide to you, you need to pay attention to
23 is this the information that you need to meet your
24 statutory requirement, and is this going to affect you?

25 If there are other stakeholder groups, like

1 NICB agents or others that you want to ask, you should do
2 that at that time, but right now the plan is to do
3 sheriffs, chiefs of police, and the task forces. They're
4 going to model it off of what we did three years ago, or I
5 guess two years ago, and if it's the wrong question, you
6 need to fix what are the right questions.

7 So you'll be getting that, the questions are in
8 our SurveyMonkey account, and they'll be bringing those
9 forward.

10 Beyond that, you just need to make sure as a
11 committee that you manage that process and manage staff to
12 make sure that the report gets delivered on time. We've
13 never been late on a report since I've been here, so
14 hopefully you'll carry on that tradition and make sure
15 that it gets delivered to the legislature at its proper
16 time.

17 And that's all I have, Mr. Chairman. Thank you
18 very much.

19 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Jones, do you have any
20 comments on that agenda item?

21 MS. JONES: No, sir.

22 MR. GONZALEZ: Are there any public comments on
23 that agenda item?

24 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

25 MR. GONZALEZ: All right. Then I will move on

1 over to agenda item 9, Review and discuss grant violation
2 documentation and notification policy.

3 MR. WILSON: Can we skip that? At the time
4 that I posted that, it got swallowed up into the other
5 consideration that the board will take up tomorrow about
6 the process for developing policy.

7 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. Then we will skip that
8 item 9, and we will move on to item 10.

9 Is there any public comment on anything from
10 the audience?

11 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

12 MR. GONZALEZ: Then with that, I will make a
13 motion, I guess, to adjourn? No? I will adjourn the
14 meeting of the Grants Budget and Reporting Committee at
15 5:44 p.m. Thank y'all very much.

16 (Whereupon, at 5:44 p.m., the meeting was
17 adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

LOCATION: San Marcos, Texas

DATE: August 22, 2022

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,
numbers 1 through 149, 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 2, 2022

/s/ Nancy H. King
(Transcriber)

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