

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

Texas Department of Motor Vehicles
4000 Jackson Avenue
Building 1, Lone Star Room
Austin, Texas 78731

9:07 a.m.
Wednesday,
February 22, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

Joe Canady, Director
David Richards, General Counsel

ON THE RECORD REPORTING
(512) 450-0342

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CLOSED SESSION

8.	The Board may enter into closed session under one or more of the following provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code Chapter 551: Section 551.071 Section 551.074 Section 551.076 Section 551.089 -	55
9.	Action Items from Closed Session	none
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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning. My name is Mike
3 Rodriguez, and I'm pleased to open the meeting of the
4 Board of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority.

5 It is 9:07 a.m., and I'm now calling the Board
6 meeting for February 22, 2023 to order. I want to note for
7 the record that the public notice of this meeting,
8 containing all items on the agenda, was filed with the
9 Office of the Secretary of State on February 14, 2023.

10 Before we begin today's meeting, please place
11 all cell phones and other communication devices in a
12 silent mode, and please, as a courtesy to others, do not
13 carry on side conversations or other activities in the
14 meeting room.

15 I want to welcome those who are with us for
16 today's Board meeting. If you wish to address the Board
17 or speak on an agenda item during today's meeting, please
18 complete a speaker's sheet at the registration table.

19 Please identify the specific item you are
20 interested in commenting on, your name and address, and
21 whether you are representing anyone or speaking for
22 yourself. If your comment does not pertain to a specific
23 agenda item, we will take your comment during the gnarl
24 public comment portion of the meeting.

25 In accordance with the department's

1 administrative rule, comments to the Board will be limited
2 to three minutes. To assist each speaker, a timer has
3 been provided at the podium. The timer light will be
4 green for the first two minutes, yellow for one minute,
5 and then red when your time is up.

6 Individuals cannot accumulate time from other
7 speakers. Comments should be pertinent to the issues
8 stated on the comment sheet. When addressing the Board,
9 please state your name and affiliation for the record.

10 There are a few things that will assist in
11 making the meeting run smoother and assist the court
12 reporter in getting an accurate record: please identify
13 yourself before speaking, speak clearly and slowly and do
14 not speak over others, and please ask the chairman for
15 permission to speak and be sure to get recognized before
16 speaking.

17 I would like to thank our court reporter who is
18 transcribing this meeting.

19 Before we begin today, I'd like to remind all
20 presenters and those in attendance of the rules of conduct
21 at our Board meetings. The Board chair has authority to
22 supervise the conduct of meetings. This includes the
23 authority to determine when a speaker is being disruptive
24 of the meeting or is otherwise violating the timing or
25 presentation rules I just discussed.

1 Agenda item 1. Roll call and establishment of
2 quorum. Now I'd like to have a roll call of the Board
3 members. Please respond verbally when I call your name.

4 Member Jones, are you present?

5 MS. JONES: Present.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Smith?

9 MR. SMITH: Present.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton?

13 MS. BROTHERTON: Present.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu Serrano?

15 MS. CANTU SERRANO: Present.

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

18 Agenda item 2. Pledge of Allegiance - U.S. and
19 Texas. Please stand and honor our country and state with
20 pledges of allegiance. Member Dean Smith will now lead us
21 in the U.S. Pledge.

22 (The Pledges of Allegiance - U.S. and Texas
23 were recited.)

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Member Smith, for
25 leading us in the U.S. Pledge and the Texas Pledge.

1 Agenda item number 3. Approval of transcript
2 for November 29, 2022 meeting as minutes.

3 Members, we will now take up item number 3.A.
4 Approval of transcript from our November 29, 2022 meeting
5 as minutes.

6 Members, if everyone has reviewed the
7 transcript, would anyone like to make a motion?

8 MS. JONES: Member Jones. I move that the
9 Board adopt the transcript as minutes from the November
10 29, 2022 meeting.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member
12 Jones. Is there a second?

13 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton. I second.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton seconds the
15 motion. Is there any further discussion?

16 (No response.)

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

19 (A chorus of ayes.)

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All opposed say nay.

21 (No response.)

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

24 Agenda item 3.B. Board chairman comments.

25 Thank you for attending the MVCPA Board

1 meeting. I'd like to talk about the efforts and success
2 of our task forces in the fight against motor vehicle
3 crimes. In the past year, task forces have recovered more
4 than 12,000 vehicles valued at more than \$180 million.
5 These efforts are the result of hard work and dedication
6 of around 230 task force investigators, truly a large
7 accomplishment from a small number of personnel. I thank
8 you for that, and this Board thanks you for that.

9 While we have achieved great accomplishments in
10 the fight against motor vehicle crimes, we're not done
11 yet. Criminals are increasingly becoming more violent
12 when committing vehicle thefts, carjackings, jugging and
13 catalytic converter thefts.

14 As advancements in technology occur, criminals
15 are incorporating the same advancement to their methods
16 when committing crimes. The results are complex motor
17 vehicle crimes that are costing families and businesses
18 millions of dollars each year and in some cases the loss
19 of life.

20 Task forces may have many definitions, but for
21 our purpose I believe it represents a group of
22 investigators under one leader for the purpose of reducing
23 motor vehicle theft, burglary, fraud-related motor vehicle
24 crimes. Now more than ever we need to work together in
25 continuing our efforts against motor vehicle crimes.

1 Finally, I want to thank the Texas DMV for
2 their increased coordination and support of the MVCPA.
3 Their submission of the legislative appropriations request
4 for the Legislative Budget Board resulted in positive news
5 when the state's budget bills were filed.

6 Both bills included identical levels of
7 baseline funding, as requested by the Texas DMV. I'm
8 optimistic, I'm excited about the future of MVCPA, and the
9 growth of the program, and I think everybody should be
10 excited that we're heading into this direction and that we
11 have the support that we haven't had for quite a while.

12 So I'm extremely happy to announce this and
13 extremely happy with the support that we've been getting
14 from our Texas DMV partners and the leadership at Texas
15 DMV, because they've been a tremendous help in our efforts
16 to get the funding that we need.

17 Aside from that, again I just really want to
18 thank you from the bottom of my heart to all the task
19 forces that are out there constantly working and attacking
20 the problems that we have in our cities, because it's
21 never ending. I know we don't see the light sometimes
22 with the amount of work.

23 I just heard some presentations yesterday about
24 how we need more personnel, more equipment and more money
25 to be able to serve our communities, and believe me when I

1 tell you that we continue to push for that, and I'm very
2 optimistic and I know that we will get there really soon.

3 So again, thank you for your efforts and thank
4 you for everything that you do.

5 We'll move to agenda item number 4. MVCPA
6 director's reports. Members, Director Joe Canady and
7 designated staff will present a briefing on various topics
8 in this agenda item.

9 Director Canady.

10 MR. CANADY: Good morning. Joe Canady, MVCPA
11 director.

12 We received great news from the Governor's
13 Office on reappointments. Congratulations to Chairman
14 Rodriguez and Member Smith on being reappointed to serve
15 for the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority for a
16 term expiring in February 2029.

17 We have several retirements and promotions to
18 announce. This is not an inclusive list, but it's the
19 information that we have that we're aware of that was
20 provided to us.

21 David Roxton with the Northeast Auto Theft Task
22 Force, he has 29 years in law enforcement. He was with
23 the Texas TDCJ for seven years, 22 years with the Paris
24 Police Department, 12 years assigned to their task force,
25 and most recently has retired from the department and his

1 last assignment was the task force commander of the Paris
2 Police Department.

3 James Lint, San Antonio PD, commander of the
4 San Antonio PD Auto Theft Task Force, he was promoted to
5 captain.

6 Jay Truelock, he's retired and former Texas DPS
7 Motor Vehicle Theft, Texas DMV Enforcement, Lubbock County
8 District Attorney's Office, and chief investigator of the
9 South Plains Auto Theft Task Force, and he retired in
10 December of 2022.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I had a question, Director
12 Canady. Who can we, I guess, assign to do kind of like a
13 package -- not a package but like a plaque or something
14 when somebody retires and has been with the auto theft
15 task force, conducting investigations and going along with
16 the strategies that have been put in place for our
17 objectives here?

18 I would like to recommend to send them off with
19 a nice plaque on retirement. Because we're all cops, the
20 majority here are all cops, and we've been there where you
21 retire and then they just send you, goodbye, thank you for
22 your service, and I think it's nice when somebody retires
23 and they can hang a plaque in their home and talk about
24 what they did when they were active and they were on duty.

25 So if we can look into that. I don't know

1 which committee would be appropriate to request that from
2 and maybe budget that into our budget and have
3 representatives from us when they're very close to
4 retirement, and not send it to their office but have a
5 representative of us go to the task force commander and
6 say, hey, we want to present this plaque to the retiree.
7 If we can do that, I don't know, again, you might guide me
8 into what committee we should assign this to.

9 MR. CANADY: We can look at that, and this
10 might be something that we want to, for the short term,
11 assign to the conference committee and incorporate this in
12 the awards banquet portion of the conference in June for
13 those that are going to attend or could attend to receive
14 that recognition.

15 And then for the ones that cannot, we can
16 certainly arrange travel to their agencies and get them
17 presented and recognized as they deserve.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: What do you think, Sharon?

19 MS. JONES: I like it, yes.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let's do it.

21 MR. CANADY: It will be done.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Awesome. Thank you.

23 Item 4.B for personnel. We coordinated with
24 the Texas DMV Human Resources Division to reclassify the
25 law enforcement position that I previously served in,

1 reclassify that as a manager position for MVCPA. There
2 have been many qualified applicants and we're coordinating
3 further with TxDMV in completing the interview process as
4 to select a candidate who exhibits the knowledge, skills,
5 the abilities and the collaboration that will become an
6 asset to the division. We are very close in completing
7 all of that to move forward.

8 We also coordinated with TxDMV and Human
9 Resources Division to reclassify the program specialist
10 position to a management analyst III. In addition to
11 existing responsibilities, the position will function as a
12 management analyst for the MVCPA.

13 Work will involve coordinating and implementing
14 organizational studies and evaluations, reviewing systems
15 and procedures, coordinating work, simplification studies,
16 conducting research, analysis and reviewing operations and
17 procedures manuals to assist management in operating more
18 efficiently and effectively.

19 We are also looking at other positions,
20 evaluating all positions to see if something else needs to
21 be reclassified according to the job descriptions and the
22 duties that they're performing.

23 For agenda item 4.C, I turn it over to Dan
24 Price.

25 MR. PRICE: For the record, this is Dan Price,

1 MVCPA grant auditor. We're on page 7 and 8 of the Board
2 book, if you would please turn to page 8 of your Board
3 book.

4 These are highlights as of the end of December
5 of 2022 of where we're at on our budget. We have gone
6 ahead and issued purchase orders for \$13,809,999 as of
7 that time.

8 Our biggest expense during the first quarter
9 was in-state travel. Joe has been going around doing a
10 lot of training for folks during that period of time. Our
11 expenditures were very low because we're just getting
12 going usually by that time, at \$119,134. Our encumbrances
13 were \$13,831,000, and the expenditures were \$1,133,000.

14 As Joe indicated, we are down one position at
15 the moment, and those interviews are currently ongoing.

16 That's it. Are there any questions on that?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. PRICE: We'll go to Gresham Kay for 4.D.

19 MR. KAY: Good morning. Gresham Kay, MVCPA.

20 An update on grant activities analysis for the
21 FY2022 MAG Grant. Based on the Q-1 progress reporting
22 we've received -- and that covers the first three months
23 of the fiscal year from September through November -- the
24 majority of the grantees were still completing purchase
25 and installation of the equipment and were either

1 receiving the equipment late in 2022 or still in early
2 2023.

3 So we have had some success stories; however,
4 the next Q-2 progress report will be due in March, and we
5 anticipate that there will be more substantive data such
6 as one of the questions asked about stolen vehicles
7 recovered in response to LPR alerts, so we expect to have
8 more substantive data at the next Board meeting.

9 And then for the MVCPA Task Force Grants, the
10 grants will complete Q-2 of the current fiscal year at the
11 end of this month. A table is included there with the
12 statutory performance measures, and that's for Q-1 so far
13 this fiscal year.

14 Are there any questions on this item?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. KAY: Agenda item 4.E, an update on grant
17 adjustments, so grant adjustments where there are changes
18 to the terms of the MVCPA contract with grantees. Since
19 the last Board meeting on November 29, there have been
20 three budget adjustments and one program adjustment, and a
21 summary is provided for the Board there.

22 And then agenda item 4.F, an update on
23 educational programs for the authority. We continue to
24 use web-based tools and social media for outreach, such as
25 Facebook, and also for the MVCPA public education and

1 public awareness, the PEPA grant.

2 The Insurance Council of Texas and its
3 contractor, talkStrategy, they provided us a fall 2022
4 activity update. I'd encourage you to turn to the next
5 page, page 14. There's a campaign scorecard they put
6 together which has statistics on the audience reach across
7 the state to date. And we will have monthly meetings with
8 ICT and their contractor to continue to work on the
9 campaign for the remainder of the year.

10 Are there any questions on education programs?

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a question. On the
12 markets for the audio impression, what exactly was
13 promoted, what was the audio clip about? Was it the one
14 that was granted the grant they put out that clip, or is
15 it something that we did outside of their scope of work?

16 MR. KAY: So I think the majority is with
17 broadcast radio. Also there is a social media video,
18 which is the same advertisement that they put together,
19 and there's also social media, so there's either banner
20 advertisements or there's some where it can flip to
21 different slides, using the same campaign theme.

22 I think Yessenia presented last time that it
23 has a cartoon figure encouraging people to lock their
24 keys. The name of the campaign that they're emphasizing
25 is Lock It Up Texas, using that animation messaging to

1 encourage people to lock their vehicles.

2 MR. CANADY: Mr. Chairman, if I may? Joe
3 Canady, MVCPA.

4 The audio portion of it is taken from the
5 campaign, the Lock It Down Texas, to where they're
6 referring to parking in well-lit areas, leaving your
7 vehicle secured, knowing that it's in the audio click of
8 the remote, actually locking down the vehicle. That's the
9 audio portion of it for Pandora radio and other media
10 outlets to reach a greater audience in these regions.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Now, on the numbers, so we've
12 got Dallas at 1,121,000 and then we've got Austin at
13 129,000, is that the people that was reached through these
14 impressions or is that the amount of impressions that was
15 put out?

16 MR. CANADY: According to the ICT, that is who
17 they believe it reached through what they issued out. So
18 the numbers will be higher on potentially the number of
19 people that could have received it but these are the
20 information that they have put together on who has
21 actually received and heard the campaign.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And do we know why the gap in
23 that number?

24 MR. CANADY: No, sir, I do not. As Gresham
25 mentioned, we have monthly meetings scheduled, and this

1 can be a question we can ask them, coming up here in a
2 couple of weeks, on the difference in those markets and
3 why the numbers are like that.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Because I'm curious to see why
5 is it that it didn't reach that many people in Austin
6 versus Dallas.

7 MR. CANADY: Right.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is it the type of impression
9 that was put out or was it because of the platform that
10 they used to push this out?

11 So I think it's important because of the fact
12 that Austin is a hotspot for what we're trying to prevent.
13 And if we're not reaching through what method they're
14 using at this point, we need to change it up and make sure
15 that we reach the community here.

16 MR. CANADY: Yes, sir.

17 MS. BENAVIDES: Sir, if I may speak?

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Go ahead.

19 MS. BENAVIDES: So that's definitely something
20 we would like to clarify on.

21 MR. CANADY: For the record, this is Yessenia
22 Benavides.

23 MS. BENAVIDES: My apologies. For the record,
24 this is Yessenia, program specialist at MVCPA.

25 What we would like to clarify is when the

1 company issues out these advertisements, how they
2 calculate that data, whether it's people that actually
3 click on it and that counts as an impression, or if it
4 does not count as an impression if people just continue to
5 scroll through it.

6 So that's sometimes data that we receive on our
7 website, so we'll definitely be looking into that and
8 verifying what those numbers actually mean, whether is it
9 was sent to the different areas throughout the state and
10 people from, say, for example, Dallas that have a higher
11 population, or not from, say, El Paso, whether they
12 physically tap on the ad and stay 10 seconds, 30 seconds
13 to actually see it all.

14 MS. JONES: Sharon Jones, for the record.

15 The 11 percent engagement rate is very low. It
16 appears as though from the top one to nine, these are the
17 top largest populated cities. It does not reflect all of
18 our population, our task force areas, definitely does not
19 reflect that.

20 And also, the active time that people are
21 spending is like one minute and 45 seconds. It's kind of
22 like they're clicking, they're looking at it for a minute
23 and 45 seconds, but my main concern is these are larger
24 populated areas, so I would like to know how are they
25 marketing to other areas throughout Texas. Do you know

1 that?

2 MR. CANADY: Partially, partially I can answer
3 that. Joe Canady, for the record.

4 As far as the referring to the one minute and
5 45 seconds, some of these campaigns are not much longer
6 than that, so during that period they may be viewing the
7 whole ad on Facebook, so they could have the attention of
8 the audience there and they're getting most of the
9 message, if not all of it.

10 As far as the other areas that you're referring
11 to, I can't provide that information on how they're
12 reaching it, if they're basing these numbers off of what
13 they're seeing more in the major markets, in the major
14 regions, or if it is continued over into the smaller
15 markets as well. But that will be information that we
16 confirm and definitely report back.

17 MS. JONES: I think a minute and 45 is pretty
18 good, because it could be 46 seconds, so that's pretty
19 good.

20 Another question: Is this bilingual?

21 MR. CANADY: Yes, ma'am, it is.

22 MS. JONES: Okay.

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

25 Also, if we can also, Yessenia and Director

1 Canady, if we can also push to this company that our
2 problem spots -- and yes, I agree, we go at it with where
3 our task forces are at, but we all know that Odessa and
4 Midland is a hotspot there, and we need to push this
5 message to those areas too.

6 And I know that we always say that, hey,
7 wherever there's a task force, let's push it there and
8 that way they can contact them, but if we can push it into
9 the area of Midland and Odessa, we can slow things down
10 there while we find somebody that's going to pick up a
11 task force there. You know, let's do that and give that
12 information to the company, to the marketing company to
13 say, hey, these are our hotspots, we've got Houston with
14 high numbers, we've got Austin with high numbers, we've
15 got Dallas with high numbers, and then we look at the
16 Valley, the Valley has high numbers but not as high as
17 other areas.

18 So if we're going to do some investment with
19 marketing, we need to attack those areas that are heavily
20 being hit by auto theft and burglary of vehicles and
21 especially those areas where they're being hit with theft
22 of firearms, which is increasing every day.

23 So we need to look at those numbers and make
24 sure that we push that information to the marketing
25 company and say, hey, this is where our hotspots are at,

1 and this where we want to do a little bit more investment
2 than other areas of the state.

3 But I think it's important that we find out why
4 the big gap between Dallas and Austin, and if something is
5 not working, let's change it up, let's find out a reason
6 and let's change it up and find a way to get the attention
7 of the community, the viewers, the listeners.

8 Whatever it is that we need to do, we need to
9 do it, change it up, not stay there with the same message
10 that is not working.

11 MR. CANADY: Yes, sir.

12 MS. JONES: Member Jones again.

13 Yesterday one of the task forces who presented
14 mentioned that they're doing a lot of outreach with the
15 younger population, with kids. So this is mainly audio.
16 What are they doing with print, how are they reaching
17 others besides the radio or verbal, those who are not
18 listening, how is that being sent out?

19 MR. CANADY: Joe Canady, for the record.

20 They're also utilizing Facebook and other
21 online resources with the ads and campaign that we
22 previously in the last Board meeting that we provided the
23 overview of the car and the dim area and they had a
24 picture of a thief in the background approaching that
25 vehicle. And the owner all of a sudden hits his clicker

1 and locks it down and the thief runs away. And it gives
2 the message to park in well lighted areas, it's all visual
3 on Facebook and other social media applications.

4 MS. JONES: Can you get a status on the social
5 media aspect?

6 MR. CANADY: Sure.

7 MS. JONES: Because they only provided audio,
8 so we need to know how they started social media.

9 MR. CANADY: On the chart here it shows that a
10 16.3 percent has been social media via Facebook and
11 Instagram. Sorry, it's small print; it just didn't fit
12 that well.

13 MS. JONES: Oh, it's small, I can't see it.
14 What is it, 16 percent?

15 MR. CANADY: 16.3 percent of their total
16 impressions have been through Facebook or social media.

17 MS. JONES: Okay.

18 MR. CANADY: But we can drill that number down
19 further and provide an update for you and get you the
20 information that you'd like to see.

21 MS. JONES: Thank you, sir.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I think it's important that we
23 get those numbers from social media, how many clicks, how
24 many views, how many impressions. I think it's important
25 because we just want to make sure that the message that

1 we're putting out is getting to them. So we'll wait for
2 the next Board meeting to get that back in here. Thank
3 you.

4 MR. CANADY: Moving on to 4.G, Dan Price.

5 MR. PRICE: For the record, this is Dan Price,
6 MVCPA grant auditor.

7 We're going to talk a little bit about
8 insurance assessment, collection and refund activities of
9 the MVCPA fee. In general, the Comptroller especially is
10 still getting caught up from large staff turnover during
11 COVID, as well as other ramifications with COVID, so
12 they're running a little bit behind.

13 We were able to send the 2020 final list of
14 non-filers to the Texas Department of Insurance on
15 September 28. The net result of that was that two warning
16 letters were issued.

17 One of the companies went ahead and filed and
18 paid, and the other filed a zero premium report. The
19 correspondence associated with that turnover is in your
20 Board book as backup.

21 It's important to note that if a company
22 chooses not to file or if they're in liquidation or
23 bankruptcy based on TDI's records, they will not pursue
24 issuing warning letters to them.

25 We base our folks in liquidation and

1 receivership on lists furnished by the Comptroller's
2 Office and frequently those are lagging what TDI is
3 showing, so that creates a certain disparity between the
4 two.

5 2021 we sent two non-filer letters out. One is
6 a more polite reminder, and the other one is a please
7 comply or you'll be turned over to TDI. The second letter
8 was sent out on October 18.

9 We got an update on the first and second non-
10 filer letters on February 8; that was about two months
11 after we should have received it. And the TDI request
12 letter based on the results of those two letters is being
13 prepared by our office at this time to be turned over to
14 TDI.

15 The 2022 first half non-filer report from the
16 CPA's office was also received on February 28, and the
17 letters to those folks are also being prepared to be sent
18 to them asking them to comply with the law.

19 Refund requests: We had two refund requests
20 that were both from Agricultural Workers Mutual Auto
21 Insurance. The first one was rejected because they did
22 not have a valid Texas insurance license number to be
23 provided, and the second one, they did provide that
24 number, but they were requesting an adjustment based on an
25 annual proration of a \$2 fee, and per our regulations, the

1 fee of \$4 is due at the time the policy is issued; it's
2 not prorated over a period of time. So we rejected that
3 one as well.

4 The next pages again are backups with TDI
5 correspondence and lists of companies that aren't in
6 compliance at that point in time, as well as copies of the
7 warning letters sent from TDI to these companies.

8 Are there any questions on these items?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. PRICE: Okay. Hearing none, I'll turn it
11 back over to Joe Canady for Training, 4.H.

12 MR. CANADY: For 4.H, Joe Canady, director
13 MVCPA.

14 MVCPA, Texas DMV staff and grant program
15 personnel conducted five training events since December of
16 2022, which resulted in more than 160 officers receiving
17 training related to motor vehicle crimes.

18 MVCPA assisted in the development of training,
19 specifically related to the Texas DMV temporary tag
20 redesign. Staff shortages have delayed scheduling of the
21 intermediate and advanced training; however, we anticipate
22 to have two to three intermediate and one, at minimum,
23 hopefully two advanced classes for this current year.
24 When additional staff comes onboard, those will be
25 performed.

1 But we have provided training in the City of
2 Dallas for Dallas PD, for Galveston County SO, Kerr County
3 SO, Laredo PD, and the DFW area for vehicle finance fraud,
4 the redesign for the temporary tags, an overview of MVCPA,
5 current criminal crime trends that are occurring in
6 different jurisdictions, and the resources that people can
7 reach out to MVCPA, as well as temporary tag uses and
8 requirements for all of these agencies.

9 Any questions?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. CANADY: That concludes agenda item 4.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, are there any
13 questions for Director Canady or designated staff on these
14 briefing items?

15 MS. JONES: No, sir.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, members, we will
17 now move to agenda item number 5. MVCPA Grants Budget and
18 Reporting Committee report.

19 Julio is not here, so we'll hear from Sharon
20 and Director Canady.

21 MS. JONES: Mr. Chairman, the Grants Budget and
22 Reporting Committee heard presentations from the Laredo,
23 Corpus Christi, and Lubbock task forces yesterday. The
24 task forces are making great strides in combating motor
25 vehicle crime, and here are a few of the highlights.

1 In 2009, Laredo was ranked as the Car Theft
2 Capital of the nation; in 2020 they became the least
3 likely city in Texas to have a vehicle stolen. The Grant
4 Committee would like to acknowledge and recommend the
5 Laredo Task Force for their significant accomplishments.

6 All three task forces were satisfied with the
7 leveraging that license plate readers are providing to
8 their operations. The South Plains Task Force reported a
9 high record number of arrests related to their bait car
10 operations.

11 Laredo PD expressed support for allowing
12 civilian personnel to conduct 68-A inspections due to the
13 significant workload these inspections are placing on our
14 task forces. Corpus Christi and Laredo PD explained that
15 additional funding for personnel and specifically for
16 assistant district attorneys to prosecute motor vehicle
17 crime is needed.

18 Expenditure review process. The director
19 provided an overview of the expenditure review process to
20 ensure expenditures are reasonable, allowable, and
21 expected based on the grantee's approved budget and
22 application.

23 During a review of expenditure report, a line
24 item was noted for rent. A review of public records was
25 performed to determine the identity of the landlord. The

1 landlord was determined to be wholly owned by a subsidiary
2 of the grantee. The grantee submitted a grant adjustment
3 to remove the unallowable cost for the 2023 budget.

4 Grant monitoring and site visits. The director
5 provided an overview of the grant monitoring and site
6 visit process to ensure grantees are compliant with state
7 law, program rules, regulations, and operating as outlined
8 in the statement of grant award.

9 In January, a monitoring visit of a multi-
10 agency task force was conducted. The following
11 observations were made: The task force is a multi-agency
12 grant with three sub-grantees. The coordination between
13 grantee and sub-grantees is below what is expected. Sub-
14 grantee monitoring of program operations and financial
15 elements needs improvement, and inventory management needs
16 improvement as well.

17 Conference travel. The committee voted in
18 favor to support a recommendation to the full Board of
19 increasing the task force grant awards to allow for
20 conference travel expenses.

21 And finally, fiscal year 2024 applications.
22 The committee voted in favor to support a motion to the
23 full Board on publishing the 2024 request for applications
24 and determine eligibility and funding priorities.

25 That concludes the end of our report.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Member Jones.
2 Excellent report.

3 I've got to tell you, I was here yesterday and
4 I was sitting in the back, and I was remembering the first
5 time that we summoned our task forces to present on their
6 objectives and their strategies and things like that, and
7 I remember me and Tommy were at that table, there was a
8 table here, and I saw the presentations yesterday, and I
9 said, Boy, we've come a long way. Everybody used to come
10 in with a paper and say, Here's what we do, and pass
11 around those copies.

12 But I want to thank the task forces that came
13 yesterday, because you see the work that they put in to
14 come and present to the committee and to this Board, and
15 it's a lot of effort that they do to present their work.

16 And not only that, but the respect that they
17 give the committee and the respect that they give to this
18 Board, I want to thank them for that, because it shows
19 what they're doing, it shows the effort that they do day-
20 in and day-out, so again, thank you for that, because I
21 know I was here a long time ago, and I remember very well
22 how we came about trying to discuss what we do in our
23 daily operations.

24 So we've come a long way, and I think we're
25 just going to get better, so thank you for that excellent

1 report.

2 I do want to ask on the travel expenses, so
3 that passed. Can we get that to the commanders and
4 everybody else that that's the agenda item that was talked
5 about yesterday through the committee. It passed and now
6 we can do those changes. Correct?

7 MR. CANADY: In reference to that, just for a
8 little additional information, it's a very small
9 percentage of the existing grants, probably 1 percent, to
10 allow their administrative personnel as well as their
11 financial personnel to attend that conference.

12 Historically, the financial officers don't
13 receive all the additional grant training that they could
14 on an in-person basis, so this is going to provide a very
15 cost-effective outlet for officers to receive law
16 enforcement training, grant officials from the program
17 side and the financial side to have roundtable discussions
18 as well to identify and maybe come up with solutions that
19 are going to work and help the program moving forward.

20 I believe the committee recommendation
21 yesterday was for a vote from the full Board to approve
22 the director to work with DMV Finance and Administrative
23 Services to identify the process on what we need to do to
24 increase those task force awards.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Perfect.

1 Any other questions from the members on this
2 item?

3 Well, Dean is part of the committee, so I don't
4 know if he has any questions.

5 MR. SMITH: No, I don't.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Calling agenda item 5.F.
7 Process to increase task force grant award for conference
8 travel. This is an action item. I will now turn this
9 item to Director Canady, which he just explained right now
10 in regards to that, so, members, are there any questions
11 in regards to this item?

12 MS. JONES: No, sir.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, Yessenia, do we
14 have any public comments on this item?

15 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, do I have a motion on
17 agenda item number 5.F?

18 MS. JONES: Sharon Jones. I move that the
19 Board approve the MVCPA director to coordinate with Texas
20 DMV Finance and Administrative Services Division to
21 increase travel funds to the FY23 task force grant awards
22 for grant administrative and law enforcement personnel to
23 attend the 2023 MVCPA Conference.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion from Member Jones. Is
25 there a second?

1 MR. SMITH: Member Smith. I'll second that.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Smith seconds the
3 motion. Is there any further discussion?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I will now call
6 the question. All those in favor of the motion say aye.

7 (A chorus of ayes.)

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All opposed nay.

9 (No response.)

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

12 We'll now go to agenda item number 5.G. Request
13 for fiscal year 2024-2025 request for applications, RFA.
14 This is an action item.

15 Mr. Canady.

16 MR. CANADY: Joe Canady, MVCPA director.

17 We're coming up on the next biennia for FY24
18 and FY25. The MVCPA is authorized to issue a request for
19 applications during this time period to provide grants to
20 local law enforcement to combat motor vehicle theft,
21 burglary of motor vehicle, and/or fraud-related motor
22 vehicle crime.

23 The RFA needs to include eligibility
24 requirements and grant features such as items that the
25 Board sees as priority items for the grants before the RFA

1 is issued. I guess the two years prior it's been eligible
2 for task force grants only for law enforcement agencies,
3 so I don't know if the Board wishes to keep that or
4 develop other grants to non law enforcement agencies for
5 the next biennia.

6 The application category, we believe as staff,
7 should be a new grant; applications are close to 20 years
8 old now, may not have fresh data in them based on the
9 current crime trends and statistics, current crime trends
10 that are occurring in those jurisdictions.

11 This will allow the commanders to start over,
12 start fresh, and they may incorporate some of the old
13 information from their application, but it will be based
14 on current trends and data that is happening now in their
15 jurisdictions. So we recommend that a new grant be issued
16 versus a continuation of that.

17 For funding priorities to consider, the Board
18 has previously talked about license plate readers as being
19 a priority for funding across the state and to get more
20 readers in additional areas, additional jurisdictions.

21 Dedicated prosecutors have been talked about,
22 you know, getting more prosecutors attached to a task
23 force to be able to more efficiently prosecute those
24 crimes.

25 Border and port security operations, the

1 governor, just the other night that was included in his
2 priorities, border security for the upcoming year.

3 Catalytic converter operations and prevention
4 certainly is very personal to our task forces, especially
5 Harris County due to the loss of Deputy Almendarez earlier
6 last year.

7 Statewide task force or border crimes task
8 force to address real crime trends.

9 Certainly those are possibilities for priority
10 that the Board may consider, or you may have other
11 priorities that you would like to add in there as well.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, are there any
13 questions or comments for Mr. Canady?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, Yessenia, are
16 there any public comments on this agenda item?

17 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, this is an action
19 item. Do I have a motion on agenda item number 5.G?

20 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton. I move
21 that the Board authorize the MVCPA director to coordinate
22 with the MVCPA Board designee to publish the FY2024
23 request for applications based on eligibility requirements
24 and priorities for funding, as determined by the MVCPA
25 Board.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Have a motion from Member
2 Brotherton. Is there a second?

3 MS. CANTU SERRANO: I, Rebecca Cantu Serrano,
4 will second this motion.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu Serrano seconds
6 the motion. Is there any further discussion?

7 (No response.)

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

10 (A chorus of ayes.)

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All those opposed nay.

12 (No response.)

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

15 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, David Richards,
16 general counsel, for the record.

17 Yessenia, did we skip your item, the briefing
18 item on the conference? Did you want to go over?

19 MS. BENAVIDES: Yes, sir, I can quickly go over
20 that.

21 MR. RICHARDS: 5.E. Thank you.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Agenda item 5.E. MVCPA
23 Conference update, this is a briefing only. I will turn
24 the discussion over to Director Canady, GBA Committee,
25 Member Jones and/or designated staff.

1 MS. BENAVIDES: Good morning. For the record,
2 this is Yessenia Benavides, program specialist at MVCPA.

3 Regarding the MVCPA 2023 Conference, we wanted
4 to provide an update to the MVCPA Board and especially for
5 those that are in attendance that weren't here yesterday
6 for the GBR meeting.

7 A requisition was submitted on December 16 of
8 2022 in the Centralized Accounting and Payroll/Personnel
9 System for Inn of the Hills Hotel for the conference. A
10 purchase order was issued on February 7 of 2023. The
11 amount of the purchase order was \$4,400, and on page 39 of
12 your Board book you'll find a price breakdown of that
13 contract.

14 A block of rooms has been created at the Inn of
15 the Hills Hotel for that MVCPA Conference. A block of
16 rooms will be held until Monday, May 15, 2023. And then
17 in addition to that, the check-in and check-out times are
18 going to be 4:00 p.m. for check-in and check-out is at
19 12:00 p.m. And a reservation will be sent out as soon as
20 we have that available, and that will be shared to the
21 grantees and those that are looking to be in attendance.

22 And also, good things to keep note of is that
23 the June 2023 state per diem rate for Kerrville, Texas, is
24 the standard rate for the daily lodging and \$59 for meals
25 and incidentals.

1 Are there any questions?

2 MS. JONES: Can you go over donations/donors,
3 or do you want me to do it?

4 MS. BENAVIDES: Sure. So if you are in
5 attendance and you were at the sign-in table, we did have
6 some flyers that are for the conference.

7 One of those flyers is for task forces or
8 grantees to share and ask for any donations that they
9 might be able to receive from different vendors or local
10 businesses that would like to assist with the conference.

11 There's different packages on that flyer, so
12 please pay close attention to that. If you didn't get a
13 copy of that flyer, we will be sending it out, or you can
14 always pick one up at the end of the meeting.

15 MS. JONES: And we're looking for raffle
16 options, so within your areas we're asking you to please
17 provide some raffle options so we can have a great time
18 raffling off prizes for those who are in attendance.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Very good. I think we're set
20 then. Exciting.

21 MR. CANADY: If I can also add -- Joe Canady,
22 director MVCPA -- this is also the 30th anniversary of the
23 MVCPA, so we will also have that to celebrate during the
24 conference as well.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Definitely need to get some

1 good merch in there and put some nice T-shirts with our
2 MVCPA 30th year anniversary. So we'll talk about that,
3 but I think it's exciting.

4 And then do we have a date for the Board
5 meeting? We are having a Board meeting during the
6 conference. Correct?

7 MR. CANADY: And on page 42 is the schedule for
8 that in your Board book material. The Board meeting and
9 grant awards ceremony will be on June 15. And the 14th,
10 the night before on that Wednesday will be the awards
11 ceremony and banquet for the conference.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Now, Yessenia, you will be
13 taking care of the lodging for the Board members.
14 Correct?

15 MS. BENAVIDES: Yes, sir. Yes, I will.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Thank you.

17 Let's go on to the next agenda item, agenda
18 item 6. State Auditor engagement. This is a briefing
19 only. Members, this item will be presented by Salem
20 Chuah, Texas DMV director, Internal Audit Division,
21 Director Canady and/or designated staff.

22 Good morning.

23 MR. CHUAH: Good morning, Chairman Rodriguez,
24 members. My name is Salem Chuah. I'm the director of the
25 Internal Audit Division for the Texas Department of Motor

1 Vehicles.

2 Item 6 is a briefing item on the State
3 Auditor's Office audit on the Motor Vehicle Crime
4 Prevention Authority. The State Auditor's Office, or the
5 SAO, had two distinct objectives in this audit.

6 The first objective, which had multiple parts,
7 was to determine whether the MVCPA has processes in place
8 to ensure that it awards, administers, and monitors its
9 grants in accordance with applicable requirements, and
10 that second sub-objective is to determine whether the
11 MVCPA complies with selected statutory requirements,
12 including limitations on administrative expenses.

13 Now, that second objective, which is unrelated
14 to the MVCPA, is on the Department of Motor Vehicles and
15 evaluating processes and controls related to ensuring the
16 appropriate production and use of temporary vehicle tags.

17 Now, the SAO started this audit back in August
18 last year, and they've now produced a draft report. That
19 draft report is confidential, it was submitted to you all
20 through Joe Canady, I believe early February.

21 We submitted formal responses, management
22 responses to address all of the recommendations in that
23 audit report back to the SAO yesterday, and this report
24 will be publicly released on the SAO's website in March.
25 Until then, like I said, the report is confidential, so I

1 can go into details in closed session.

2 And that's all I have today. I just want to
3 also thank MVCPA Director Joe Canady and all of his staff
4 here who have been really responsive to the audit
5 requests, and it was a really good working relationship
6 with the State Auditor's Office.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, appreciate that,
8 Salem.

9 MR. CHUAH: Thank you.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any questions from the Board
11 members?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We'll now move on to agenda
14 item number 7. Legislative Update, briefing only. This
15 item will be presented by GSC Director Keith Yawn and
16 Glenna Bowman, FAS Division director.

17 Good morning.

18 MS. BOWMAN: Good morning, Chairman Rodriguez
19 and members. For the record, my name is Glenna Bowman.
20 I'm the chief financial officer for the Texas Department
21 of Motor Vehicles.

22 I'm pleased to be here this morning to give the
23 Board very good news, which some of you may already be
24 aware of, related to the legislative appropriations
25 request that was submitted.

1 In January of 2023, the House of
2 Representatives and the Senate filed their respective
3 versions of the state's introduced budget bills, HB 1 and
4 SB 1. Both introduced bills include identical levels of
5 baseline funding for MVCPA, which totals \$44.2 million for
6 the biennium.

7 The good news is this represents the full
8 statutory funding for the program which was requested in
9 our exceptional items for the MVCPA. It's an increase of
10 about \$7 million a year. We're very excited that it's in
11 the introduced version of the bill, because that means you
12 don't have to go testify, the legislature is going to give
13 it to the MVCPA. So we're excited about that.

14 In addition, it's not just that dollar amount.
15 This does represent full statutory funding, but the
16 introduced version also includes unexpended balance
17 authority.

18 So what that means is at the end of '24, the
19 first year of the next biennium, you'll be able to take
20 any funding that's left over -- say one of the grantees
21 doesn't expend all of its funding -- it can be carried
22 over to the next year to be utilized again.

23 And even better than that -- there's just all
24 kinds of good news for y'all today -- there's also
25 unexpended balance authority between the biennia. So what

1 that means is when we get to the end of this year, '23, if
2 there's funding left in your appropriations, we can carry
3 that forward to '24. So you're in the money. Very, very
4 good news, we're very excited about that.

5 So that's item 7.A. Do y'all have any
6 questions?

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members?

8 MR. SMITH: No questions.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Ms. Jones, no questions?

10 MS. JONES: No.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: This is awesome news. I think
12 everybody is probably very excited, and I know it's still
13 10:00, probably somebody is asking for a break already,
14 but it's exciting news.

15 I'm super excited for what's coming, and I
16 guess we've always said we continue asking for money and
17 everybody makes their efforts to go and talk to the
18 representatives, to the senators, and I want to say it's
19 paid off.

20 But I also want to say this, that this is a
21 collaboration effort with DMV. At the end of the day,
22 we're working together and making sure that the funding
23 goes to the right places, and wherever there is a
24 community need for efforts that are being put through the
25 task forces that we have or in need of new task forces to

1 be created to combine those efforts and make sure that we
2 keep pushing those criminals away from our community,
3 locking them up and doing the right thing.

4 I think it's very important that we thank
5 everybody that's been involved in this, because I remember
6 last year when you came and you told us this is the steps
7 and this is what we're going to do and we're going to do
8 it, and you did it. So thank you.

9 MS. BOWMAN: It was a team effort, and thank
10 you, Legislature, for that.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you very much.

12 MS. JONES: Something that's important to note
13 is if our task forces were not doing an excellent job and
14 recognized for it, it would not be as is.

15 Also, equally important is we have to make sure
16 that task forces are doing what they're supposed to do,
17 and we as a Board have to make sure that they're doing
18 what they're supposed to do to make sure that we get
19 continued support.

20 MS. BOWMAN: That's 7.A.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Glenna.

22 MS. JONES: Great job, with nice news.

23 MS. BOWMAN: And then I have 7.B.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let me bring it up. So we'll
25 move on to agenda item 7.B.

1 MS. BENAVIDES: Sir, before we move forward, we
2 do have a comment card that was turned in for 7.A.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. We have a comment on the
4 agenda item.

5 MS. BENAVIDES: 7.A, sir.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: 7.A? Do you want to wait,
7 Tommy?

8 MR. HANSEN: (Speaking from audience.) Yes.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Then we'll go to 7.B. We'll
10 move on to agenda item 7.B.

11 MS. BOWMAN: Thank you. Again for the record,
12 Glenna Bowman, chief financial officer for TxDMV.

13 So now we still have a little work to do during
14 the session and it goes to your comment about continuing
15 the work. So as noted in the previous item, the MVCPA did
16 get full funding which included funding for additional
17 FTEs, additional employees for the program. However, we
18 did not get the authorization for the FTEs yet.

19 We had a separate item that included all
20 Department of Motor Vehicles employees, including MVCPA,
21 as directed by the LBB, and so that funding is not
22 included right now -- excuse me -- the funding for MVCPA
23 is included, y'all have 100 percent of the funding, you
24 can support these employees, but we don't have the
25 additional authorization yet for those FTEs.

1 So that's included, we've resubmitted
2 exceptional items and the FTEs are requested. It's six of
3 them, and we are working on that. We actually had House
4 Appropriations and Senate Finance Committee meetings --
5 Keith will speak to all of that -- and there's still a
6 long way to go in the appropriations process, so we remain
7 very hopeful that we'll be able to kind of wrap up that
8 piece of the request.

9 And that is all I have. Do y'all have
10 questions?

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any questions?

12 MS. JONES: No, sir.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Glenna. Appreciate
14 it.

15 MS. BOWMAN: Thank you so much.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We'll now move to agenda item
17 7.C, Mr. Keith Yawn.

18 MR. YAWN: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members.
19 Thank you. Keith Yawn, director of Government and
20 Strategic Communications for the Department of Motor
21 Vehicles.

22 And I want to start by reemphasizing Member
23 Jones's comments, that the funding that MVCPA has received
24 in this budget is absolutely a response to the great work
25 that the task forces are doing.

1 But I want to extend that and say it's also a
2 testament to the work that the chairman and the members of
3 the committee, the efforts that you made during the
4 interim and working with our staff to take the
5 opportunities that were provided to us to speak to members
6 of the legislature, to speak in front of legislative
7 committees during the interim on these issues, and really
8 get the message out about what that great work is and what
9 the needs remaining are. And so I think that was heard
10 during this process, and you can see the results very
11 positively in the introduced bill.

12 As Glenna mentioned at the end of her
13 presentation, there's still some work to do, and we have
14 been meeting and presenting before both the budget
15 committees.

16 Of course, the budget is the first out of the
17 gate as far as legislation goes each legislative session,
18 and so we have presented now before both the Senate
19 Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee
20 about what those remaining needs are, and I am happy to
21 report that they were very engaged in those discussions
22 and generally very supportive of the continuing needs of
23 the department and MVCPA.

24 In addition to that, as many of y'all have
25 heard throughout the interim, we continue to hear, both in

1 meetings that we have with legislative members and in
2 these public hearings, public support for the work that
3 the auto task forces do, that the MVCPA grants are
4 providing.

5 Specifically, recently a lot of appreciation
6 for a topic y'all discussed this morning which is the new
7 technology grants that fund the license plate readers
8 within the communities. That work is directly being
9 identified as being very helpful in local communities to
10 the work that they do.

11 We now kind of start transitioning into the
12 policy side of the arena. The policy committees, House
13 Transportation, Senate Transportation, Criminal Justice
14 and Judiciary, committees that all take up the issues that
15 this Board is interested in, have not yet begun meeting.

16 They have been assigned and they are working to
17 get organized and start those hearings. Some committees
18 in both chambers are beginning hearings as soon as the end
19 of this week, but over the next two weeks most of the
20 committees will begin their organizational hearings and
21 then begin to set agendas weekly for consideration of
22 legislation that has been filed.

23 We, of course, have been working with the
24 members of the legislature who are filing pieces of
25 legislation, committee chairs and vice chairs and members

1 that may take up and deliberate those bills, to provide
2 information, to educate them on what the needs and the
3 issues are, and to serve continuously as a resource to
4 make sure that they have all the information they need to
5 make the appropriate decisions on those pieces of
6 legislation.

7 Unfortunately, we're still early in that
8 process, so there's not a lot to report as far as
9 advancement of that. I don't have all the good news that
10 Glenna was able to share with you on that yet, but that is
11 coming, and we are very engaged in that and we continue to
12 work collaboratively with the MVCPA staff to make sure
13 that your needs and the information on this program are
14 communicated effectively.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Keith, thank you for
16 that.

17 And anybody have any questions?

18 MS. JONES: Not a question but a comment.
19 Sharon Jones. You mentioned the work of the Board, but
20 what I also want to stress is the work of prior Board
21 members as well, those who were definitely here long
22 before I got here.

23 When I got here there were people pounding on
24 doors and walking hallways, trying to get the funding that
25 we so desperately need. So to Tommy and all those who

1 have come and gone, we appreciate you. Thank you for your
2 efforts, everyone.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And definitely also the
4 association, the auto theft association. They do
5 tremendous work. Those guys never give up, so thank you
6 to them too.

7 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, Member Smith, for the
8 record.

9 Specifically related to the catalytic converter
10 theft bills, do you know what those bills are? I get
11 questions from time to time about this, something that we
12 can look at that we can refer people to. Are you able to
13 share that?

14 MR. YAWN: We do have lists, and to make sure
15 that we're comprehensive in the information we get you,
16 I'll get that list to staff to provide to you in writing
17 so that you have that of what we're tracking right now.

18 MR. SMITH: Perfect.

19 MR. YAWN: There have been, as of yesterday,
20 4,360 bills filed in the legislative session. The
21 department is tracking approximately 6 percent of those
22 overall. And so what we know of in these areas of
23 interest, we can get a list to Joe and his staff to
24 provide to y'all specifically with that.

25 MR. SMITH: Thank you very much.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Anybody else have questions?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Keith.

4 We're going to go ahead and take a break, ten-
5 minute break. It is 10:19. We'll be back at 10:30, that
6 will be eleven minutes; 10:30 we'll be back.

7 (Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We are back, it is 10:44, that
9 was more than eleven minutes, but we are back.

10 We're going to go public comment -- we're going
11 to go a little bit out of order from the agenda. We're
12 going to go into public comment, and this is on 7.A and
13 7.C, legislative update.

14 Mr. Tommy Hansen.

15 MR. HANSEN: Tommy Hansen, Texas Association of
16 Vehicle Theft Investigators.

17 Just kind of to repeat some of the things that
18 were mentioned prior to this. First off, the comment
19 about walking the halls, well, it wasn't just me, and I
20 have to say that one of the persons that did it the most
21 in helping to get where we are today was Joey a lot of
22 times. And this is the 30th anniversary. I didn't think
23 about that. Damn, I'm getting old.

24 To go to your bills, and then we'll talk about
25 that first, your question about the catalytic converters.

1 There is three bills filed that I know of, Senator
2 Whitmire, Senator Bettencourt, Senator Middleton, and
3 Representative Alvarado has a twin bill, I think to
4 Bettencourt's, on the House side.

5 So there are three bills filed. Everything
6 seems to show that Whitmire's might have the biggest bite
7 right now, but we'll see how that works out. He being
8 chairman of Senate Criminal Justice Committee, I would
9 imagine they'll all get together and come up with a bill.

10 There may be others, but those are three bills that are
11 filed.

12 As far as the discussion this morning on A and
13 C, we've remained in total contact with legislators. I
14 communicate with Senator Middletown on pretty much a
15 weekly basis, and they've assured us that if they get any
16 inkling of anybody having any questions to the wonderful,
17 phenomenal good news that was officially brought up this
18 morning to our funding, they would let us know. And of
19 course, if there's any committee hearings, we will be the
20 first ones to stand in line.

21 This is the first time I can tell you, with
22 absolute authority, that the stars have aligned
23 particularly as they are today since 1996. That's when we
24 lost dedicated fund status. Prior to that -- and it's
25 nice to hear y'all are going to get to roll over money

1 between the bienniums, because in 1991 when we started
2 this -- and the first task force was in '93 -- we got the
3 interest off the money that was collected, we could roll
4 over between the bienniums and we got 100 percent of the
5 funding.

6 So take the interest out of the deal, this is
7 the first time since really 1996 when we lost dedicated
8 fund status that we are where we are today on that
9 funding. And we will continue to fight that battle.

10 But having worked the legislature since the
11 late '80s, it's not over till it's over. We're very
12 optimistic, we've never had everything lined up, I've
13 never seen it lined up like it is now, and I've never seen
14 key people, Senator Huffman -- which our funding bill was
15 her bill in the Senate when it passed -- and the other
16 things that are happening, Senator Middleton played a big
17 part in getting our \$2-1/2 million in the current cycle,
18 and he's played a key role.

19 As y'all well know, or some of the new members
20 don't, we had numerous meetings with him with numerous
21 task forces, group meetings where everybody laid out a lot
22 of what you repeated today as far as everybody's needs,
23 and he took that heart and has gone to the wall for us.

24 So that's kind of where we are as far as
25 TAVTI's side on the update, every side with them, and

1 we're going to work with them shoulder to shoulder in
2 whatever needs to be done. Unfortunately, we all know
3 that the Board and even sometimes the task forces are
4 limited in certain things, but there are certain visits we
5 can do through TAVTI that we don't have to answer to
6 certain people.

7 So there we are on that, just wanted to give
8 you an update. Thank you very much.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Tommy, do you want to speak on
10 the public comment?

11 MR. HANSEN: Yes. Again I'm telling my age.
12 Tommy Hansen, TAVTI, Texas Association of Vehicle Theft
13 Investigators.

14 Having been involved in vehicle thefts since
15 '81 and involved in the task forces since '91, never in
16 any period of time over all of these decades -- three,
17 apparently, you've reminded us -- have I seen the
18 relationship between DMV and the task forces or law
19 enforcement any stronger than it is today.

20 Being a casual observer, I have to commend Joey
21 and his staff for that, but Joey has worn the T-shirt, got
22 the scars and knows the lingo where we all come from, and
23 the new management at DMV, a lot of those folks we've
24 known for years, but our communications with them,
25 everyone is commenting.

1 I've had conversations with legislators, task
2 force members, tax office people, everybody has noticed
3 how this is, and this is a true win-win not only for the
4 task forces, for DMV, but for the citizens of the state of
5 Texas.

6 So kudos to everyone. I just wanted y'all to
7 know that outside this room there's a lot of people notice
8 what's going on and it's all good.

9 Thank you very much.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Tommy.

11 Members, we will now move on to the next agenda
12 item, agenda item 8. Closed Session. We will go into
13 closed session pursuant to Government Code Sections
14 551.071, 551.074, 551.076, and 551.089. I expect that we
15 will be in closed session for approximately 30 to 45
16 minutes.

17 We will now go into closed session at 10:50.

18 (Whereupon, at 10:50 a.m., the meeting was
19 recessed, to reconvene this same day, Thursday, February
20 22, 2023, following conclusion of the closed session.)

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We're back. Let the record
22 reflect that the Board is now back in open session at
23 12:01 p.m. There are no actions from this closed session.

24 We will now move on to agenda item number 10.
25 Public Comment, we already did that.

1 And we will go to agenda item number 11.

2 Adjournment.

3 Members, unless there's any further business, I
4 will entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

5 MS. JONES: I move that we adjourn. Sharon
6 Jones.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member
8 Jones. Do I have a second?

9 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton. I'll
10 second.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a second from Member
12 Brotherton. The meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

13 (Whereupon, at 12:02 p.m., the meeting was
14 adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

MEETING OF: Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority

LOCATION: Austin, Texas

DATE: February 22, 2023

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages, numbers 1 through 57, inclusive, are the true, accurate, and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording made by electronic recording by Nancy H. King before the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

DATE: March 3, 2023

/s/ Nancy H. King
(Transcriber)

On the Record Reporting
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