

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Hilton Houston Post Oak by The Galleria
2001 Post Oak Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77056

and

via Microsoft Teams

9:00 a.m.
Thursday,
March 28, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mike Rodriguez, Chair
Charla Brotherton
Rebecca Cantu-Serrano
Julio C. Gonzalez
Sharon Jones
Katherine "Kit" Whitehill

STAFF:

William Diggs, MVCPA Director

ON THE RECORD REPORTING
(512) 450-0342

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(9:08 a.m.)

1
2
3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: My name is Mike Rodriguez, and
4 I am pleased to open the Board meeting of the Motor
5 Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority. It is 9:08 a.m. and
6 I'm now calling the Board meeting for March 28, 2024, to
7 order.

8 I want to note for the record that the public
9 notice of this meeting containing all items in the agenda
10 was filed with the Office of Secretary of State on
11 March 18, 2024.

12 Before we begin today's meeting, please place
13 all cell phones and other communication devices in silent
14 mode. Also, as a courtesy to others, please do not engage
15 in side conversations in the meeting room.

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 Before we begin today, I'd like to remind all
21 presenters and those in attendance of the rules of conduct
22 at our Board meetings. In the Department's administrative
23 rule, the Chair has the authority to supervise the conduct
24 of meetings. This includes the authority to determine
25 when a speaker is being disruptive of the meeting, or is

1 otherwise violating the timing or presentation rules I
2 just discussed.

3 Moving on to Agenda Item 1, roll call and
4 establishment of quorum. Now, I would like to have a roll
5 call of the board members. Please respond verbally when I
6 call your name.

7 Board Member Jones?

8 MS. JONES: Present.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Member Whitehill?

10 MS. WHITEHILL: Present.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Member Gonzalez?

12 MR. GONZALEZ: Present.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Member Brotherton?

14 MS. BROTHERTON: Present.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Member Cantu-Serrano?

16 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Present.

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

19 Agenda Item 2, Pledges of Allegiance, U.S. and
20 Texas. Please stand and honor our country and state with
21 the Pledges of Allegiance. Member Whitehill will now lead
22 us in the U.S. Pledge.

23 (Whereupon, the U.S. and Texas pledges were
24 recited.)

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Member Whitehill,

1 for leading us in the pledges.

2 Members, we will now take up on Item No. 3.A.,
3 Approval of Transcript for our January 31, 2024, Meeting
4 as Minutes. Members, if everyone has reviewed the
5 transcript, would anyone like to make a motion approving
6 the transcript as minutes?

7 MS. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez. I move that
8 the MVCPA Board adopt the transcript as minutes for the
9 January 31, 2024, meeting.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion from Member Gonzalez.

11 MS. WHITEHILL: Member Whitehill, second.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We have a second from Board
13 member Whitehill. Any further discussion?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yessenia, are there any public
16 comments?

17 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will now call for the vote.
19 Board members, when I call your name, please state your
20 vote for the record.

21 Member Jones?

22 MS. JONES: Aye.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

24 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

1 MR. GONZALEZ: Aye.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton?

3 MS. BROTHERTON: Aye.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu-Serrano?

5 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Aye.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
7 aye. Let the record that there are six votes for and zero
8 against. Motion passes.

9 We do not have any Chair's report today, so we
10 are now taking up on Agenda Item No. 3 -- we'll move on to
11 Agenda Item No. 4. We'll turn the meeting over to MVCPA
12 Director William Diggs and staff for Agenda Item 4.A.
13 through 4.C.

14 MR. DIGGS: Looks like my mic may be dead. All
15 right. Thank you, Major Jones.

16 So William Diggs, MVCPA Director, for the
17 record. And Chief Rodriguez doesn't know this, but up on
18 the slide there, there's a photo of Chief Rodriguez. And
19 not only is he the leader of the men and women of Laredo
20 PD, but he's also still fighting crime.

21 I'm going to be honest with you. Lieutenant
22 Gonzalez, he actually shared this with me yesterday. And
23 so I guess it was last week -- I believe it was. Chief
24 Rodriguez is, you know, driving through town, taking care
25 of business, and lo and behold, there's a crook stealing a

1 pickup truck.

2 And Chief Rodriguez jumps into action, stops
3 that offense from happening, and makes an arrest. So I
4 think there were some drugs found in there.

5 So Chief Rodriguez, way to go, sir.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. DIGGS: Anyway, thank you again,
8 Lieutenant.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: You know, they earned that
10 whipping. It's funny, because -- so I was on my way to a
11 meeting, and I get out of my truck. My truck is a
12 non-marked unit and I see this guy going at it behind a
13 truck.

14 And I approach him, and I asked him, is this
15 your truck? And he tells me, yes, and then he tells me,
16 no. And then -- so that's where it all started, right?

17 But nonetheless, the guy did have 18 grams of
18 marijuana and a couple more grams of heroin. So it was a
19 good arrest, but at the end of the day, he was still
20 trying to steal something from the truck. And the pickup
21 truck, it was from a vice president of a corporation there
22 in Laredo that had just bought a building downtown.

23 And one of the things that they keep on asking
24 is to make sure that we patrol more in the downtown area,
25 just because of the fact that we have the increase in

1 burglary of vehicles. But I did tell him we did have the
2 best task force, you know, in the state. So we will take
3 care of business and we start with me. Right?

4 So nonetheless, it was a good arrest. But
5 again, you know, it's -- I did get about 30 -- I think, 40
6 minutes late to my meeting, but it was a good arrest.

7 So thank you for that. And again, you know, we
8 continue doing the work that we do. Once an auto task
9 force member, always. Right?

10 So thank you, guys.

11 MR. DIGGS: Thank you, Chief.

12 So again, taking up Agenda Item 4.A., it's a
13 brief staffing update. You'll find it on page 4 of your
14 Board book. I'm very pleased to announce that myself and
15 Deputy Director Pence and Dan Price, we've been very
16 actively engaged in the hiring process. Yessenia has
17 actually helped out with that.

18 So thank you, Yessenia, helping me do some
19 interviews recently. And I'm really glad to announce that
20 we now -- we're almost full. We've got one vacancy left.

21

22 We'll be interviewing soon for -- it's for one
23 of our -- it's our insurance collector position. But
24 we've hired three grant specialists. We've hired two
25 grant auditors. We have -- we've also hired a training

1 specialist, and we have hired a new administrative
2 assistant since we last met in January.

3 And so we're working diligently to get fully
4 staffed, and so we can start filling the gaps that we've
5 probably had in the last few years here at MVCPA. But I
6 did want to recognize a couple of new folks that are here
7 today, and one of them is a grant auditor.

8 Sterling Fielder, if you could stand up? And
9 so Sterling is going to be working with us. You guys and
10 some of your folks that are working administratively,
11 behind the scenes, will be hearing from Sterling, if you
12 haven't already in the last couple of weeks. And so
13 Sterling, thank you for being here.

14 I also wanted to recognize Amber Ott. She is
15 one of our training specialists. She is here today.
16 Amber, thank you for being here.

17 Amber is also going to be working on our social
18 media. She'll be working our Facebook page. We're
19 working diligently on some billboards across Texas. She's
20 working on that as well.

21 You'll hear more about that. I won't steal
22 Earl's thunder, so I'm going to be quiet about that.

23 So anyway, more to come on that at the end of
24 the day. So anyway, the bottom line is, we're in good
25 shape. And I hope to be completely staffed here in the

1 next 30 days. We'll have that other position filled.

2 So with that, I don't have anything else.

3 Any questions?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Well, great job there, Director
6 Diggs. I think, you know, we were just talking about it
7 this morning just to, you know, catch up with personnel.
8 And the hiring of personnel right now, it just keeps
9 getting more and more difficult for every agency.

10 So I'm glad that -- and I welcome our new
11 staff, and we expect nothing but great things coming from
12 them. But at the -- but we need to continue the push to
13 get you additional staff in, because we know you need it.

14 And I know that this was great, that this is additional
15 staff and that we've never had, and it was due for MVCPA
16 to have this kind of staffing on board.

17 But I know with the additional funding that
18 we're getting and the additional tasks that we're given,
19 you know, we're going to continue the push to continue
20 getting more staff, to ensure that we provide the services
21 that we need for commanders and our task forces for the
22 state.

23 MR. DIGGS: Yeah.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So thank you for that.

25 MR. DIGGS: Thank you, sir.

1 I did want to go ahead and move on, if I may,
2 Mr. Chairman and Members. Again, William Diggs, MVCPA
3 Director, for the record.

4 Agenda Item 4.B. is a Grant Management Tracking
5 System Update. You'll find this on page 5 of your Board
6 book.

7 A few months ago, we actually put out a request
8 for information with our purchasing department, and we got
9 24 responses from different companies throughout the U.S.
10 for a new Grant Management Tracking System to replace what
11 I'll refer to as our aging system. We need to modernize.
12 And we're actually in good shape.

13 We will be doing four demos with four different
14 companies in the month of April. We've actually
15 identified some of the task forces to actually assist us
16 with that. You had asked back in December here in Houston
17 that we be sure and engage the task force commanders and
18 the task forces to help us select a new system, to make
19 sure that we didn't miss anything that they really would
20 like to see on their side of this process.

21 And so we'll be working with Potter County,
22 Laredo PD, Galveston County, Harris PD, Dallas PD, and
23 Victoria PD. Those invites will be going out to those
24 folks. These meetings are already scheduled, and they'll
25 be virtual.

1 And these companies will be presenting their
2 items to us. And so we're looking forward to that, and
3 we're working closely with our Information Technology
4 Division. We've got a project manager and a business
5 analysis that's working with us that's been assigned by
6 the PMO Office.

7 And we're also working closely with our finance
8 department with Ms. Bowman as we're working towards this
9 with the procurement of the new system. So I'm excited
10 about that. This is moving along nicely.

11 We've had a number of members with the -- a
12 number of meetings with the project manager. And staff
13 are providing lots of good information to them. And I'm
14 looking forward to the information that the task forces
15 will also provide.

16 So that concludes my brief update on the Grant
17 Management Tracking System.

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

20 (No response.)

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So I have a question on this.
22 So this software, it's going to replace the current A&M
23 system that we currently have, correct?

24 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. How many of the big

1 eight agencies do we have on this that are going to be, I
2 guess, assessing the software? And I know I heard data is
3 there.

4 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir. So we've got Dallas
5 Police Department that will be working with us. And
6 again, I don't want to make any -- I want to make sure
7 I've got all friends here. So the only eight -- the large
8 agency would be Dallas. We're getting a broad spectrum of
9 smaller agencies, medium-sized agencies, and then also
10 Dallas as a large.

11 And we can add one, Chief. There's nothing
12 that says we're stuck at six. So if you would like us to
13 add another one, we can absolutely do that.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: There are some -- the smaller
15 agencies and medium agencies, but can we add another large
16 agency? Can we add Houston?

17 MR. DIGGS: Absolutely. I'll work with Tolan
18 and would love to do that. Yes, sir.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Anybody else that would like
20 to -- El Paso? Anyone else? So can we add El Paso, as
21 well?

22 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: A border town.

24 MR. DIGGS: Thank you.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. 4.C.?

1 MR. DIGGS: Mr. Chairman, on pages 6 through 9
2 of your Board book, I'm going to provide just a brief
3 budget overview. This will be the same overview that I
4 provided yesterday to the GBR Committee. On page 8, you
5 will find some charts that identify our main budget, our
6 Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention budget.

7 You'll see our remaining budget, as of
8 February 29, was \$2,072,266. I will say that we continue
9 to monitor revenues with the Comptroller's Office, and
10 then also with the Texas DMV Finance Office. I'm working
11 closely with Ms. Bowman and we are monitoring the revenues
12 that are coming in from the insurance fees, paying close
13 attention to those.

14 And we plan to have an additional update here
15 soon. Those revenues will come in officially from the
16 Comptroller's Office. I believe it will be next week.
17 It's a few days after the end of March each year for the
18 reporting period.

19 And we'll have a better estimate of where we're
20 going to be at the end of August for the second reporting
21 period. But we are monitoring the revenues closely.

22 I also wanted to say that, on page 9, you will
23 find our catalytic convertor budget. The remaining, as of
24 February 29, is \$24,601,076.

25 And that's where we stand today with both our

1 main budget and also our catalytic convertor budget.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Chairman Rodriguez, for record.

3 This amount, it's for this year. Correct?

4 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir. This is FY '24 money.

5 Yes, sir. And that concludes my budget update.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board members, any questions on
7 the budget?

8 Sharon, no questions?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Mr. Diggs.

11 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yessenia, are there any public
13 comment on this agenda item?

14 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. We will now move on to
16 Agenda Item 5. And I will turn the meeting back over to
17 Sharon Jones and William Diggs to present Agenda Item
18 No. 5.A., SB 224 Partner Agency Inter-Agency Contract
19 update, and 5.B., Senate Bill 224 Advisory Committee
20 future meeting.

21 Mr. Diggs?

22 MR. DIGGS: All right. Thank you. Mr.
23 Chairman, members, William Diggs, MVCPA Director, for the
24 record. I did want to provide a brief update on where we
25 are today on our SB 224 Partner Agency Inter-Agency

1 Contracts.

2 So I feel like we are in great shape. A few
3 weeks ago, these contracts were drafted by both Mr.
4 Richards and one of his peers there at the DMV, Mr.
5 Pegram. And we went through an approval process.

6 I worked through the Executive Office with Mr.
7 Luna, also with Executive Director, Mr. Avitia. And these
8 were approved. I sent these contracts over to my
9 counterparts at both TDLR and Texas DPS. Actually heard
10 back from them yesterday.

11 And we are really close to having these
12 approved and signed. We had a few edits from the Texas
13 DPS. They were very minor.

14 And those edits, I ran through Mr. Richards and
15 Mr. Pegram again. They saw no concerns with them. And we
16 approved those.

17 I spoke -- or actually had some communication
18 yesterday with both TDLR and DPS. And we're real close to
19 having those executed. I believe that we'll have these
20 executed next month in the month of April, and we'll start
21 funding their efforts at TDLR and DPS.

22 And that would conclude -- also did want to
23 mention real quick: we are meeting every other Thursday
24 with the partner agencies. We have a standing meeting
25 twice a month for partner agency meetings. We're sharing

1 risk-based factors, some intelligence, some best
2 practices, and actually just building some good
3 relationships with our counterparts that are working the
4 regulatory side of this, and you know, putting faces with
5 names and know who the players are.

6 It's already paid off. We've actually been
7 able to put TDLR in contact with the Dallas Police
8 Department on some concerns that they had, just a few
9 weeks ago, with a towing company or towing issues from the
10 City of Dallas. And so I think this has already paid some
11 dividends, these relationships that we're building.

12 And that will conclude my update on State
13 partner agencies.

14 MS. JONES: Good morning, everyone. I am going
15 to go over the schedule for Senate Bill 224 Advisory
16 Committee.

17 May 1, we are going to tour Techemet, which is
18 in Pasadena. That's on Wednesday, May 1. And then on May
19 2, the Advisory Committee -- we're going to meet here at
20 this hotel.

21 I am asking those of you on the task forces to
22 attend these meetings, if you can, in person, preferably
23 in person, so we can have feedback. We can have dialog.
24 We need to understand that the committee, the Senate Bill
25 committee, it's not made of what you see here.

1 We have people from the industry that they have
2 their own perception and their thoughts. We learned a lot
3 from them the last time when we met in El Paso, and I know
4 they learned a lot from us. And then, as I said in our
5 last meeting, there were times where I wished I had some
6 of you to jump into the conversation, to give some input
7 and perspective on your area where you work, where you
8 live. So I'm asking for that, if you can, to please
9 attend the Advisory Committee.

10 On July 1, we are having a tour of LKQ. That
11 is in New Braunfels. New Braunfels, if -- have you toured
12 that facility before? Have you been inside?

13 If not, I am personally inviting you on the
14 tour. If your schedule allows that, I am personally
15 inviting you to tour along with us on that date. That is
16 July 1. And then also, in the afternoon, July 1, we're
17 going to tour PGM, which is in San Marcos.

18 July 2 is the Advisory Committee meeting, and
19 that will be at the San Marcos hotel, the Hilton that's
20 there. Most of you, except for the newbies, have attended
21 some type of training there with us before.

22 And finally, the last meeting for 2024 will be
23 October 3 in Laredo. I don't know if y'all are going to
24 give us a border tour. I don't know what your plans are
25 for us.

1 So just keep that in mind. You have to have a
2 plan.

3 And so basically, that is the meetings that we
4 have scheduled out all the way to December. So you can
5 plan accordingly. I know some agencies require 45 days'
6 advance notice. Some of you needed to have the -- yes, we
7 need you there.

8 I am telling you I need you there. We need you
9 there to talk about your agencies, your cities, your
10 counties. We need you there.

11 That's my report, sir.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Member Jones.

13 Any questions for Mr. Diggs or Member Jones,
14 members?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Mr. Diggs, do we have -- I know
17 that we've been meeting with the Advisory Committee. I
18 know we've put out a strategic plan on catalytic
19 convertors, correct?

20 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: When we get this new software
22 that we're looking at, that's where they're going to be
23 filling in those -- on those goals, correct?

24 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir. Absolutely. We'll be
25 able to, but once we have the new software, we'll be able

1 to manage both sides of our Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention
2 grants and also the catalytic convertor grants.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We do have the item today to
4 approve some of this funding. And I just want to make
5 sure that we are prepared to start documenting what we're
6 doing with that. Right? So --

7 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir, we are.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

9 MR. DIGGS: Yeah. With the TAMU system today.
10 Yes, sir. That is correct.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And then we'll convert into the
12 new one, once we choose one.

13 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir. Once we go through the
14 process, the procurement process, once we do the testing
15 and prepare to transition the current data into our new
16 system and also to store with the historical data as well.
17 But yes, sir, it will be ready to go.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

19 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Director Diggs, and
21 thank you, Member Jones, for the update.

22 Any public comments --

23 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- on this item? Okay. This
25 is not an action item.

1 We'll move on to Agenda Item 6. I will turn
2 the meeting over to Lieutenant Gonzales, Member Julio
3 Gonzalez.

4 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Julio
5 Gonzalez, for the record.

6 Before I get started, I do want to say that
7 I'll be working with Director Diggs to also get a schedule
8 of the Grants, Budget, and Reporting Committee for the
9 year, so that way we can all plan ahead of time. So
10 looking forward to having that plan down for the rest of
11 the year. Thank you, Sharon, for the idea.

12 Yesterday, we had our Grants, Budget, and
13 Reporting Committee meeting. It was a fantastic meeting
14 with all of the Senate Bill 224 task forces that were
15 going to -- that are applying for funding. The total
16 amount of funding that is being requested is \$6.8 million.

17 And I'll get more into that here in a bit.

18 One of the things that we saw was there were
19 some common asks from what the grant could provide to be
20 able to combat catalytic convertor. You know, one of the
21 common items that task forces asked for was laser
22 engravers so that they could engrave the catalytic
23 convertors for the public.

24 After speaking with Director Diggs, we
25 recommended that we just go ahead and purchase the good

1 model -- for lack of a better term, the good model of the
2 laser engraver for all 13 task forces that have applied.

3 And the difference, Mr. Chairman, between the
4 good model and the -- kudos to the task forces for being
5 fiscally responsible. Rather than just being able to
6 engrave driver's license numbers and whatnot, the upgraded
7 models are able to do things like put in QR codes and are
8 also able to engrave a logo, which I also think would be a
9 great idea, to be able to engrave the MVCPA's logo onto
10 these catalytic convertors, which also opens up the
11 question of whether or not we need a refresh of our logo,
12 Mr. Chairman.

13 But that would be -- that's your decision, sir.

14 So we're going to try to see if we can procure these
15 laser engravers for all of our task forces, the good
16 model. We're talking a difference of \$6,000 for 13
17 engravers versus \$20,000 for 13 engravers. It still
18 doesn't significantly increase the total amount of funding
19 requested from our task forces.

20 Just some of the other equipment that was
21 requested: there was a huge emphasis on technology. As
22 everyone is aware, you know, there is quite a staffing
23 crisis across the state with law enforcement officers.
24 And it can be difficult for chief officers of agencies to
25 devote full-time bodies towards catalytic convertor or

1 property crime theft. And so we have to rely more and
2 more on technology to be able to make up for those
3 shortcomings in personnel.

4 They had some fantastic ideas. A lot of
5 license plate readers were requested. There is software,
6 you know, extraction of cell phones, all fantastic
7 resources to be able combat catalytic convertor crime.

8 Just a few of the other items that were
9 notable -- I'm very proud that the task forces are
10 requesting to include assistant district attorneys as part
11 of their task forces. I think that's probably the largest
12 gap as far as our criminal justice system for motor
13 vehicle related crime. It's going to be -- we have to
14 have dedicated district attorneys that are going to put
15 together their amazing cases hand in hand with our
16 investigators and prosecute rather than just plead down
17 these cases because they're property crime.

18 And of course, there were personnel asks,
19 overtime asks.

20 Mr. Chairman, I would recommend that, based on
21 the fact that we only asked for \$6.8 million worth of
22 grants, it may be for your consideration, sir, that we
23 have a second round of funding open up during this cycle,
24 being able to -- we did receive some feedback from the
25 task forces that there may have been some misunderstanding

1 regarding the cash match. We did have to put this out
2 rather quickly and so I don't know if, you know, the
3 decision-makers of these agencies were aware that we
4 waived the cash match.

5 So I'd like to open up that discussion, Mr.
6 Chairman, if you will.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Chairman Rodriguez for
8 the record.

9 I also had some conversations about some of the
10 task forces not able to get their resolutions through
11 their city councils or their commissioners court. So that
12 lends itself for us to do this. I can tell you that for
13 this year -- we're talking about technology, we're talking
14 about, you know, FTEs. We're talking about the catalytic
15 convertor -- the good engraver.

16 But for this second round, you know, and
17 talking about a second round of applications, you know,
18 let's -- we always say this, right. We think outside the
19 box.

20 And I know we're talking about catalytic
21 convertors. And I had this conversation in the morning
22 with some of the task forces, that we also need to think
23 about securing Texas, right? That's something that we as
24 task forces need to think about.

25 And when we think about securing Texas, we're

1 talking about LPRs. We're talking about -- I know some
2 cities would not go into facial recognition. I know AI is
3 a hot topic right now, but it is something that we're
4 looking at and something that we can implement in one of
5 the areas that we're looking at.

6 One of the task force AORs -- let's do it
7 right. I know El Paso came in during a conference about
8 putting LPRs in sanitation -- it's called
9 sanitation trucks, just to pick up plates.

10 Those ideas are, I think, you know, are very
11 good ideas that we can implement. And again, you know, we
12 don't think just, okay, what are we going to do about
13 securing my city, but also how am I going to be able to
14 help other task forces, you know, whether investigation
15 speciality, you know, when we're talking about, you know,
16 traveling through from Dallas, traveling through Waco and
17 all those cities. You know, what can we do to secure
18 Texas?

19 At the end of the day, you know, when we're
20 talking about where are these catalytic convertors going,
21 you know, it can go to the border. It can go to Houston.

22 It can go to the Port of Houston.

23 It can go to the Port of Laredo. It can go to
24 the Port of Brownsville. All those areas, you know, we
25 need to think about.

1 So I'm asking commanders to think outside the
2 box and ensure that they not only think about what am I
3 going to do for my city, but also how can I help other
4 task forces secure our great state? This is -- these
5 are -- we still have a budget of about 12 point something
6 left. And so we want to make sure that we think -- well,
7 that's our vision, right.

8 Make sure of the same thing, that we need to
9 think outside the box on this. And we appreciate the
10 efforts that everybody is doing right now to make sure
11 that we change strategies. And we're already attacking
12 the problem of catalytic convertors, because we do have
13 some statistics that have come down.

14 But that's just with the bare minimum. Right?

15 Now you have this as a tool. Get the tools that you need
16 so we can bring it down to zero, and Texas will be the
17 leader in catalytic convertor statistics going down to
18 zero.

19 So let's do that. And I know that we're going
20 to expedite this. So we would need to set up a meeting.

21 I think your next meeting for the Advisory
22 Committee was April 2, I believe?

23 MS. JONES: Yes, sir.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. So we --

25 MR. JONES: May. May 2.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Oh, May 2?

2 MR. DIGGS: May 2.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

4 MR. JONES: The first is the tour, but the
5 second is the actual meeting.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: May. So the end of fiscal
7 year -- what is it? Does that put us -- what -- four
8 months away from the end of the fiscal year 2024 -- 2023-
9 2024? Okay.

10 We might need to expedite that date to April.
11 Second round?

12 MR. JONES: That's fine.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is that a part of April?

14 MR. JONES: That -- yes. That -- let Yessenia
15 and MVCPA -- let us kind of work on that. But the reason
16 we chose the second was because of DMV's meeting, and
17 there was a lot going on behind scenes. So we
18 strategically chose the second.

19 We wanted it to be in April, but we had to
20 choose the second. And it also would give the task forces
21 some time to go back to their leadership and rethink.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. So --

23 MR. JONES: Because we don't want to rush
24 again, sir.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So May 2 would be a Thursday.

1 We'll figure out a date. But I think, just for
2 everybody's -- so everybody can have visibility on this,
3 you know, we -- that first week -- first weeks of May
4 would a target date, I want to say.

5 Right? For them to bring back --

6 MR. JONES: Yes, sir.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

8 MR. JONES: And then also, sir --

9 MR. DIGGS: If I may? William Diggs, Director,
10 MVCPA.

11 I would like to work with David. I believe we
12 would need to reopen the applications. If we're going to
13 do a second round, we'll have to do a second RFA that
14 would go out, and then we'd have a closing date for
15 additional requests around the state, not just our current
16 13 applicants, but other applicants as well.

17 So Chief, Mr. Chairman, if I may, I'll work
18 with staff, work with David, and we'll get another RFA
19 out, so that we can officially have a second round.

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

22 For the 13 that have already applied that we're
23 prepared to vote on -- or the Board is prepared to vote on
24 today -- correct me, William, there's a process in place
25 during the negotiation process where they could add --

1 those existing 13 could add additional requests at that
2 stage.

3 But you're correct. If we're going to put it
4 out again, it will be a second RFA that we'll have to send
5 out.

6 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir. That's correct.

7 And what I was going to say, Mr. Chairman and
8 also members, when it comes to the good etcher -- right --
9 and just additional equipment, we can actually purchase
10 that and issue that equipment out. It wouldn't
11 necessarily have to be through a grant process for the
12 grantees.

13 MVCPA can purchase that equipment and we can
14 issue that equipment out to the different task forces.
15 Obviously, there were so many other things that I believe
16 that we heard yesterday from the grantees that it would
17 benefit us to have a second round of grant requests for
18 this fiscal year, just like Lieutenant Gonzalez said.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And so -- Chairman Rodriguez,
20 for the record.

21 So the second round would be for the task
22 forces that didn't apply? Because the task forces that
23 applied, they can -- through the process of negotiation
24 of --

25 MR. RICHARDS: That's correct.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- the other -- of the grant.
2 Right?

3 MR. RICHARDS: Right.

4 MR. DIGGS: Yes.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: You all can increase whatever
6 else -- whatever they took off or whatever the need was,
7 and they just didn't present at that point, correct?

8 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir. With the Board's
9 approval today -- yes, sir -- we could make those
10 adjustments.

11 MS. JONES: Why it's important to give them a
12 second chance is because it was also evident that some of
13 the presenters yesterday were like hesitant for what they
14 really needed. And so we felt that they were conservative
15 in what they're asking for. But it also was great to hear
16 what all agencies were asking for.

17 Like someone came up with the great idea of
18 asking for a drone, or the standalone -- hey, we want to
19 pick up the LPR and move it throughout the city or
20 throughout the county. So I think now this group has a
21 much greater perspective and understanding of the needs
22 and what to ask for.

23 And I've said it two years ago and I said it
24 yesterday: ask for what you need. Do not go -- that's
25 the old-school way of like we're just going to go at the

1 minimum. Ask for what you need.

2 Let us tell you no. Or we may not tell you no.

3 Ask for what you need.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. And I think the -- again,
5 we're cops, right? So we're responsible to know, hey,
6 we're just going to ask for the bare minimum, because
7 that's -- I think it's been in our culture at MVCPA. Hey,
8 ask for the bare minimum, because that's all you're going
9 to get.

10 So now we have the funds. Now, you need to ask
11 for more. That's it. All right.

12 So we'll open up those -- we'll go through the
13 process and we'll bring it up the second round. And for
14 those applicants that applied, we'll make the motion today
15 to readjust those applications and making sure you talk to
16 the Director, and then we'll move from there.

17 MR. GONZALEZ: Mr. Chairman? Julio Gonzalez,
18 for the record.

19 Before we close -- so on this item, I do want
20 to point out that there were two task forces that did not
21 get to present at yesterday's meeting. And so if it's
22 okay with you, sir, I'd like to offer them, if they're
23 here, the opportunity to present Brownsville and Chambers
24 County to talk about what it is that they're asking for.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's absolutely -- do we have

1 Brownsville here?

2 Brownsville, do you want to step up and see if
3 we can --

4 MR. GONZALEZ: It's okay, if you don't have
5 your PowerPoint. And this is impromptu, so -- oh, we do
6 have it. Okay. Let's just keep it kind of like
7 yesterday, three to five minutes just on what it is that
8 you're asking for.

9 MR. DELGADO: Yes. Good morning. Sergeant
10 Delgado, Brownsville PD, with the State Task Force.

11 Mr. Chairman, members of the Board, first of
12 all, thank you for allowing me the time to speak to you
13 all. I know I wasn't here yesterday, so I do take that
14 responsibility upon myself.

15 But I nevertheless thank you for the
16 opportunity to address you on the record [inaudible]
17 something very short, simple. As it was mentioned, I
18 think we all -- or the task forces yesterday had asked for
19 maybe the bare minimum. In our case, it was more of a
20 staffing -- that we can have more people dedicated to us
21 for the catalytic convertor themselves.

22 Everybody is having the issue right now with
23 stolen vehicles, the GM products. So that is, I think,
24 taking a lot of focus from the agents that are available.
25 Pretty much, it's every task force in Texas.

1 So if it is possible, we had asked for three
2 extra bodies for the task force: one for Brownsville, one
3 for McAllen, and one for Pharr. And this was in reference
4 the numbers. I know, for Brownsville, they're not listed
5 here, but for 2022, there were 20 cases, around \$60,800 in
6 loss.

7 2023, there were eight cases, about \$9,500 in
8 loss. And in 2022, unfortunately, there were no arrests.
9 We weren't able to recover the property.

10 And in 2023, we did have two arrests, but we
11 were not able to recover the property. In 2023, though,
12 we did -- the arrests that we did make, it was actually an
13 employee to the shop where the vehicles were left. So
14 once we arrested this subject, it pretty much went down.

15 For Pharr, we did have 27 cases for 2022,
16 approximate loss of 59,000. 2023, seven cases. It went
17 down to 19,000. In that area, there were no arrests, no
18 recoveries.

19 For McAllen, there were 59 cases -- I'm
20 sorry -- for 2022, and approximate loss of \$70,000. 2023,
21 there were 30 cases, approximate loss of 27,000. In 2022,
22 though, there were 19 arrests in reference to that.

23 Unfortunately, there were no recoveries for the
24 items. In 2023, there were 10 arrests, no recoveries.

25 Being in the border, it does make it easier for

1 crooks to just send stuff south, you know. And it's a bit
2 more difficult to be able to identify whenever they are
3 going out. But we are trying to work with our other
4 partner agencies in the area to see what it is that we can
5 set up in reference to that.

6 We had started a program here in Brownsville in
7 reference to the catalytic convertors, of being tagged.
8 We had done heat-resistant paint. Unfortunately, we're
9 going through some structural renovations in our
10 department where our lift had to be removed from where we
11 had it. So we're going to have to maybe figure a way
12 around that.

13 I heard somebody say that they had some
14 partners with retail stores. I think somebody mentioned
15 Walmart. So that's actually a good idea. So I will see
16 if maybe we can go into that.

17 And I'm not trying to take the thunder from
18 anybody. As I had mentioned, we will add the additional
19 investigator for those three entities, and hopefully, we
20 can make some dent into these statistics and make them go
21 further down. And we are going to be tracking obviously
22 the success of the -- we are using Excel sheets where we
23 put, you know, how many recoveries or how many arrests, if
24 there are any, but we're trying to keep track via the
25 Excel files.

1 And that would be all. I will be concluding.
2 Thank you.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Sarge, I had a question for
4 you. So you said that you're going to be adding three
5 additional investigators, correct? And what agency are
6 these investigators going to?

7 MR. DELGADO: So one would go to Brownsville in
8 Cameron County. The other one -- the other two would go
9 to Pharr and McAllen in Hidalgo County.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: What do you think is the
11 number-one thing that's needed for you guys to be able to
12 just be more efficient in investigations and be able to --
13 at least try to attempt to identify the suspects involved
14 in catalytic convertor thefts?

15 MR. DELGADO: At this point, Mr. Chairman, it's
16 having the agent being able to focus on either following
17 up, going to the businesses, doing maybe more frequent
18 inspections, checking more into the logs of the businesses
19 to see who is maybe overselling or what trend we can see,
20 what pattern we can establish in reference to that. But
21 somebody that we can have that dedicates themselves to that.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Again, going along the lines of
23 securing Texas, right, you are a border town. With
24 Reynosa? How many bridges do you guys have in
25 Brownsville?

1 MR. DELGADO: In Brownsville, we're bordered
2 with Matamoros. And just in Brownsville, we have three.
3 Overall, in the project area, we have eight.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So McAllen is the one with
5 Reynosa? Which is Reynosa?

6 MR. DELGADO: Reynosa would be either -- yes.
7 McAllen. Yeah. Pharr, Progreso.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. So this is where I'm
9 going with this, right. So you have a big border there,
10 with all your task forces along that border. You know,
11 when we're talking about securing that area to make sure
12 that the catalytic convertors that are stolen out of
13 Houston, Victoria, Galveston, and they're taken down
14 south, that we make sure that we have some sort of measure
15 in place that is going to prevent or at least identify the
16 people that are taking those catalytic convertors down
17 south.

18 I'm not only talking about the bridges, but
19 also talking about those highways where these people are
20 traveling on. If they identify a vehicle in Houston,
21 they'll be able to log into whatever is -- whatever Flock
22 system you have or have Vigilant, or whatever LPR system
23 you have, to be able to track that vehicle. And if that
24 vehicle went into Mexico, then now we know we have
25 individuals taking those catalytic convertors into Mexico.

1 So that's the bigger picture. And this is what
2 I want you guys to think when addressing or requesting
3 funds for this catalytic convertor money that we have. So
4 you know, I do like the fact that you want to have
5 somebody dedicated to catalytic convertor investigations,
6 but at the end of the day, we also think -- you know,
7 think bigger about this, right?

8 And we're always, you know, thinking about
9 border. And that's the number-one thing that's going to
10 get you results, and that's technology. So when you go
11 back and talk to your chief, talk to your chain of
12 command, and see, hey, this is where these task forces are
13 going.

14 Technology matters a lot to MVCPA, and I think
15 this is something that you should, you know, start
16 thinking: how can you deploy LPRs and strategically place
17 where it's going to benefit not only your task force, but
18 all the task forces across the state. So just food for
19 thought. You know, whenever you go back, have that
20 conversation internally and see if you can come back with
21 something that we can help with, right?

22 Thank you, Sarge.

23 Lieutenant Gonzalez, who's the other task
24 force?

25 MR. GONZALEZ: Chambers County, Mr. Chairman.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Have we got somebody from
2 Chambers County?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Anybody that neighbors Chambers
5 County?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: No? Okay.

8 MR. GONZALEZ: Oh, yeah. Mr. Chairman, one
9 more thing. Would it be okay if we speak to Galveston?
10 There were some questions that we have regarding the name
11 of the task force.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Galveston? Good morning.

13 MR. BARROW: Lieutenant Barrow, Galveston
14 County Auto Crimes Task Force.

15 MR. GONZALEZ: LT, if you could just -- we're
16 having some difficulty processing and understanding the
17 environmental addition to the language of your task force
18 name. So could you go ahead and kind of give a brief
19 overview of what that is and why you're adding
20 "environmental" to the name of your task force?

21 MR. BARROW: Well, it was just the deal. Like
22 if you're down in Brazoria County and you have Galveston
23 Environmental Crime Task Force, they're going to look at
24 you funny. And everybody wants to know why Galveston's
25 not in Brazoria County.

1 So if we change the name to give recognition to
2 Brazoria County Sheriff's Office and Galveston County
3 Sheriff's Office, two Gulf Coast auto crimes task forces,
4 it kind of -- our whole coverage area is covered on the
5 Gulf Coast. So that's one of the reasons we're just
6 talking about changing it. Maybe I'm missing what you're
7 asking.

8 MR. GONZALEZ: So you were talking about an
9 environmental task force. And so you know, our concern
10 is, why would we be funding an environment task force?

11 MR. BARROW: Well, got to do with catalytic
12 convertors. Well, it was catalytic convertors that cleans
13 the air. Puts it out in the atmosphere.

14 The environment part of it gives you more -- if
15 you go into like a salvage yard to look at it -- let's say
16 they've got an oil spill and you have a catalytic
17 convertor problem with them, you can't get them on a
18 catalytic convertor problem, but you can get them on an
19 oil spill. Well, there's other administrative issues on
20 that side, that they find them, which are unbelievable.

21 That's the angle where we're looking like on --
22 for the environmental side of it, is using it as a tool
23 and a resource to stop our main problem of catalytic
24 convertors.

25 MR. GONZALEZ: Got it.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It's a fancy name,
2 environmental task force.

3 MR. BARROW: Well, and one of the things we
4 have with the Sheriff's Office -- we have an environmental
5 person that does that. So that's kind of the spin that we
6 kind of come off of.

7 Years ago, we used to do that. On salvage yard
8 inspections, we brought nuisance abatement, environmental
9 crimes, and the task force in because we would hit them in
10 different directions and stop the salvage yards, the
11 mechanics' shops, and all different things in trying to
12 hit them in different directions. Because if you can't
13 get them on one thing, let's get them on something else to
14 stop the problem, is sort of what our thought process is.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. So more -- so the oil
16 spill and all that will be on like a -- you also would be
17 enforcing that with this task force? That's what we're --

18 MR. BARROW: Yes.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- saying?

20 MR. BARROW: Yes.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Makes sense. I just
22 want to make sure that we're not, I guess -- how can you
23 word it -- that we're not providing -- or what we're not
24 funding another mission, where --

25 MR. BARROW: Right.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- that the mission remains
2 catalytic convertor thefts. That's the mission.

3 MR. BARROW: We can change it to catalytic
4 convertor task force --

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah.

6 MR. BARROW: -- if that makes y'all happy.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I don't know, Julio.

8 MR. BARROW: I'm willing.

9 MR. GONZALEZ: No. We just needed some
10 clarification. I should also say that -- I mean, the
11 Dallas Police Department has also taken this multi-
12 disciplinary approach to addressing catalytic convertor
13 crime.

14 And so kudos to you for including the civil
15 side of things, because I know that on the civil side of
16 things, there are some steep, steep penalties and
17 consequences with respect to, you know, code violations or
18 even environmental violations that can come about from the
19 theft of -- catalytic convertor theft. So we just needed
20 clarification and we need documentation that we are
21 funding catalytic convertor related efforts.

22 MR. BARROW: Yes, sir. The primary goal of it
23 will be catalytic convertors.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All right. Thank you.

25 MR. BARROW: Thank y'all.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. It's 10:04 a.m. We're
2 going to take a 10-minute break. Be back at 10:14,
3 please.

4 (Whereupon, there was a short recess.)

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. It's 10:21 a.m., and
6 we're back in session.

7 Let's continue with the Agenda
8 Item 6. I'm going to pass it over to our CFO, Glenna, to
9 comment on what we just discussed prior.

10 MS. BOWMAN: [Inaudible, technical
11 difficulties.]

12 MS. BENAVIDES: Chairman? My apologies, On The
13 Record can't hear you speaking. So if we could -- On The
14 Record, the transcription service is online.

15 She can't hear you. One second. My apologies.
16 She's the transcriptionist joining us online, and she's
17 not able to -- we can hear you here in person.

18 MS. BOWMAN: Right, right.

19 MS. BENAVIDES: But you're not getting
20 transcribed --

21 MS. BOWMAN: Test, test. Mic test, test.

22 MS. BENAVIDES: One second. She can hear you
23 now.

24 MS. BOWMAN: Okay. Do I need to start again?

25 MS. BENAVIDES: Yes, ma'am, please.

1 MS. BOWMAN: Oh, okay.

2 MS. BENAVIDES: My apologies.

3 MS. BOWMAN: For the record -- exactly -- I'm
4 Glenna Bowman, Chief Financial Officer for the Texas
5 Department of Motor Vehicles. I wanted to comment on a
6 time frame for the Board to be able to award additional
7 grants, should you decide that you want to do that.

8 In the General Appropriations Act, we have a
9 provision that so long as you award those grants and we
10 encumber them by August 31 of this year -- which is fiscal
11 year '24 -- then the funds can still be expended in FY
12 2025. And the nice thing about that is that you can take
13 a little more time to determine, you know, when you want
14 to have a deadline for the task forces to make additional
15 requests for grant funds from '24.

16 And so that's a tool that's available, so you
17 don't have to feel rushed like, oh, we've got to do this
18 in the next month. So everyone has time and they can go
19 through their local process.

20 And so I just wanted to make you aware that
21 that's a tool that we have available. And then that
22 doesn't preclude you from doing another grant award series
23 in fiscal year 2025 for those funds that will be available
24 next year.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Well, that's great to hear.

1 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman?

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: There you have it.

3 MR. RICHARDS: David Richards, for the record.
4 Glenna, are you talking about only new applicants for FY
5 '24? You've not talking about the 13 that have already
6 applied, correct? Or --

7 MS. BOWMAN: Well, so I'm speaking to grantees
8 in general.

9 MR. RICHARDS: Okay.

10 MS. BOWMAN: So however the Board determines to
11 move forward with the grantees that have requested today,
12 if you're just extending that or increasing the amount,
13 this would still apply, because those amounts would be
14 awarded and encumbered this year, before August 31.

15 So it applies equally to both groups. It's
16 just about the grant, not whether it's being extended.

17 MR. RICHARDS: Thank you.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Chairman Rodriguez, for the
19 record. Well, this is good news, great news. I think
20 this is one of the issues that El Paso had.

21 So I think now it will be a lot easier for some
22 of these task forces that didn't apply to go ahead and
23 apply for the funding. And again, you know, for next
24 fiscal year, we can come back and apply for the other
25 funds. So it opens up the door for more funding. So

1 we -- again, we need to start asking for funding.

2 I know we are wired very different for MVCPA
3 all these years. Now, we need to, you know, start
4 thinking, you know, what we have now.

5 So -- and thank you for that. I think it's --
6 it opens up the door for more task forces to apply.

7 This is an action item on Item 6? Is that it?
8 Agenda Item 8 is the one which -- that's the action
9 items.

10 Okay. So now we would -- are there any more
11 questions?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yessenia, are there any public
14 comments on this item?

15 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. We will now move on to
17 Agenda Item 7. I will turn the meeting over to General
18 Counsel, David Richards.

19 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, members, good
20 morning. David Richards, General Counsel for the Board,
21 for the record.

22 I am presenting today an action item for the
23 Board's consideration and vote here in a month. It is an
24 amendment to 43 Texas Administrative Code Section 57.36,
25 which is entitled Level of Funding for Grant Projects.

1 As everyone knows here in the room, the
2 grantees have been required for many, many years to
3 provide a 20 percent cash match, based on the award by
4 MVCPA, to be eligible for funding. With the passage of
5 Senate Bill 244 in the last legislative session and the
6 timing of the RFA that went out to each of you to apply
7 for funding, we found and had discussions on the fact that
8 y'all were midway through your budget cycles, and a 20
9 percent cash match for 224 funding would not be something
10 that would be doable for many, if not most, of y'all.

11 So that's prompted the discussion. The current
12 rule, as you know, is fairly rigid. It's 20 percent.

13 There's no flexibility. There's no room for
14 lowering that amount of cash match. So the purpose of
15 this amendment, Mr. Chairman and members, is to give the
16 Board flexibility to deal with any unforeseen budgetary
17 problems that grantee jurisdictions may have.

18 It will allow you to exercise your discretion
19 to lower the percentage, but it can't go over 20 percent.

20 I mean, 20 percent is the ceiling. And it's going to
21 give grantees, Mr. Chairman and members, a realistic
22 opportunity when they do have budgetary problems in their
23 home jurisdictions, the opportunity to apply and to secure
24 funding.

25 And we'll deal with them, as I understand

1 through Mr. Diggs, on an individual basis, going forward.

2 So this will apply to both the Chapter 1006 main grants,
3 as well as SB 224 grants, going forward. We don't know
4 how long SB 224 grants will exist. We do know, as
5 everybody has talked about today, FY '24 and FY '25
6 funding.

7 So it applies to both, as far as the rule
8 amendment. We also ran this by the Governor's Office and
9 they approved the rule amendment for posting in the *Texas*
10 *Register* for a 30-day comment period.

11 And procedurally, going forward, if the Board
12 approves this amendment today, my office will file the
13 amendment, the rule amendment, with the *Texas Register* for
14 a 30-day comment period. We'll receive comments. And at
15 the end of that period, we'll come back at the next
16 meeting and address any comments that will be made or
17 might be made, and then approve for final adoption this
18 rule.

19 So that ends my presentation on this. It's an
20 action item for the Board to take, and I'll entertain any
21 questions that anyone might have.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Are there any questions
23 for Mr. Richards?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Mr. Richards.

1 MR. RICHARDS: You're welcome.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will now entertain a motion
3 on Agenda Item 7.

4 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez, for the record.
5 I move that the MVCPA Board approve the proposed amendment
6 to 43 TAC Section 57.36 and that the rule amendment be
7 published in the *Texas Register* for a 30-day public
8 comment period.

9 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton. I second.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We have a motion from Board
11 Member Gonzales and a second from Board Member Brotherton.
12 Any further discussion?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yessenia, are there any public
15 comments on this item?

16 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will now call for the vote.
18 Board members, when I call your name, please state your
19 vote for the record.

20 Member Jones?

21 MS. JONES: Aye.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

23 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

25 MR. GONZALEZ: Aye.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton?

2 MS. BROTHERTON: Aye.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu-Serrano?

4 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Aye.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
6 aye. Let the record that there are six votes for and zero
7 against. The motion passes.

8 We'll now move to Item 8 to discuss catalytic
9 convertor award recommendations. I will turn the meeting
10 over to Lieutenant Gonzalez.

11 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So as
12 we were previously discussing there is negotiation room
13 that staff has to be able to negotiate the amounts on
14 these grants. And so I think that can be a great way for
15 them to -- for our task forces to include additional
16 requests for great ideas that they heard yesterday.

17 So here in a bit, once you call for a motion,
18 I'm going to be recommending the amounts that they had
19 asked for yesterday, with the exception to Chambers
20 County, just until Chambers County can come on and give
21 their presentation. We'll just put that on pause to give
22 them some additional time and flexibility to be able to do
23 that.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Lieutenant Gonzalez.
25 Any questions for Lieutenant Gonzalez?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. I believe we have
3 three -- four motions -- right -- three motions on this?
4 Okay. So I will entertain a motion, the motions for
5 Agenda Item 8.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: I move that the MVCPA Board
7 award FY '24 SB 224 catalytic convertor grants to: the
8 City of Brownsville, South Texas Auto Theft Enforcement
9 Task Force, in the amount of \$278,803; the City of Eagle
10 Pass, Eagle Pass Police Auto Theft Task Force, in the
11 amount of \$669,684; Galveston County, Gulf Coast
12 Environmental Crimes Task Force, \$450,702; Harris County,
13 the Harris County Auto Theft Task Force, Catalytic
14 Convertor Theft Prevention and Investigation, \$63,300;
15 Hidalgo County, the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office
16 Catalytic Convertor Grant, \$402,473; the City of Houston,
17 Houston Catalytic Convertor Crimes Task Force One, in the
18 amount of \$964,240; the City of New Braunfels, New
19 Braunfels Police Department Enforcement and Prevention
20 Initiative, in the amount of \$686,748; the City of
21 Pasadena, Pasadena Auto Crimes Prevention Program, in the
22 amount of \$103,000; Potter County, Potter County Panhandle
23 Auto Burglary and Theft Unit, in the amount of \$237,350;
24 and Smith County, Smith County East Texas Auto Theft Task
25 Force, in the amount of \$111,804.

1 MS. JONES: Member Jones. I second.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Board
3 Member Gonzales on those items and a second from Member
4 Jones. Any further discussion on this item?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any public comments on the
7 items that we just --

8 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will now call for the vote on
10 this motion.

11 Member Jones?

12 MS. JONES: Aye.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

14 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

16 MR. GONZALEZ: Aye.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton?

18 MS. BROTHERTON: Aye.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu-Serrano?

20 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Aye.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: [Inaudible, technical
22 difficulties.] Test, test, test. Got it. Okay.

23 We had a call for the vote. We had Member
24 Jones with aye, Member Whitehill with an aye --

25 MR. RICHARDS: Go over it again.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. We'll go over it again.
2 When I call your name, please state your vote for the
3 record.

4 Member Jones?

5 MS. JONES: Aye.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

7 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

9 MR. GONZALEZ: Aye.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton?

11 MS. BROTHERTON: Aye.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu-Serrano?

13 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Aye.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
15 aye. Let the record that there are six votes for and zero
16 against. The motion passes.

17 Let's go to second motion.

18 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, David Richards,
19 for the record, General Counsel. Let the record reflect
20 that on the second motion, Member Gonzalez will recuse
21 himself from a vote. Thank you.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Did the transcriber get that?

23 MS. BENAVIDES: Yes, sir.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All right. Do I have a motion
25 on motion two from Item -- Agenda Item 8.

1 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton.

2 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: [Inaudible].

3 MS. BROTHERTON: Oh, is there -- are you
4 getting it? Member Brotherton.

5 I move that the MVCPA Board award the FY '24 SB
6 224 catalytic convertor grant to the City of Dallas in the
7 amount of \$872,650.

8 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Cantu-Serrano. Second.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. We have a motion from
10 Board Member Brotherton and a second from Member Cantu-
11 Serrano. Any further discussion?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yessenia, any comments?

14 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will now call for the vote.
16 Board members, when I call your name, state your vote for
17 the record.

18 Member Jones?

19 MS. JONES: Aye.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

21 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez has recused
23 himself.

24 Member Brotherton?

25 MS. BROTHERTON: Aye.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu-Serrano?

2 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Aye.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
4 aye. Let the record that there are five votes for, one
5 recuse. The motion passes.

6 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, David Richards,
7 General Counsel, again. For the third motion, let the
8 record reflect Chairman Rodriguez will recuse himself from
9 this vote. Thank you.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Got that?

11 MS. BENAVIDES: Yes, sir.

12 MR. GONZALEZ: Julio Gonzalez, for the record.
13 Members, I will now entertain a motion.

14 MR. RICHARDS: Member Gonzalez, do you want
15 state for the record who it's for and what the amount is?

16 MR. GONZALEZ: I move that the MVCPA Board
17 award FY '24 SB 224 catalytic convertor grants to the City
18 of Laredo, the Laredo Auto Theft Task Force, in the amount
19 of 1.9 -- or I'm sorry -- \$1,961,593.

20 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Board Member Cantu-Serrano.
21 I move the MVCPA Board award FY '24 SB 224 catalytic
22 convertor grants to City of Laredo of \$1,961,593.

23 MS. WHITEHILL: Member Whitehill. I second.

24 MR. GONZALEZ: All right. Members, there's a
25 motion on the floor and a second.

1 Yessenia, is there any public comment?

2 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

3 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. Members, I will now call
4 for the vote.

5 Member Jones?

6 MS. JONES: Aye.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

8 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

9 MR. GONZALEZ: Let the record reflect that I,
10 Member Gonzalez, vote aye.

11 Member Cantu-Serrano?

12 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Aye.

13 MR. JONES: Brotherton.

14 MR. GONZALEZ: And Member Brotherton?

15 MS. BROTHERTON: Aye. And also let the record
16 reflect that the Chairman has recused himself on this
17 vote. Motion passes.

18 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, General Counsel,
19 David Richards, again. Based on the discussion, we didn't
20 have this motion prepared, but based on the discussion
21 we've had here today, I would suggest a fourth motion
22 which would be, I move that the MVCPA issue a second RFA
23 for FY '24 funding to allow additional applications to be
24 received for that funding.

25 And if someone just want to say, so moved, then

1 we can take it from there. But that's the motion I would
2 suggest, so we cover the intent or at least the discussion
3 of this meeting today.

4 MS. BROTHERTON: So moved. So moved.

5 MR. RICHARDS: Just so moved is all you -- did
6 you so move?

7 MS. BROTHERTON: Yes. Member Brotherton. So
8 move.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member
10 Brotherton. I have -- I need a second.

11 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Cantu-Serrano. Second.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. I have a motion from
13 Board Member Brotherton and a second from Board Member
14 Cantu-Serrano on motion No. 4 on Agenda Item No. 8.

15 MR. RICHARDS: Correct?

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I'll call for the vote.
17 Board members, when I call your name, please state your
18 vote for the record.

19 Member Jones?

20 MS. JONES: Aye.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

22 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

24 MR. GONZALEZ: Aye.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton?

1 MS. BROTHERTON: Aye.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu-Serrano?

3 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Aye.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
5 aye. Let the record that there are six votes for and zero
6 against. The motion passes.

7 Okay. Members, I will now turn the meeting
8 over to Earl Pence, Herman Adair, Justin White, and Amber
9 Ott to present this agenda item, this Agenda Item No. 9,
10 MVCPA Training Update.

11 MR. PENCE: Good morning. Mr. Chairman, Board
12 members, thank y'all for being here. We're going to make
13 this brief. For the record, my name is Earl Pence, Deputy
14 Director of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority.

15

16 In the last few months, we have brought our law
17 enforcement trainers up to full speed with the addition of
18 Ms. Amber Ott. Ms. Amber Ott has prior law enforcement
19 experience in the North Texas area. She comes to us from
20 DMV, I believe it was Commercial Vehicles side. She
21 brings with her a wealth of knowledge.

22 With all these members, Justin White, Herman
23 Adair, and Amber Ott, we've got a combination of skills
24 that -- we're ready to take on anything at this point in
25 time. We're currently in development of training

1 projects, SB 224, auto theft. We're just recently
2 collecting some data for forged license plates also. We
3 got a request out of North Texas just this morning for
4 that training.

5 What I'm going to do is turn it over to Herman.
6 We've got several projects we're working on. Herman is
7 our lead. We do have a slide presentation that they have
8 prepared, and I would appreciate if you'd just give them a
9 little attention and let them show you their smoke.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. ADAIR: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Board.
12 Herman Adair, Law Enforcement Trainer, MVCPA.

13 First off, I want to say good morning, and
14 thank for you for allowing us to come and present this to
15 y'all this morning. We are working on a few projects.

16 Our current project on our -- we have
17 presentations that we present in the NICB School, which
18 the NICB School -- this year, we have four schools. Next
19 week, we'll be in Denton, Texas. Then we'll have Midland,
20 Bastrop and South Padre Island.

21 We also have our Auto Theft School that we put
22 on, the MVCPA Auto Theft School. Going back to the
23 beginning of fiscal year, which would be last year, we had
24 Auto Theft Part 1, that we held at the TAVTI Conference in
25 Dallas. In June, we will be holding Auto Theft 2 School,

1 which we're finishing up the details for that. And then
2 we will have another Part 1 School in October in Lubbock
3 at the TAVTI Conference there.

4 Also, come July, we have our MVCPA Training
5 Conference, which will be held right here. Last week, we
6 provided training to Texas Department of Public Safety, to
7 their special agents, special investigators, and we got
8 positive comments back from that. Had one special agent
9 who was also an instructor in the class that said because
10 of our training that we provided to them in fraudulent
11 documents, he was able to go forward with a case and
12 actually file a case.

13 So getting positive reaction from them; it
14 shows that we're doing something right. And the good
15 thing is, we're just getting started with this.

16 So some future projects. There are courses
17 that we're trying to put together. Of course, we have the
18 Title Fraud that we're revamping and putting new stuff
19 into it.

20 We've got the Odometer Rollback and trend with
21 that, that involves that. On the skip-down one, we are
22 working on catalytic convertor training for the public and
23 for law enforcement. We've actually been helping with the
24 Grant Management Tracking System as well, till we can get
25 all the rest of the staff in place.

1 One thing that we are looking at doing is
2 purchasing a truck and trailer and putting a wrap on it.
3 And I'm going to let Amber speak more on that. And then,
4 of course, our social media.

5 MS. OTT: Good afternoon. Amber Ott, MVCPA Law
6 Enforcement Trainer, for the record.

7 Currently, MVCPA, along with the help of Texas
8 DMV, we're looking at purchasing a truck and trailer,
9 along with a wrap. The El Paso Task Force picture you see
10 there with a wrap is just an example to give you kind of
11 an idea of what we're looking at wrapping that truck and
12 trailer with.

13 The truck and trailer will be beneficial for us
14 to get out in the public and do some public awareness, get
15 the MVCPA name out there, as well as maybe participating
16 with some of our auto theft task forces in joint events.
17 Left it on that one.

18 We are also currently working on another
19 project. We are accepting bids currently for some
20 electronic billboards to go across the state within our
21 larger cities and surrounding cities, typically, like,
22 Dallas, El Paso, Austin. With those billboards, we want
23 to do them in English and Spanish language, get again some
24 public awareness out there, not only for our motor vehicle
25 crimes, but also the catalytic convertor thefts. That's

1 just another way of spreading the message for MVCPA.

2 We also currently have our social media up and
3 running. I wanted to kind of open up with a quote on
4 social media. It has given us a platform to not only
5 connect with others across the United States, but
6 communicate and collaborate in ways we never thought
7 possible.

8 Since February 26, I've taken over the Facebook
9 page for MVCPA. I've kind of re-drafted it. There are
10 two other pages out there; we're trying currently to go
11 dormant on those.

12 But we have been active since February 26 with
13 our social media. With our social media, we're making
14 sure that we're sharing what our task forces are doing on
15 their pages.

16 Currently, there are 27 task forces. Twelve of
17 those task forces currently have Facebook pages dedicated
18 to those task forces. The other ones typically host
19 through their police departments.

20 So we're trying to share that information daily
21 with the public through MVCPA's Facebook. And if you
22 haven't liked our Facebook, make sure you go give us a
23 follow.

24 I pulled some demographics since we've taken
25 over the Facebook page, as of February 26. You can kind

1 of where our typical followers are coming from, where our
2 likes and clicks are coming from. You can see, Laredo is
3 pulling a lot of information from that demographic,
4 specifically. And then other cities follow.

5 So that just typically shows where our Facebook
6 followers are coming from, clicks and likes, as well as
7 interactions. And then our page overview. Again, this is
8 just some demographics that we pulled since we've taken
9 over the Facebook page.

10 You can see that we've gone up quite
11 substantially since we've done that. We've gone up 472
12 percent with the content interactions. We've gone up
13 11.5 percent, and we have about 827 followers, which I
14 will expect more after this meeting.

15 Beginning April 1, we plan to start doing not
16 only some of our posts that we're putting out there,
17 communicating our projects; we're also planning putting
18 those in Spanish, as well, so that we're communicating to
19 both of our communities within Texas.

20 In the future, we do have some other social
21 media things we would like to do, possibly a YouTube
22 channel, not only showing MVCPA events and information,
23 but also maybe getting with some of our task forces to
24 help in those YouTube videos. We also would like maybe to
25 start a podcast as well, again getting that information

1 out there from different states, different areas within
2 our state with our task forces.

3 Other than, that's pretty much all I have.
4 Turn it over.

5 MR. ADAIR: Herman Adair, MVCPA Law Enforcement
6 Trainer.

7 Going back to the truck and the trailer, I just
8 want to go just a little bit more in depth on that, just
9 real quick. The purpose of this not only is for a rolling
10 billboard for MVCPA everywhere that we go, but we will be
11 storing equipment, our handout stuff that we have, that we
12 give to the task forces and the public. And that way, we
13 can go visit events that are going on around Texas. And
14 whether we set up inside or we set up outside with our
15 trailer, events that we are inside a building of
16 something, we are still advertising, and we're still a
17 billboard outside in the parking lot.

18 And most of y'all have seen plenty of vehicles
19 with the wraps, and it catches your eye right away. So
20 just trying to get our word out for MVCPA, so when people
21 ask, well, what's MVCPA, it will be a testament to what we
22 are.

23 So thank y'all.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Representation. I think the --
25 I have a couple of questions on the social media part. So

1 we're doing Facebook and Instagram? What else are we
2 doing in social media?

3 MS. OTT: Right now, only Facebook at this
4 time.

5 MR. JONES: Why?

6 MS. OTT: It -- the --

7 MR. JONES: We have a population, a
8 demographic. They're into Twitter, Instagram. Facebook
9 can be linked to Instagram. That sets a --

10 MR. ADAIR: Would you like us to start one?

11 MS. JONES: Use a social media expert. Yes.

12 MS. OTT: Yes. We can do that. That's not a
13 problem.

14 We can start an Instagram page as well as a --
15 I don't even know if they refer to it as Twitter anymore.
16 I think it's X now.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So we got -- okay. So we're
18 going to stay away from TikTok for now?

19 MR. ADAIR: Yes, sir.

20 (General laughter.)

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: No TikTok.

22 MS. OTT: We're probably going more toward the
23 YouTube channel.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah.

25 MS. OTT: So --

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So people love videos. Right?
2 These task forces have a lot of videos that, you know --
3 on cases that they've already been, you know, prosecuted
4 and already dealt with. They start asking you for that --
5 for those feeds, and maybe that way, you can get more
6 followers, more likes, because that's what we want.

7 We want more followers. Right? 827 for a
8 State authority, you know, it's very low. And even if we
9 have to do -- what's it called -- the boost on them.

10 I think we fall under a commercial account.
11 Correct?

12 MS. OTT: Well, we're still researching,
13 because again we had three pages currently, when I started
14 looking at it. Right now, we're trying to merge the older
15 pages into the new pages, which has kind of been a
16 difficult issue with Facebook. So we're trying to merge
17 that old information in.

18 So it's kind of confusing when people search
19 us. They don't really know which Facebook. We have gone
20 in and put information saying, hey, this page is dormant.

21 Please go to this link.

22 Click this link. It will take you to our
23 active Facebook. When I looked at our Facebook, it has
24 not been active in over a year.

25 So we've only been up and running barely a

1 month -- well, not even a month yet -- on our Facebook, so
2 that's why I think our followers at this time are low. We
3 do share everything the task forces put out on their
4 Facebook. Some are more active than others.

5 If they share a video or case information, we
6 do share that. I have also sent out emails to all of the
7 task force commanders asking them, if you have any events
8 coming up, please send those to me. We will share those
9 on Facebook as well. We're trying to put anything we can
10 find out there.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I think, you know, we're
12 going to have to, for this -- what do they call the
13 engraver? What's it called, the machine?

14 MS. OTT: Etching?

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: The marker? So when we get
16 those markers, you know, do a huge push on it. Right?
17 Every task force --

18 MS. OTT: Yes.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- in this state, this is what
20 we're going to be promoting. Coming over for free, we're
21 going to mark your catalytic convertor. Do a video on it,
22 post it, share it, and all the task forces share it. So
23 that's how you get more people involved in our page.

24 MS. OTT: Correct.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Not only that, but also, you

1 know, cases where task forces are doing search warrants,
2 right, or arrest warrants, or, you know, three or four,
3 you know, suspects are arrested. Continue posting that,
4 other good things that the task forces do.

5 I think people want to -- people from the state
6 of Texas want to know exactly what MVCPA is all about,
7 because a lot of people don't know what MVCPA still is.
8 So --

9 MS. OTT: Correct.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- we want to make sure we get
11 our name out there and making sure that we are providing
12 the support that these task forces need and their cities
13 need. So continue pushing that note, because we've had
14 this conversation before, through Charles Caldwell,
15 through Bryan, you know, through Joe Canady, and now, you
16 know, the new Director Diggs. We've had this conversation
17 many times as to what we're doing to put that awareness to
18 the public, and especially with social media.

19 You know, the words are great. Social media is
20 getting in the way in many ways. So we need to get very
21 aggressive with social media.

22 I keep on saying it over and over again. We
23 need to dedicate or earmark some funds to do just that.
24 Then we need to do it because public awareness -- we can't
25 do it on our own. We need the public, bottom line.

1 There's no agency here that's going to say
2 they're going to be able to do it on their own. We need
3 the public and we need to make sure that we create that
4 awareness and educate the public, continually pushing the
5 note that they need to lock their cars, need to make sure
6 that they do the extra steps, and you know, engraving
7 their catalytic convertors, and do that all good stuff
8 that we do.

9 So we need to get very aggressive with this.
10 And I'm going to task Director Diggs to keep on, you know,
11 focusing on this and making sure that we continue pushing.

12 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir. William Diggs, Director
13 of MVCPA.

14 I did want to mention, Mr. Chairman and
15 members, we have a fantastic Government Strategic
16 Communications Director, Mr. Keith Yawn. He's got a
17 fantastic team. We'll make sure that we're connecting
18 Amber with his folks to make sure that we're getting that
19 message out there that -- you know, those messages that
20 we're re-posting or want something that -- you know, we
21 want to make sure that we're checking that information.

22 And I totally agree with you. Since we asked
23 Amber to put her foot on the gas pedal, she hasn't gotten
24 off of it, and so I'm very appreciative of that. And
25 we're going to look at everything we can to get the

1 message out there and to put our name out there and to
2 support the task forces throughout Texas. Because we want
3 to make darn sure that we're supporting them and that any
4 events that they're taking care of, that we make sure that
5 we help re-post, you know, or send that message further
6 out, and so that they'll have recognition as well.

7 But we're not going to get our foot off the gas
8 pedal. And we'll definitely be working with Keith and his
9 team to make sure that -- and they can -- and they've
10 also -- they've got experts over there as well. And so
11 we'll put them together with Amber and we'll even be
12 better at what we're doing today.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

14 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez, for the record.
15 Director Diggs, is it possible, if we can -- on our
16 social media pages, can we get the verified checkmarks,
17 the status on those? I think that would add a bit of
18 legitimacy to our pages.

19 MR. DIGGS: So I'm definitely not the social
20 media expert, but I'm going to get with Mr. Yawn and I'm
21 going to get with Amber, and we'll definitely do that. I
22 know exactly what you're talking about, but I don't -- I
23 want to talk to them about it. So --

24 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you. And please let me
25 know the results of that discussion.

1 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir, I will.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: The other thing I was going to
3 task Amber with is, if we can find a -- I know our website
4 is there, but it just -- I think it tags to DMV, correct,
5 by now?

6 MS. OTT: Correct.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And if we -- I know that there
8 was a presentation by that -- the marketing agency that we
9 gave a PEPA grant to. Yeah. What happened to that
10 website?

11 MR. PENCE: Mr. Chairman, if I may just a
12 minute? Excuse me. Earl Pence, Deputy Director, Motor
13 Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority.

14 In response to Board Member Jones's question
15 about social media, I want to explain. And I've gone over
16 with her several times. Facebook is a safe platform. If
17 you get manipulated, phished or mirrored, you're notified.

18 Instagram is getting mirrored. And what I mean
19 by that: people are mirroring that page, asking for
20 money, and people not only are sending money, it's a
21 ripoff. We are going to get there.

22 X is the second best that I know. If somebody
23 else says anything different, good. But Facebook is very
24 safe. Manipulated? You're notified.

25 Instagram is getting there. X has gotten

1 there. But there are hundreds of platforms. The one
2 thing we don't want to do is have somebody take our name,
3 manipulate, get money, rip them, and take off, just like
4 the one we just -- it just came up. And I was just going
5 to use that for an example.

6 We're trying to be safe, but we want to get it
7 out there. Three-minute loops on catalytic convertor
8 safety. Park in well-lit areas. Just some loops,
9 continuously on Facebook, where people can go to it, look,
10 get good ideas.

11 That's our ideas. She's only been here a
12 month, but we've loaded her down with a lot of
13 responsibility and ideas, and I'm surprised she hasn't
14 cratered yet.

15 But we're really -- and what you said, Mr.
16 Chairman, absolutely. Yes, sir. And Director Diggs, he's
17 all in it. We keep him briefed on a lot of stuff we
18 have --

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. So isn't -- it's just a
20 question. Right? So isn't Instagram part of Meta? Isn't
21 it the same company?

22 MR. PENCE: Unless they sold --

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Right?

24 MR. JONES: Yeah, it is.

25 MR. PENCE: Yes.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So we should -- there should be
2 some measures there, or I guess, some preventive measures
3 for that to have them. Right?

4 MR. PENCE: Yes.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: For that not to happen, but --

6 MR. PENCE: I think there are preventive
7 measures. I don't know if Facebook is safe, but you
8 know --

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I mean, every social media is
10 not going to be 100 percent --

11 MR. PENCE: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- bulletproof. Right?

13 MR. PENCE: Yes, sir.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So you know, I think it's --
15 you know, the -- it's demographics. Right? So Facebook
16 has a certain demographic --

17 MR. PENCE: Yes, sir.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- that has Facebook. My
19 grandma, my mom still has Facebook. Right?

20 MR. PENCE: Every -- but it's like --

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Then you've got your Instagram.

22 MR. PENCE: Yes, sir.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And unfortunately, the TikTok
24 is a younger generation. Right?

25 MR. PENCE: Yes, sir.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And then your Snapchat. So --

2 MR. PENCE: Yes, sir.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- X, you know -- the
4 professionals and everybody's in there.

5 MR. PENCE: Yes, sir.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So we need to focus on what's
7 going to work for us.

8 MR. PENCE: Yes.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Right? One of the other things
10 that I was going to task Amber with is to find a solution
11 to our website, and that way all task forces can feed into
12 that, and be allowed to be administrators to the website,
13 where there's a page for them, and they can notify their
14 community.

15 For example, there's a hotspot. There is
16 plenty of data out there on statistics and area of --
17 where every task force that we have here now, where they
18 can notify the public of hot areas. Right? There is a
19 certain area in their city that is hot, right.

20 They can notify the public, hey, we just got 10
21 burgled vehicles in this area, in these apartments. Make
22 sure you lock your cars.

23 MR. PENCE: Yes.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We're there already with
25 technology. Why are we not doing it? Right? So --

1 MR. PENCE: Yes, sir.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And can we look into that?
3 Because now, websites can say, hey, allow notifications?
4 Yes or no. Block? Yes or no.

5 And you can just say allow, and they will give
6 you notifications based on your AOR. Right? So let's
7 look into that. Let's get ahead of the game.

8 Let's think, you know, future.

9 MR. PENCE: Yes, sir.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And this is how we -- this is
11 how the public is engaging now. It's no longer about me
12 giving pamphlets anymore. They'll get that pamphlet, and
13 they'll just start folding it and then they'll throw it
14 away.

15 MR. PENCE: Our phone number is on it. I don't
16 like that.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. So just food for
18 thought. Right? But let's look into things like that and
19 let's see if we can just get ahead of the game through
20 MVCPA and to help our task forces. Right?

21 MS. JONES: Mr. Chair?

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, Member Jones?

23 MR. JONES: It doesn't matter what platform you
24 use. There are risks, and it's up to us to employ the
25 necessary people with the necessary tools to prevent it.

1 You cannot -- even if you stay on Facebook forever,
2 there's still somebody who's going to come to do it to
3 Texas Department of Public Safety all the time.

4 They have people calling, hey, we're the
5 Highway Patrol. Send us money. So that's something that
6 we need to definitely monitor.

7 I will ask that wrap truck that you're going to
8 get, that you actually take it to events. If Corpus is
9 having something, I don't necessarily want to see, oh,
10 we're supporting them through social media and we're
11 tagging and re-tweeting, or whatever that stuff is. I
12 would like to see where that truck is in Corpus Christi.

13 It's in Dallas. It's Potter County. Wherever
14 we need to go, take that truck so it's visible and we're
15 supporting the task forces actually in person. When we
16 are advertising, I want us to make sure that we are
17 reaching the demographic.

18 And the Chairman has said this before. We have
19 approached this so many times, so many different ways. We
20 need to be able to see how we are communicating with those
21 who are going to take their hard-earned money, \$8,000, in
22 the back of a parking lot, and purchase a vehicle for
23 \$40,000 that's stolen. Now, they don't have a vehicle for
24 their family, and they don't have \$8,000. I want to see
25 how that is addressed, however we need to do it.

1 And then the billboards, tell me again where
2 you're going to have these billboards?

3 MS. OTT: In the major cities. Sorry. Amber
4 Ott, MVCPA Law Enforcement Trainer. In the major cities
5 and surrounding major cities, so Houston, El Paso, Dallas,
6 Austin.

7 MR. JONES: What about the rural areas?

8 MR. PENCE: We're going to rural areas too.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. We have to --

10 MR. JONES: Because --

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- rural areas.

12 MR. JONES: Yes. We've got to take care of the
13 rural areas. There are demographics in the rural areas
14 who are being taken advantage of. They don't necessarily
15 come to the big cities, so they're not going to see that.

16 They're either -- they go to work. They come
17 home. That's it. They're taking care of their families.
18 Work, home, that's it.

19 They're not leaving the 200 people in a
20 community where they live and going to Dallas or Houston
21 to see these billboards. So we have got to be strategic.

22 And we've said this, and we're saying it and we're saying
23 it again.

24 We have to be strategic in how we reach the
25 cities of the state of Texas. We have to be. All of

1 them, all-inclusive.

2 MR. PENCE: Earl Pence, Deputy Director, MVCPA.
3 I'd actually looked into the electronic billboards
4 before. There are several companies in Texas, Lamar being
5 one of the biggest.

6 These electronic billboards are sparse, but it
7 meets -- putting plastic up on a board and six months
8 later, it's torn. There's contracts you can run, certain
9 amount of times a day is how you pay. The locations, you
10 can either be specific or statewide. It would be up to
11 them to put them where we need them, but as like you're
12 saying, urban areas, interstates.

13 There's farm-to-market roads. U.S. highways --
14 not really farm-to-market roads. Just highways,
15 interstates, electronic billboards everywhere, and that's
16 what we're trying to focus on.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. And just do me a favor,
18 Earl.

19 MR. PENCE: Yes, sir.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: When you get this, and you get
21 this from Lamar -- right -- you're going to get a -- you
22 know, we have all these billboards. And this is great,
23 because he has so many impressions. And they're going to
24 give you all that.

25 They're selling you --

1 MR. PENCE: Yes, sir.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- a billboard. Whenever you
3 get those mapped out, go to the task forces, because we
4 want to target the hot areas.

5 MR. PENCE: Yes.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: You know, if we're targeting an
7 area that there's not going to be any burglaries, there's
8 barely any auto theft, any catalytic convertor thefts,
9 then we're not doing what we're supposed to. Take it to
10 the task force commanders. Say, hey, this is what they're
11 saying.

12 And then they can tell you, you know what?
13 This is our hot areas or hotspots right here, here and
14 here. That's what we focus on.

15 MR. PENCE: Yes, sir.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And that's what we tell the
17 public and educate the public. You know, lock your cars.

18 MR. PENCE: Yes, sir.

19 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton. I don't
20 know if you've already gone through this, Amber, but I
21 mean, it might be something to consider. Have we thought
22 about getting an app, you know, kind of like the weather
23 app, that kind of sending not only notifications, but
24 would be able to be a tool, like if somebody had a
25 suspicion of some sort that they may -- could just make a

1 tag or somehow communicate through app, instead of -- I
2 mean, Facebook is great. Love it.

3 Instagram, I get the mirroring part. I've seen
4 that happen with the things where they were asking for
5 money and it really wasn't the right thing. So I've seen
6 that happen.

7 But just to -- I don't know if somebody has
8 thought about an app, but that would be something that
9 would be kind of cool, if there was an app out there that
10 did that.

11 MS. OTT: Yes, ma'am. We have discussed having
12 an app, and we will get with Texas DMV to see how we can
13 set that up.

14 MS. JONES: Don't we also have -- we have a tag
15 going and a slogan, and that's going to be on the truck.
16 And we're dependent on Amber to figure out the hashtag,
17 Twitter, whatever we came up with? Like, that's her job?
18 And she'll work with DMV.

19 But we are progressing and we will progress.
20 We're not going to sit back and wait. We are going to
21 progress.

22 MR. DIGGS: Mr. Chairman? I've got one final
23 thought about our social media platform. Again, William
24 Diggs, MVCPA Director, for the record.

25 When I started talking with Earl a few weeks

1 back, a couple a months ago, and we talked the billboards.
2 We talked about social media. He told me about Amber,
3 and he had the perfect person that he was hiring that had
4 some of this experience in the past. And so we're excited
5 about the opportunity.

6 Major Jones, I want to assure you, my goal is
7 that we meet and every desire that the Board has when it
8 comes to social media -- and we want -- we absolutely want
9 to get out there and capture every citizen in Texas that
10 we can. It doesn't matter what part of Texas they're in.

11 We understand the hotspots and those needs, absolutely.

12 We understand second language, and that English
13 may not be the first language. I understand that issue
14 where you've got folks that they get ripped off, and
15 that's a tragedy for them, you know, that somebody takes
16 their money because they didn't understand -- possibly
17 didn't understand the English language.

18 And we can provide some awareness. We're going
19 to do that. We're going to touch the face of Texas, and
20 that's my goal.

21 And that's what we've been working to for the
22 last few weeks, for the last month or so. And we're going
23 to stay on the gas pedal. We're not going to get off.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Great. And also, last thing,

1 if there's a way, Director Diggs, that we can look into
2 updating our logo. Make it more Texas, more -- I don't
3 know. It just feels like --

4 (General laughter.)

5 MR. GONZALEZ: Second that.

6 MR. DIGGS: So again, William Diggs, MVCPA
7 Director.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: You know, something -- make a
9 T-shirt, a cap.

10 MR. DIGGS: Chief Rodriguez, I --

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I'll wear it.

12 MR. DIGGS: I actually talked with Earl about
13 that weeks and weeks ago, and I thought, man, there's no
14 better way for me to alienate some folks, if I come in
15 there and say, hey, I've got this great idea. I'm going
16 to change the logo, you know, in month one, month two.

17 But with your direction, thank you, sir. I
18 also agree. I think maybe we can take a fresh look at the
19 logo and we will definitely be doing that.

20 I'll work with everyone. If you, as the task
21 forces, if you've got some ideas, please send them to
22 myself and to Earl and to Amber and to Herman and Justin.
23 We'll take a look at them. We'll put something together
24 over the next few weeks, couple of months, and I'll bring
25 it back to the Board for your adoption, and to make sure

1 we're meeting your desire.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

3 MR. DIGGS: Thank you for that so much.

4 MR. GONZALEZ: I would suggest that we hire a
5 vendor to -- professional graphic designer to be able to
6 give us suggestions.

7 MR. DIGGS: As we --

8 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman?

9 MR. DIGGS: -- can look at that as well, sir.

10 MR. RICHARDS: David Richards, General Counsel,
11 for the record.

12 We've been talking about technology and
13 reaching out, RFAs and whatnot, but I think, as a final
14 note, we'd be remiss if we didn't applaud our very own
15 Yessenia Benavides for reaching out to the City of New
16 Braunfels --

17 MR. DIGGS: Oh, yeah.

18 MR. RICHARDS: -- who's here today. So thank
19 you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 MS. BENAVIDES: If I may? It's really kind
21 of -- Yessenia Benavides, for the record. I always tell
22 you guys, and I forget to do it.

23 New Braunfels didn't know that MVCPA existed.
24 I just happen to live there, so they were close by. But
25 it's a prime example of there being many cities that do

1 not know who we are.

2 And so you know, Earl's team will be very vital
3 in making sure that they spread this message across.
4 Obviously, we at one point were staffed by people -- it
5 was nearly impossible for all of us to get out there and
6 do all these events. And so now that we have more
7 staffing, it will allow for a lot of other staff members
8 to travel while the other staff is focused on, you know,
9 putting Board meetings together, SB 224 Advisory Committee
10 meetings, GBR Committee meetings.

11 And so for sure, the more staff that we get,
12 the more things that we can do and we can accomplish, and
13 give you what you want.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Yessenia.

15 MS. BENAVIDES: You're welcome.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: You're awesome.

17 MS. BENAVIDES: Thank you.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I can say it on the record.
19 Right? Honestly, I thought David was going to say, we
20 can't do the logo. But yeah. So --

21 MS. BENAVIDES: Thank you.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. And again, I keep on
23 repeating this, that not a lot of agencies know that we
24 exist. And not a lot of agencies know the authority that
25 we have to support different cities across our great

1 state, different counties.

2 So again, you know, we need to get better at
3 this. And I know now -- I feel very confident now that,
4 you know, you taking on this, on this task, that we'll be
5 there pretty soon. But you know, it's all about, you
6 know, this new generation. We've got to pivot, you know.

7
8 This new demographic, you know, we've got to
9 pivot. And we need to make sure that we capture the
10 audience through the way that it's being done now, which
11 is a lot of social media, things that -- you know, to be
12 able to create awareness videos.

13 Everybody's into videos. They want to look at
14 a video. And again, we have to be -- you know, it can't
15 be over 15 seconds or 30 seconds, because then we lose
16 them, right? So you know, we need to take all that into
17 consideration.

18 So definitely something that I'm looking
19 forward to for the next meeting, to bring some updates and
20 see if we can fast-track this. Because I know that we've
21 been talking about this for many years already, and we
22 need to get there as soon as possible. So thank you for
23 your update.

24 The training -- I will say this, that -- and
25 please include the task forces on all training

1 curriculum, see what the need is, see what the current
2 trends are, and see -- every time that we give a training,
3 make sure that we give an intel briefing to those that are
4 attending the training as to what's occurring, and any
5 intel that needs to happen. Whether it's in the border or
6 in the AOR that they're doing that training on, if there's
7 any intel that they have, those agencies, bring it there
8 and discuss it, you know, Q&A. That way, we can start
9 bringing that.

10 But do include on the curriculum whatever we're
11 training them on and ask the commanders, what is it that
12 we need? We need to ask them --

13 MR. PENCE: Yes, sir.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- because we can sit all day
15 hearing and thinking that we have the greatest curriculum
16 for Part 1 and Part 2, but really, we're lacking
17 something. So let's do that.

18 MR. PENCE: Yes, sir.

19 MS. OTT: Amber Ott, MVCPA Law Enforcement
20 Trainer. I just wanted to follow up on Yessenia's
21 message.

22 We did actually put the SB 224 -- when
23 applications were open, we actually posted that on our
24 Facebook with the link to that information, in case that
25 we didn't have a task force or a county or a city that

1 didn't know about it. But we did put that information out
2 there. We pinned it to the top until the applications
3 closed.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And we'll start pushing also to
5 get emails for all program managers, all program directors
6 for like chiefs, sheriffs across the state. We can get
7 that through TCOLE. And we can push the Advisory on, you
8 know -- MVCPA is open for grant applications.

9 And they'll get it on their email, and that's a
10 lot of better, because they will see it there, the grant
11 opportunity. Right? So --

12 MR. PENCE: Earl Pence, MVCPA. When it went
13 out, it went out to over 2,000 departments in the state.
14 We actually sent a blast when it opened.

15 Okay, correction. It went to task forces only
16 on SB 224.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Again, we need to open it up.
18 Right?

19 MR. PENCE: Yes, sir.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So we can get that to TCOLE.

21 MR. PENCE: Yes, sir.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And then we can send that
23 email, that mass email to all sheriffs and chiefs across
24 the state.

25 MR. PENCE: Yes.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All right. Anybody else have
2 anything?

3 MS. JONES: One more thing. For when we're
4 expending these funds, when we get the etching machines,
5 then we could have a statewide etcher, sketcher,
6 something, day, where all task forces at the same day, the
7 time would do it. I would love to say that was my idea,
8 but somebody texted that to me from the audience.

9 I don't want to embarrass that person, but that
10 came across from somebody in the audience. I could have
11 stolen that idea. But just have a -- everybody, same day,
12 work it out, and then have -- that's your job. Make sure
13 it gets out.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We can re-X it, not re-tweet
15 it. Right? All right.

16 Any other questions, comments?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Well, thank you very much for
19 coming.

20 We're going to go to Agenda Item 10, closed
21 session. There are no more -- there are no items for
22 closed session, so we'll move on to Agenda Item 12. Oh,
23 there is one.

24 Everyone, we have one registration form to
25 request to speak, open comment session. TAVTI 2026

1 Conference. Stacy Reid [sic]?

2 MR. STACY: For the record, my name is Reid
3 Stacy. It's been known to be played backwards like that.

4 No problem.

5 As I sit here before the Board, I'm a Dallas
6 police detective, 24 years, but 17 years as a task force
7 member. I was asked by the current TAVTI executive board
8 to come before you guys and kind of brief y'all on some of
9 our recent conference and then potential, you know,
10 conferences throughout the coming year. So as a site
11 selection committee chair, I was tasked with this.

12 And kind of a brief. On the 2023 Dallas
13 conference, we had over 300 attendees. If you counted our
14 vendors, we're about 330. So that's one of the largest
15 conferences we've had in recent, you know -- in history,
16 actually.

17 And I do find that the fundings and stuff like
18 that have a huge play with it, you know, being a task
19 force for the last 17 years. We've gone through the highs
20 and lows together, and we understand restrictions on funds
21 and then when there's good times.

22 With that, our 2024 Conference is set for
23 Lubbock, Texas, and that will be October 8 through October
24 11. All right? And at that facility, we have already
25 opened up a room for y'all to participate with the Part 1

1 training, and I'll work closely with y'all's training, you
2 know, team. And we'll work in harmony with that.

3 And our 2025 Conference is set here for
4 Houston, Texas, and that is September 30 through October
5 3. And that also will have a room set aside for y'all to
6 have y'all's Part 1.

7 With that, moving into 2026, you know, we're
8 kind of -- moving in the future, we try to obtain our
9 contracts in, you know -- in the future because we're in
10 competition with the corporate world. We as law
11 enforcement, you know, entities, we have budgets. And so
12 we try to get out a little bit ahead of the curve.

13 The state of Texas is covered tremendously by
14 training. And we have the best trainers. And I've been
15 afforded the ability to be trained for the last 17 years
16 as a task force member.

17 In Dallas, I was presented with the opportunity
18 to look into the adventure of hosting our annual
19 conference in Norman, Oklahoma. We've already had the
20 Norman agency as a host reach out that -- you know, that
21 intent to cover as a hosting agency. So because we would
22 be bringing numerous members from Texas, you know, drawing
23 them into that conference, we want to make sure that that
24 was going to be okay with the Board and there wasn't going
25 to be any, you know, maybe conflict or any issues with

1 training and things of that nature.

2 So before we sit down and we contact contracts
3 with the hotels and the hosting actual facilities, we
4 wanted to make sure that that was going to be okay with
5 travel. And that would be in 2026.

6 Another reason why we want to do that is: even
7 though our namesake is the Texas Association of Vehicle
8 Theft Investigators, we're composed of many states. We
9 have guys that come in annually all the way from
10 California. We have some from Philadelphia, the New York
11 area.

12 We also have federal agents that are members
13 within our body. And what we don't want to do is just
14 neglect these outlying states around us. We're not going
15 to move our conference, say, seven states away. But
16 anything that's in close proximity, we would love to train
17 those investigators too, to strengthen our state and our
18 citizens, ultimately.

19 So with that, you know, I would -- I'm open for
20 any conversations or anything that would be of a concern,
21 that I could bring back to my board before we move forward
22 with that.

23 MR. GONZALEZ: I'm fine with that. I don't
24 speak for the Board, and if anybody else wants to chime
25 in, but I mean, I'm fine with that, as long as, you know,

1 we're not having a conference in Hawaii or Puerto Rico or
2 the Virgin Islands, something like that.

3 MR. STACY: That's off the table. I would say
4 that would be a little bit of a tough ask.

5 MS. JONES: I asked you to speak. Mr.
6 Chairman, at the Senate Bill 224 Committee meeting in El
7 Paso, there was a topic that particularly pertained to
8 Texas and the contingent states, that whatever laws that
9 we pass here may have severe effects on other states,
10 depending on what happens here. And then it even goes as
11 far as Canada and Europe.

12 So I think it's an excellent idea, where we can
13 learn from other states, as well as they learn from us,
14 and then if we can work together instead of coming up with
15 laws that are going to work against each other. So I love
16 the idea. I love Hawaii too.

17 MR. GONZALEZ: I like what Member --

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: With this -- no. I have a
19 question. Who can answer? Are we okay with this? If
20 we -- if they move to -- to move the conference to
21 Oklahoma?

22 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, David Richards,
23 General Counsel. This is not an agenda item to give a
24 definitive answer to. We can talk about it after this
25 meeting. So --

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I think we're going to have
2 that conversation, Reid, just so we can be on the safe
3 side on this. I know it's not an action item and it's not
4 an actionable item.

5 MR. STACY: Yes.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: But we'll have conversation
7 here soon. And then I'm all for it. I think through a
8 collaborative effort, a partnership with Oklahoma, it
9 would be something new and something that can
10 definitely -- you know, we can support.

11 We just need to make sure that we can do it.
12 Right? But I like the idea that, you know, the
13 neighboring states can collaborate with us and see the
14 problems that we have. There's probably more than likely
15 the same problems they have, and if we can work together,
16 it's always better, right?

17 MR. STACY: Yes. Correct.

18 MR. GONZALEZ: Please thank the board for the
19 invitation.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

21 MR. STACY: Thank you, guys.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. It is 11:26 a.m. on
23 March 28, 2024, and we are now in -- hold on. Wait. Hold
24 on. Yeah.

25 Unless there are any further business, I would

1 like to entertain a motion to adjourn.

2 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez. I move that we
3 adjourn.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a second?

5 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton. I second.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We have a motion from Board
7 Member Gonzalez and a second from Board Member Brotherton.
8 Board members, when I call your name, please state your
9 vote for the record.

10 Member Jones?

11 MS. JONES: Aye.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

13 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

15 MR. GONZALEZ: Aye.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton?

17 MS. BROTHERTON: Aye.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu-Serrano?

19 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Aye.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
21 aye. Let the record that the vote was unanimous.

22 It is now 11:27 a.m. This meeting is
23 adjourned.

24 (Whereupon, at 11:27 a.m., the meeting was
25 adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

MEETING OF: MVCPA board
LOCATION: Houston, Texas
DATE: March 28, 2024

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages, numbers 1 through 95, inclusive, are the true, accurate, and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording made by electronic recording by Elizabeth Stoddard before the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

DATE: April 2, 2024

/s/ Adrienne Evans-Stark
(Transcriber)

On the Record Reporting
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