

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING

Hilton Downtown  
Crystal A Ballroom  
815 Main Street  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Via Microsoft Teams and in person

1:00 p.m. CT  
Friday,  
July 18, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mike Rodriguez, Chair  
Charla Brotherton (absent)  
Rebecca Cantu-Serrano  
Scott Jackson  
Sharon Jones  
Thomas "Tom" Sloan  
Katherine "Kit" Whitehill

STAFF:

William Diggs, MVCPA Director  
David Richards, MVCPA General Counsel

*ON THE RECORD REPORTING*  
*(512) 450-0342*

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## CLOSED SESSION

15. The Committee may enter into closed session --  
 under one or more of the provisions of the Texas  
 Open Meetings Act, Government Code, Chapter 551,  
 including but not limited to:

Section 551.071 - Consultation with and advice from  
 legal counsel regarding:

- pending or contemplated litigation, or a settlement offer;
- a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the government body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Government Code Chapter 551; or
- any item on this agenda.

Section 551.074 - Personnel matters.

- Discussion relating to the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, and dismissal of personnel.

Section 551.076 - Deliberation Regarding Security  
 Devices or Security Audits.

- the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices; or
- a security audit.

Section 551.089 - Deliberation Regarding Security  
 Devices or Security Audits;

Closed Meeting.

- security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology;
- network security information as described by Section 2059.055(b); or
- the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices.

16. Action Items from Closed Session --
17. Public Comment none
18. Adjournment 79

P R O C E E D I N G S

(1:21 p.m.)

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon. My name is Mike Rodriguez. And I am pleased to open the Board meeting of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority.

It is 1:21 p.m. and I am now calling the Board meeting for July 18, 2025, to order. I want to note for the record that the public notice of this meeting, containing all items on the agenda was filed with the Office of Secretary of State on July 10, 2025.

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

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

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

In accordance with the Department's

1 administrative rule, comments to the Board will be limited  
2 to three minutes. To assist each speaker, a timer has  
3 been provided at the podium. The timer light will be  
4 green for the first two minutes, yellow when the speaker  
5 has one minute left, and then red when your time is up.  
6 Individuals cannot accumulate time from other speakers.

7 Comments should be pertinent to the issues  
8 stated on the comment sheet. When addressing the Board,  
9 please state your name and affiliation for the record.

10 There are a few things that will assist in  
11 making the meeting run smoothly, and assist the court  
12 reporter in getting an accurate record. Please identify  
13 yourself before speaking. Speak clearly and slowly.

14 Do not speak over others. And please ask the  
15 Chair for permission to speak. And be sure to get  
16 recognized before speaking.

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

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

1 presentation rules I just discussed.

2 Roll call. I would like to have a roll call of  
3 the Board members. Please respond verbally when I call  
4 your name.

5 Board Member Jones.

6 MS. JONES: [inaudible].

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Member Whitehill.

8 (No response.)

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton.

10 (No response.)

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu-Serrano.

12 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Present.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Sloan.

14 MR. SLOAN: Present.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jackson.

16 MR. JACKSON: 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, Pledge of Allegiance. Please  
20 stand and honor our country.

21 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was  
22 recited.)

23 (Whereupon, a pledge to the Texas flag was  
24 recited.)

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

1                   Agenda Item 3, Chair's reports. Moving to item  
2                   3, approval of transcript from April 16, 2025, meeting as  
3                   minutes. Members, we'll now take up Item 3A, approval of  
4                   transcript.

5                   Are there any public comments?

6                   MS. FLINT: No, Mr. Chair. There are no  
7                   comments. Thank you.

8                   MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, if everyone has  
9                   reviewed the transcripts, would anyone like to make a  
10                  motion to approve the transcript as minutes.

11                  MR. JACKSON: Member Jackson. I move that the  
12                  Board approve the April 16, 2025, meeting transcripts as  
13                  minutes.

14                  MR. SLOAN: Member Sloan. I second.

15                  MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member  
16                  Jackson, and a second from Board Member Sloan. Any  
17                  further discussion?

18                  (No response.)

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

22                  Member Jones.

23                  MS. JONES: Aye.

24                  MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu-Serrano.

25                  MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Aye.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Sloan.

2 MR. SLOAN: Aye.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jackson.

4 MR. JACKSON: Aye.

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

8 Item 3B, I do not have a Chair report today, so  
9 we are not taking up Agenda Item 3B.

10 We will now move on to Agenda Item 4, MVCPA  
11 Director's Report. Director Diggs.

12 MR. DIGGS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and  
13 Board members. My name is William Diggs. I am the  
14 Director of the MVCPA.

15 Agenda Item 4A is a brief update as far as our  
16 staffing update. I am happy to report that we remain  
17 fully staffed. All 15 of the FTEs are -- we do not have  
18 any vacancies at this time. We are fully staffed. And  
19 that will complete Agenda Item 4A.

20 I would now like to move on to Agenda Item 4B,  
21 Border Taskforce Commander Meeting that took place in  
22 Eagle Pass. This is just a brief recap.

23 The MVCPA Border Taskforce commanders met in  
24 the City of Eagle Pass on May 20th. We met with our  
25 federal, state, and other local law enforcement agency



1 partners. The MVCPA law enforcement border members, as  
2 well as MVCPA leadership attended this day-long meeting.  
3 The group discussed challenges and trends related to  
4 vehicle theft, and the impact that it has on the U.S.-  
5 Mexico border crossings.

6 The MVCPA will be represented at the upcoming  
7 District Attorneys office, or District and County  
8 Attorneys Association meeting in Round Rock. They have a  
9 conference there. It is in September, September 23rd and  
10 the 25th. We have actually purchased booth space, so that  
11 we can be represented there, and develop some good  
12 relationships with DAs across the state.

13 After we have finished up the meeting in Eagle  
14 Pass, we actually took a tour of the International Bridge  
15 Number 2 in Eagle Pass. I want to thank the Eagle Pass  
16 taskforce for sponsoring this meeting. It was excellent.  
17 They did a fantastic job.

18 So, thank you guys for that.

19 We also -- we determined that we need to  
20 continue these conversations as it relates to the issues  
21 that face the border. And we do plan to meet in El Paso  
22 with the taskforce commanders that are up and down the  
23 border in October. And that will conclude my recap of  
24 that meeting in brief.

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

1                   Moving on to Agenda Item 5, MVCPA fiscal year  
2                   2026 budget overview.   Glenna Bowman.

3                   MS. BOWMAN:   Good afternoon, Chairman  
4                   Rodriguez, Board members.   For the record, my name is  
5                   Glenna Bowman.   I am the Chief Financial Officer for Texas  
6                   Department of Motor Vehicles.

7                   This item is providing an overview of the FY  
8                   2026 budget.   We will talk about revenues, expenditures,  
9                   other estimated funding needs, and estimated remaining  
10                  balances or future Board needs as they may come up.

11                  As you all know, MVCPA is self-supporting, and  
12                  it is funded from motor vehicle insurer fees deposited to  
13                  the General Revenue Fund.   In FY 2026, the Comptroller has  
14                  included in its biennial revenue estimate revenues of  
15                  \$22.7 million for the Crime Prevention program and \$28.4  
16                  million for the catalytic converter program.

17                  In addition, the Board has the authority to  
18                  carry forward funds from prior years.   And at this time,  
19                  that amount looks like it is \$3.3 million for crime  
20                  prevention and \$14 million for catalytic converter.

21                  Staff also expect to receive an estimated \$8.2  
22                  million for crime prevention.   And another \$438,000 for  
23                  catalytic converter program in additional insurance  
24                  collections that were identified during the audit process.

25                  The Board staff has estimated expenditures and

1 funding obligations in FY 2026 of \$31.7 million for crime  
2 prevention and \$32.2 million for catalytic converter. And  
3 this includes amounts for grant awards operating  
4 expenditures, and interagency contracts with Texas state  
5 agency partners, program partners.

6 The Board has received a request for a refund  
7 of overpayments of vehicle insurer fees. If the Board  
8 approves that refund request, then MVCPA will be  
9 responsible for a portion of that refund. And we are  
10 estimating that amount to be approximately \$1.5 million.  
11 And in addition, Board staff has set aside a contingency  
12 amount in case there are other needs that come up, or if  
13 our revenue estimates -- if they don't live up to  
14 expectations.

15 With that, that completes my formal  
16 presentation. I am happy to answer any questions.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That is 31.7 and 32.2, correct?

18 MS. BOWMAN: Yes, sir.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Perfect.

20 Any other questions for Ms. Bowman?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Ms. Bowman.

23 MS. BOWMAN: Thank you.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Moving on to Agenda Item 6,  
25 MVCPA Grant Management tracking system update. Wendy

1 Barron, Chief Information Officer from Texas DMV.

2 MS. BARRON: Good afternoon, Board members.

3 For the record, my name is Wendy Barron. I am the Chief  
4 Information Officer with the Texas Department of Motor  
5 Vehicles.

6 The current grants management system in place  
7 that the MVCPA Division uses to manage the grants is a  
8 legacy system that has provided a good service -- good  
9 technology product, but it has grown long in the tooth.  
10 It has outlived its useful life and its ability to grow  
11 and adapt to the changes in the additional funding that  
12 has been allocated to MVCPA to provide additional grants.

13 And so, the Division does need to replace that system.

14 So, we have worked in partnership -- the IT  
15 Division has worked in partnership with the MVCPA staff to  
16 evaluate and assess potential grant management systems  
17 available in the market. We have identified several  
18 different solutions that look like they will be very good  
19 products. We have scheduled a demonstration for the Board  
20 that will be held next week, and so you guys can get a  
21 preview of some of the products that are available and out  
22 there.

23 Once we wrap up those demonstrations, we will  
24 be finishing out the solicitation and putting it out for  
25 bid early this fall, with the intent to get the

1 application initiated. And we'll begin the development  
2 before the end of the fiscal year.

3 And that concludes my presentation. I am here  
4 to take any questions, if you have any.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any questions for Ms. Barron?  
6 I have a question. On this, so it is going to be for the  
7 grant management, also for the grant submission.

8 MS. BARRON: Yes, sir.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: This offer that we are looking  
10 at, will they be able to be customized to add additional  
11 modules to it?

12 MS. BARRON: Yes, so we are looking at  
13 potentially leveraging some technology tools that are  
14 already in place at the DMV, in terms of platforms, to  
15 include Salesforce, and a product called Box for content  
16 management. Those solutions are very customizable. You  
17 can tailor them to meet your needs.

18 There have been multiple different types of  
19 grants management solutions to include grants management  
20 that support law enforcement, using both of those tool  
21 sets. And so, we will be -- we can potentially customize,  
22 tailor that to meet the needs for the MVCPA and change,  
23 and adapt, and grow. These are modern, very robust  
24 technologies.

25 And the benefit also is that because the DMV

1 already has those platforms in place, there is some  
2 potential cost savings, rather, you know, go buy a whole  
3 new platform that is a different -- we can leverage off  
4 the platforms that we already have. We have resources in  
5 house that are familiar with those platforms as well. So,  
6 that can help with ongoing maintenance and support.

7 But these are, you know, current technologies,  
8 and provide very robust customizable solutions for the  
9 future.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Great. Thank you, Ms. Barron.

11 MS. BARRON: Thank you.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Moving on to Agenda Item 7,  
13 Senate Bill 224, State Partner Agency update.

14 Director Diggs.

15 MR. DIGGS: William Diggs, Director MVCPA for  
16 the record. Mr. Chairman, Members, today I have asked our  
17 state partner agencies to come forward and provide us with  
18 an update we have provided either through a shared funding  
19 agreement with the Texas DMV, and/or through interagency  
20 contracts with some of our other state partner agencies.

21 And today a number of them will be here and  
22 provide an update to you on how those funds are actually  
23 being used.

24 So, the first up is Enforcement Director Corrie  
25 Thompson with the Texas DMV.

1 MS. THOMPSON: Good afternoon, Chairman, Board  
2 members, Director Diggs. Corrie Thompson, Director of the  
3 Enforcement Division.

4 And if I am able to advance my own slides.  
5 There we go. It is going to cooperate with me at some  
6 point.

7 So, SB224 saw the Texas Department of Motor  
8 Vehicles reaching into a new sphere of regulation. So,  
9 historically, the Department has regulated the motor  
10 vehicle sales and distribution industry. And with the  
11 implementation of House Bill 224, we see the Department  
12 now getting into the repair sector.

13 So, we are looking at our licensees, which  
14 cover franchise dealers, independent motor vehicle  
15 dealers, salvage dealers here are regulated by the  
16 Department. However, they are specifically excluded from  
17 SB224 regulation. But it sees us visiting those dealer  
18 communities to ensure that they comply with the  
19 recordkeeping requirements that come with SB224.

20 So, we have done a number of things within the  
21 Department. On the front end, starting to collect  
22 information that the Department doesn't currently have  
23 about our licensees. We have added application questions  
24 asking when somebody comes for a new application or a  
25 renewal application, whether or not you are engaged in

1 this business concerning catalytic converter transfers or  
2 sales. We are also asking the location of where those  
3 repairs and that work might be conducted, when you become  
4 a licensee, or when you come up for renewal.

5 So, those requirements of course, mandate that  
6 the dealers maintain the record for two years, following  
7 the date of the transaction, and that they maintain  
8 certain specifics regarding those records. So, a  
9 description of the catalytic converter that is in  
10 accordance with industry standards, the date the  
11 transaction occurred, and then, the person with whom the  
12 transaction was conducted.

13 So, I would like to remind everyone that the  
14 Department doesn't have commissioned officers with the  
15 Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. We are a regulatory  
16 agency. And so, when we are imparting sanction actions on  
17 our regulated entities, what that looks like is either a  
18 monetary penalty, or if something is serious enough to  
19 warrant revocation of that entity's license.

20 And so, we have been looking towards kind of  
21 sanction activity when we go out and start conducting  
22 inspections with regard to SB224.

23 Now, the Enforcement Division has approximately  
24 47 motor vehicle investigators. And with the  
25 implementation of a separate bill, House Bill 718, also



1 known as the Metal Plate Bill, we have an additional 26  
2 employees within the Enforcement Division under dealer  
3 compliance. All of those staff combined though, are able  
4 to more efficiently go out, visit our dealer populations,  
5 and ensure that these requirements in line with the  
6 catalytic converter bill are being met.

7 So, since September of 2024, my investigative  
8 and my compliance staff have visited over 1,500 dealership  
9 locations to ask whether or not they are engaged in this  
10 activity, and to ensure compliance with these new  
11 requirements. And to date, of those 1,500-plus  
12 inspections, we have only seen 87 of those entities  
13 affirmatively say that they are engaged in this business.

14 So here, I'm just providing a little bit of a  
15 heat map of the locations we have been able to visit to  
16 date. We will continue to grow this information.

17 I mention the application questions being asked  
18 on the front end. But we know that the dealers who  
19 already have licenses issued by the Department or that  
20 haven't come up for renewal yet, we are gathering  
21 information on them as well, too. And everything is being  
22 added to this map that we will continue to grow and be  
23 able to provide to law enforcement as a resource when  
24 needed.

25 Just including a couple of pictures of our

1     investigative and compliance staff out at dealer  
2     locations, doing some good work. What we are finding a  
3     lot of times is the dealerships are not meeting our  
4     premises requirements. So, the Department calls for a  
5     number of things to be in place, for a dealer to be  
6     legitimately operating a business in the State of Texas.  
7     And so, what these additional inspections have also  
8     allowed us to do is to locate these separately non-  
9     compliant dealers to get them out of the system, as well  
10    as licensees.

11               So, a couple of these are actually up in the  
12    Fort Worth area from March of 2025. But you will see that  
13    they have large areas of vehicles in disrepair. Many of  
14    these entities, though, end up not being engaged in  
15    catalytic converter repairs.

16               We are inspecting the premises to see if they  
17    have any onsite. Again, checking records in accordance  
18    with the statute.

19               And the last one there, yes. Still dealing  
20    with some exhaust work there maybe, but not necessarily  
21    touching the catalytic converter aspect in totality.

22               And that is all I have for my formal  
23    presentation. I am happy to answer any questions you may  
24    have.

25               MR. RODRIGUEZ: Anyone has any questions?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: You said 1,500 dealerships, you  
3 inspected?

4 MS. THOMPSON: Yes.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That is great. This is  
6 awesome.

7 How many of us are doing dealership inspections  
8 today?

9 So, I think the push is going to be for also --  
10 for us to also augment this dealership inspection  
11 initiative. Just because we see it in every city, right,  
12 that a lot of them are doing things that they are not  
13 supposed to. And so, definitely something that we have  
14 been talking about, as to how we can get more of our  
15 taskforces to engage in this type of inspections.

16 But thank you for this. This is great. Great  
17 work.

18 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you.

19 MR. DIGGS: So, Mr. Chairman, next up is 7B,  
20 Texas DMV Vehicle Title and Registration Director, Annette  
21 Quintero.

22 MS. QUINTERO: Good afternoon, Chairman  
23 Rodriguez, Board members, Director Diggs. My name is  
24 Annette Quintero. I am the Vehicle Title and Registration  
25 Director.

1           As you know, SB224 amended the Occupations  
2 Code, Chapter 2305, and introduced new recordkeeping  
3 requirements for UAPRs and MREs, when buying and selling  
4 catalytic converters. The bill also requires coordination  
5 with the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas  
6 Department of Licensing and Regulation. The goal is to  
7 establish a shared framework to support real-time  
8 reporting and enforcement, and reduce opportunities for  
9 fraudulent transactions.

10           To support these efforts, VTR has hired two  
11 full-time staff members directed to fraud prevention  
12 activities tied to SB224 and other related initiatives.  
13 These new team members will help bridge the work of our  
14 Division with MVCPA, ensuring seamless communication and  
15 consistent policy alignment. They are also supporting  
16 innovation in our systems and processes, looking at how we  
17 can better use data to flag suspicious activity and  
18 support enforcement partners.

19           One of the biggest areas of development planned  
20 are enhancements to our webSALVAGE system. Our goal is to  
21 provide UAPRs and MREs access to webSALVAGE and enable  
22 them to report catalytic converter transactions  
23 electronically. This function will satisfy the new  
24 recordkeeping requirements in SB224.

25           We are also planning to build out data sharing

1 capabilities, so that this reported information can be  
2 shared with law enforcement, DPS, and TDLR. Ultimately,  
3 this will support a more transparent real-time view of  
4 catalytic converter transactions helping us to identify  
5 patterns, and prevent abuse.

6 Beyond catalytic converters, we are also  
7 leveraging this effort to improve fraud prevention across  
8 the salvage and non-repairable title space. This includes  
9 expanding on the titling capabilities to reduce reliance  
10 on paper titles, which are more vulnerable to forgery,  
11 allowing recyclers to report scrapped or destroyed  
12 vehicles electronically to help us more efficiently update  
13 motor vehicle records.

14 These changes will streamline operations and  
15 help us act faster when tracking vehicles that have been  
16 dismantled, or should no longer appear in the system. We  
17 are also planning enhancements that allow salvage dealers  
18 to apply for rebuilt titles electronically, further  
19 closing the loop between salvage events and rebuilt  
20 vehicle activity.

21 A key component involves major component parts,  
22 those damaged during insurance total loss event, and later  
23 reported as repaired or replaced during the rebuilding  
24 process. By comparing these two sets of data, we aim to  
25 identify discrepancies that may indicate fraudulent or

1 unsafe repairs, or even the reuse of stolen parts. This  
2 is a critical layer of fraud prevention that we believe  
3 will significantly improve the integrity of salvage  
4 vehicle rebuilds in Texas.

5 Thank you again for the opportunity to share  
6 this update. I am happy to answer any questions.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Ms. Quintero.

8 Any questions for Ms. Quintero?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

11 MR. DIGGS: Next up will be Agenda Item 7C. It  
12 will be the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation,  
13 Consumer Protection Manager, Michael Strawn.

14 MR. STRAWN: Good afternoon, Chairman and  
15 Members. Michael Strawn, Consumer Protection Manager for  
16 Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. It is an  
17 honor to be a part of this taskforce and stand before the  
18 fine women and men around me today.

19 I am here to give our update for TDLR, and give  
20 a little bit of information about our agency. Much like  
21 you heard from our DMV partners, we are a regulatory and  
22 licensing agency. We are not a law enforcement agency,  
23 which differs greatly from a lot of members in this room.

24 So, as you heard earlier, a lot of our  
25 authority surrounds our ability to assess administrative

1 penalties, revoke licenses, and attach ownership or  
2 common ownership to prevent bad actors from obtaining  
3 licenses with other individuals across the state.

4 We have a little bit to talk about today, to  
5 talk about the impact that we have had. We have had some  
6 legislative impact I wanted to address.

7 I know there were some concerns with TDLR.  
8 Some rule amendments, and some updates to our pending IACs  
9 that are coming up as well.

10 First and foremost, while this doesn't deal  
11 directly with this initiative, we did -- recently at TDLR,  
12 you may have heard, we have the Lottery Commission being  
13 moved over to us. I wanted to come here before you all  
14 today, and state that this is not going to have an impact  
15 on our functions within this taskforce Senate Bill 224, or  
16 our ability to communicate with our partner agencies  
17 around here. While this is a large overtaking, the way it  
18 is moving into our structure, the individuals that are  
19 currently doing the work with this taskforce and other  
20 programs are going to be separated from the Lottery  
21 Commission that is moving over to us. So, besides a few  
22 individuals helping transition that over to us, we don't  
23 expect any impact to this program, and our ability to do  
24 our job.

25 Next, we have a heat map as well. This is our

1 auto parts recyclers around the state. And we have 986  
2 inspectable premises across the state.

3 In the past year, or eleven months, we have  
4 done 316 inspections across the state. Our inspectors, as  
5 it is a large state, have traveled up to 14,000 miles as a  
6 part of this, to go out to these auto parts recyclers,  
7 look for catalytic converters, and other issues that may  
8 exist.

9 And then, I will touch on this here in a little  
10 bit. One of the things that we are happy about is the  
11 ability that we just hired a program specialist that  
12 started this week, while I was here at this conference.  
13 That program specialist, I think you heard it in DMV's as  
14 well, is set up to be a liaison.

15 We look at this partnership as something that  
16 needs education, data sharing communication. And I hope  
17 that that is somebody that is able to do that.

18 And next, we have inspectors. We have been  
19 training them. They have gone through an extensive  
20 four-week training period for this. Whether knowing what  
21 they should go out and look for with catalytic converters  
22 across the state, looking for any potential fraudulent  
23 illegal sales, procurement on those items. It is a little  
24 bit difficult for us.

25 You will hear in some other areas like metal



1 recycling entities, they are required to have each  
2 catalytic converter identified with a VIN on that  
3 catalytic converter. Our auto parts recyclers do not have  
4 that requirement. So, it can be a little bit more  
5 burdensome for our inspectors to prove if those catalytic  
6 converters were tied to theft or illegal procurement  
7 during that time.

8 That being said, you know, we estimate that we  
9 have looked at over 60,000 catalytic converters, and their  
10 records tied to them. Of those, we have sent 55 of our  
11 auto parts recyclers direct to enforcement. And so, what  
12 that means is we have a violation that meets a certain  
13 threshold where it cannot just be an easy fix-it on site.

14 You have ten, 20 days to correct this action.

15 We have seen egregious action taken. And so,  
16 we send them directly to our enforcement team, where our  
17 investigators and our prosecutors will then dive further  
18 into that, assess penalties, revoke licenses as needed.

19  
20 And you will see 76 corrections as needed.  
21 That is where we worked with our APRs out there to correct  
22 the findings that we have. What we don't have is the  
23 ability within this -- and I apologize, it didn't quite  
24 move far enough over, is -- we don't have the ability at  
25 this time to really dive into what of those DTE violations

1 were related to catalytic converters, partly due to the  
2 fact that our rules just came out for this program for  
3 implementation of Senate Bill 224, May of this year. So,  
4 we haven't had a lot of time to capture that.

5 In fact, we list over here that we have no  
6 violations cited for our new 8781. But, we have manually  
7 went through the process. We don't have a database that  
8 can correlate all of this for us.

9 We will find eight violations directly related  
10 to catalytic converters. It is our hope that as we get  
11 into this, refer to our database, our policies, and our  
12 rules, then we are going to be able to really dive into  
13 more data that is meaningful and actionable to this  
14 taskforce and our law enforcement community around us as  
15 well.

16 Another big part of what we are doing when we  
17 are out, we are not just inspecting businesses, collecting  
18 data, or anything else. We are trying to educate our auto  
19 parts recyclers about their requirements throughout the  
20 state.

21 Again, the liaison, the program specialist that  
22 is coming on board. That will be their big initiative as  
23 well. That would be in communications, developing  
24 training across the state, not only to our auto parts  
25 recyclers, internally to our staff, and externally to law

1 enforcement or other entities that may need our services,  
2 or information on our auto parts recyclers.

3 There is a staffing update. I am but one  
4 person. Our division handles a wide multitude of  
5 programs. So, I have been trying to do this with one hand  
6 tied behind my back.

7 And luckily, this week, I did have a new  
8 program specialist, Morgan Dryer, who is in new hire  
9 training, could not join me this week, to see this fun  
10 conference and everything. But she'll be dedicated to  
11 this program, and the related programs that are tied to  
12 it, towing, vehicle storage facilities. And that is our  
13 hope, as I was saying, that as we develop our policies,  
14 have new database systems, that she is going to be able to  
15 use her background in data analytics program management to  
16 really drive this forward, and again, have meaningful  
17 intelligence information that we can share with you all  
18 moving forward.

19 If I can get this to go. I am just going to  
20 speed past that. Next up, I want to talk about the  
21 interagency contract that Director Diggs mentioned  
22 earlier.

23 We know that that is coming up for renewal here  
24 soon. It is on our agenda for our department. I am  
25 waiting on a response at this point in time about our

1 funding.

2 Right now, we are looking at enhancement of our  
3 inspection software. There is some new software we are  
4 using in a couple of our other programs.

5 And our field inspections division is  
6 considering that software for them, because at the moment,  
7 everything that they are doing for this task force is  
8 basically tracked manually. And we know that that is not  
9 the best way to have data that we can provide to you  
10 quickly, meaningfully, and be able to look at that across  
11 multiple programs -- I talk with my hands -- across  
12 multiple programs. And we're hopeful that if we can  
13 acquire that new inspection software, it is going to  
14 enhance our ability to combat crime within this industry.

15 And then, I am going to come over here. So,  
16 some of our initiatives for our converter rules was to  
17 just go through and look at our program rules from top to  
18 bottom with industry partners, our advisory Board.

19 And so, there is a lot of cleanup that needed  
20 to happen within this program, whether that was a small  
21 item such as definition changes, updating correct  
22 references so our laws and rules weren't pointing to  
23 obsolete areas of the Transportation Code, to new record  
24 and retention areas. And so, this is important, because  
25 this will tie into 87.81, which increases the general

1 retention to three years; one year of retention for  
2 component parts, not excluding catalytic converters.

3 Those are moving to a two-year retention for  
4 all of the records. And of course, a requirement that  
5 they must produce records to the Department that sadly was  
6 missing from this program. So, if you didn't comply with  
7 this in the past, we really couldn't hold your feet to the  
8 fire on it.

9 Now, we will be able to. So, that definitely  
10 gives us a little bit more teeth in our regulatory  
11 environment.

12 And then, there is some new information about  
13 the removal of license plates and registration immediately  
14 upon taking that vehicle into the auto parts recyclers.  
15 This is part of our education initiative around the state,  
16 what does that look like. But the goal is that we would  
17 have that APR remove the plates and the registration as  
18 soon as practical, so that they are able to protect that.

19 They are not being stolen. We have heard of  
20 the use of plates across the state in jugging and other  
21 operations. So, we want to protect those registrations  
22 and plates as often as possible.

23 And then finally, 87.81. This is related to  
24 our catalytic converter theft. So now, any time that an  
25 APR is buying a component part, regarding a catalytic

1 converter or on a vehicle, we need to have identity, name  
2 of buyer, transferee, quantity, description of the  
3 catalytic converters, and the date of that transaction so  
4 that we can tie it back.

5 Again, we don't have the VINs that we can  
6 directly correlate everything. But this is the  
7 requirements they are required to have and maintain for at  
8 least two years, so we can inspect them.

9 We hope that these new regulations strengthen  
10 our theft prevention efforts and really benefit the law  
11 enforcement agencies around the state. We do have  
12 stricter recordkeeping requirements. And we are going to  
13 continue to work with our partners to see how we continue  
14 to improve the data, improve the recordkeeping at our APRs  
15 across the state.

16 And then I'll add, just really want to make  
17 sure that we keep everything up to date across the board  
18 with those new specials coming on board, making sure that  
19 we are at the forefront of this program, driving it  
20 forward. And that is our mission.

21 You know, in the past -- I think, we are in our  
22 infancy, being on this taskforce. And we are really  
23 excited about what we can do here in the future with you  
24 all.

25 That being said, I am open to any questions. I

1 hope I didn't go too long. And I appreciate your time.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

3 Any questions for Mr. Strawn?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

6 MR. STRAWN: Yes, sir.

7 MR. DIGGS: So, next up will be 7D. Texas DPS  
8 Regulatory Services Division. Program Supervisor, Josh  
9 Martin.

10 MR. MARTIN: Good afternoon, Board members. My  
11 name is Josh Martin. I am a Compliance and Enforcement  
12 Specialist with the Regulatory Services Division of DPS.

13 This update today, my focus is going to be on  
14 the effects of Senate Bill 224, as well as the successes  
15 we have had at the Department as a result from the grant  
16 funds received from the MVCPA.

17 So, as you may know, last year, the Department  
18 created 16 grant-funded positions that are dedicated  
19 specifically to the Texas Metals program. I can say today  
20 that all of these positions are filled. And these  
21 individuals are working hard and becoming the subject  
22 matter experts that we need in the field.

23 This includes 14 program investigators. Again,  
24 these investigators solely go out to metal recycling  
25 entities, conducting inspections and investigations. In

1 addition, we have two case support specialists that are  
2 headquartered in Austin, and they provide support to the  
3 field, as well as analyze data and generate reports.

4 I always like an opportunity to promote Texas  
5 Online Metals. Texas Online Metals is the electronic  
6 statewide database where the metal recycling entities are  
7 required to report all their regulated transactions. This  
8 is not only a tool for us here in DPS, but any law  
9 enforcement agency that is dealing with metal thefts.

10 We highly recommend gaining access to Texas  
11 Online Metals. That can be done on our website, or you  
12 can go to [TexasOnlineMetals.dps.texas.gov](http://TexasOnlineMetals.dps.texas.gov) to find out more  
13 information on how to access that site.

14 As a result from Senate Bill 224, it is now law  
15 for all metal recycling entities are required to make a  
16 declaration in their profile as to what their intent --  
17 extent and intent to be involved with catalytic  
18 converters. In other words, they have to choose one of  
19 these four things. Either they are doing full conversion,  
20 or they are just acquiring them only, or they just have  
21 incidental contact, or they have no intent at all in  
22 dealing with catalytic converters.

23 So, they make this declaration in the Texas  
24 Online Metals database. So, this is a step for an  
25 investigator, when they are doing an inspection, is to



1 look at their declaration status and to verify that it is  
2 in there, and what it is. And so, in the event they come  
3 across catalytic converters on their property, they can  
4 cross reference with this. And if it says no intent, and  
5 yet they are in possession of catalytic converters, that  
6 is a violation of their declaration.

7 Year to date, there have been 21 instances  
8 where metal recycling entities have been in violation of  
9 their declaration. Again, this just states that there has  
10 been a few instances where we have been out there and the  
11 investigators found catalytic converters, their  
12 declaration stated they had no intent. And it prompted  
13 our investigators to further investigate the situation on  
14 how and where and why these MREs are acquiring these.

15 Our investigators use the penalty schedule in  
16 the Texas Administrative Code for their violations. There  
17 are specific violations for catalytic converters. They  
18 range from \$500 fines up to \$5,000 fines for first  
19 offenses.

20 Due to Senate Bill 224, there are additional  
21 requirements surrounding the purchase of catalytic  
22 converters at a metal recycling entity. One is being a  
23 clear and legible thumbprint of the seller. The MRE is  
24 retaining that onsite as part of the record. In addition,  
25 they are acquiring the year, make, model, and VIN number

1 from the vehicle from which the catalytic converter was  
2 removed, as well as obtaining a copy of the certificate of  
3 title or other documentation indicating that the person  
4 has ownership interest in the vehicle.

5 Once the MRE obtains the catalytic converters,  
6 they are required to mark each with a unique number. This  
7 is a 13-digit number that we refer to as a CCID number.  
8 It must be marked in one inch lettering, in permanent  
9 paint pen or marker.

10 Year to date, there have been 27 instances  
11 where metal recycling entities have been in violation of  
12 one of these additional requirements surrounding catalytic  
13 converters. Again, from Senate Bill 224, it is now law  
14 that an MRE may not purchase a catalytic converter from  
15 another business unless they verify that that business  
16 acquired that catalytic converter in their ordinary course  
17 of business, such as automotive wrecking or salvage yards,  
18 other metal recycling entities, used auto part recyclers,  
19 et cetera.

20 Also, on this list is included other law  
21 enforcement agencies that have acquired catalytic  
22 converters. They may sell them to the metal recycling  
23 entities.

24 In these scenarios, a record is required by the  
25 metal recycling entity. They must obtain the data, the

1 transaction, the business name, or the law enforcement  
2 agency from whom they acquired the catalytic converters,  
3 as well as a description of the volume of the catalytic  
4 converters. They must maintain this onsite for two years,  
5 and make it available for inspection.

6 Year to date, there have been nine instances of  
7 metal recycling entities in violation of this  
8 business-to-business requirement.

9 So, our grant funding pay support specialists,  
10 they generate a catalytic converter report on a monthly  
11 basis and they provide that internally to our DPS folks  
12 that are involved with metals. These are just some slides  
13 from this report. I apologize, this is kind of small.

14 But the top half of the slide indicates the top  
15 businesses over the last year with the most purchases of  
16 catalytic converter transactions that were reported to our  
17 database. These business names are redacted on this  
18 slide. But this provides us an opportunity to see who the  
19 big players are in the state.

20 At the bottom half of the slide, this indicates  
21 by region the number of catalytic converter transactions  
22 over the last year. This allows us just to see trends, if  
23 purchases are increasing or decreasing in certain regions.

24 This next slide, again, this is redacted. But  
25 these are businesses separated by region, showing how many

1 catalytic converter purchases they made over the last  
2 month.

3 This next slide is the same data, except they  
4 have color coded it with that catalytic converter  
5 declaration that I spoke of earlier. So, if you see that  
6 a business has a high number of catalytic converter  
7 purchases, yet it shows that they only do incidental  
8 contact or no contact, that would be a red flag and a lead  
9 for further investigation.

10 This is a heat map for the month of May. These  
11 are catalytic converter transactions across the state.  
12 This just gives us a 30,000-foot view of what is going on  
13 across the state, where the purchases are being made. In  
14 this particular month, you can see, it looks like around  
15 San Antonio and New Braunfels area had the highest number  
16 of catalytic converter transactions for this time period.

17 Again, all active metal recycling entities are  
18 required to be registered and licensed with the DPS. Our  
19 most current data shows that there are 621 active  
20 registered metal recycling entities in the state.

21 I spoke about the administrative enforcement  
22 action that we take. If they don't pay their fines, then  
23 ultimately, the business would be suspended or revoked.

24 We run reports. And this one just shows over  
25 the last 60 days, there has been a total of ten license

1 suspensions at metal recycling entities. Our  
2 investigators coordinate with our -- with local law  
3 enforcement, as well as our troopers.

4 There have been a total of twelve operations  
5 year to date that our investigators have coordinated with  
6 DPS troopers out at metal recycling entities. Arrests are  
7 rare. Out of those twelve, there were three arrests made.

8 In this particular instance on this photo, you  
9 can see this gentleman was working at a metal recycling  
10 entity. He purchased a catalytic converter without  
11 obtaining any information from the seller. Nor did he  
12 obtain any documentation on the catalytic converters.

13 But we -- the Department does not randomly  
14 target metal recycling entities. These are all generated  
15 from substantial leads or tips from the public. This just  
16 states that it is a criminal penalty if someone knowingly  
17 buys stolen regulated material, including catalytic  
18 converters.

19 It is also a criminal penalty to operate as a  
20 metal recycling entity without obtaining the proper  
21 license from the Department. This is just an example.

22 Earlier this year, this individual in South  
23 Texas was operating as a metal recycling entity, but he  
24 did not have a license with the state. Again, criminal  
25 tips can be submitted to the Department at

1 RSDCriminal@dps.texas.gov.

2 In this photo, this is an example of a tip.  
3 This truck had a truckload of catalytic converters. They  
4 attempted to sell it at a metal recycling entity.

5 That metal recycling entity did the right  
6 thing. They refused the purchase, because they didn't  
7 have any documentation. But before they left, they  
8 snapped some shots, and got some information.

9 And they were able to submit this information  
10 to the Department. This individual was later arrested.

11 We are promoting analytical support to other  
12 law enforcement agencies. If you are working a case that  
13 is involving metal recycling entities, you can reach out  
14 to DPSMetals@dps.texas.gov, and our case support  
15 specialists can assist in any analytical needs for that  
16 location.

17 That concludes my update from the Regulatory  
18 Services Division. I just want to say that any  
19 collaborative opportunities are welcome. Again, you can  
20 email at DPSMetals@DPS.texas.gov.

21 And I am happy to answer any questions.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Anyone has a question for Mr.  
23 Martin?

24 (No response.)

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

1     you.

2                   MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman. David Richards,  
3     for the record. We are trying to get Kit Whitehill on.  
4     And Josh, how long do you think it will take?

5                   (Pause.)

6                   MR. RODRIGUEZ: We are going to take a ten  
7     minute break. It is 1:08? Let's be back -- I am sorry,  
8     2:08. Let's be back at 2:20.

9                   (Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

10                  MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. It is now 2:22. We are  
11     back in session. Let the record reflect that we have  
12     Member Kit Whitehill present.

13                  Agenda Item 7E, Texas Department of Public  
14     Safety, Criminal Investigations Division, Major Sharon  
15     Jones.

16                  MS. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The hold  
17     with TxDOT and permits has been lifted, of course. And  
18     so, last month, June -- go ahead. Go.

19                  (Applause.)

20                  MS. JONES: It has been a long time since  
21     October, November. And we have been working with TxDOT to  
22     get us to this point. So, the way it is going to work is,  
23     the plan with TxDOT -- number one, Texas DPS and TxDOT had  
24     to put the -- we had to renew our agreement with TxDOT.

25                  And with that agreement is something -- it is a

1 simple paragraph sentence or two. That paragraph or  
2 sentence or two was passed onto the local agreement  
3 between TxDOT and the local, whether it is the city or the  
4 counties. And all agreements, past agreements, have to be  
5 resubmitted.

6 So, at some point in time, if an agency has a  
7 camera on TxDOT's highway, on the state highway proper, at  
8 some point in time, they are going to have to re-sign the  
9 amended agreement. Those contracts that were pending with  
10 the permits, those agreements are going to be switched up.

11 And I will say this. You don't have to sign  
12 the agreement. It is very simple. There is no additional  
13 responsibility on an agency.

14 All the responsibilities are Texas DPS. So, it  
15 benefits the agencies to just sign it. If you don't want  
16 to sign it, you don't have to.

17 Just know that if you already have existing  
18 cameras, they are going to be pulled up off the highway.  
19 And if you have some that are pending, and you don't sign  
20 it, then you simply do not get them. And the plan is for  
21 those agencies that are already pending with TxDOT, those  
22 are going to be the priorities. However, just understand,  
23 it depends on how quickly you get the paperwork done.

24 So, what is not going to happen is, if your  
25 agency -- if you have to go back to city council or



1     whomever needs to re-sign the paperwork, and it is a  
2     procedure where your city council does not meet for  
3     another month or so, or it sits on someone's desk, then  
4     the others are not going to be held up simply because of  
5     having to wait on paperwork for another agency.

6             As far as the statewide project goes, that will  
7     be the last. However, if it is an area where they are  
8     having to wait on someone else, we are not going to just  
9     sit back and wait. And the first permit since this  
10    issue -- the rows [phonetic] have been settled was  
11    literally issued this week by TxDOT while we were here.

12            So, that is a great sign. The process is  
13    there. It is working.

14            I get questions. I know that you guys have the  
15    paperwork. So, the project is ongoing.

16            The funding is there. It is just a matter of  
17    when it gets to the statewide project, when that happens.

18            MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Thank you, Sharon  
19    Jones.

20            Any questions? Any questions?

21            Moving to Agenda Item 8, Senate Bill 224  
22    Advisory Committee update. Major Jones.

23            MS. JONES: The most important decisions that  
24    the Committee has made thus far, it pertains to the fact  
25    that now law enforcement can actually sell catalytic

1 converters without a license. That selling means -- does  
2 not mean that they can go pull it off of their personal  
3 car. You don't get to go cut your car to go sell it.

4 That means asset forfeiture, if you have a  
5 seizure. We all know that you can't identify the  
6 catalytic converter -- unless it is one that is etched by  
7 one of you guys, you can't identify it. So, if you get a  
8 truckload of ten, 800, you cannot just -- with a  
9 destruction order, just go in the back office, impound it,  
10 and throw it in the trash, because of the metal. There is  
11 EPA; EPA will come after you.

12 But then, especially if you are a smaller  
13 agency, but even if you are not, it doesn't make sense to  
14 just keep catalytic converters stored forever. Like, it  
15 is not feasible to agencies.

16 So, what the proposal was, and I think it is a  
17 great proposal by those who are on the working group, is  
18 asset forfeiture. So, basically, you will be able to go  
19 into a metal recycling entity in your county, because of  
20 course, you can't take evidence across the county lines  
21 without the judge being involved. Or however you choose  
22 to sell that catalytic converter, and to whom, you need  
23 asset forfeiture.

24 And then also the suggestion strongly suggests  
25 is for the agency head or designee to send the officer

1 with a letter. We will definitely have to educate the  
2 MREs, because they are going to be looking for a license.

3 Law enforcement will have that. But at the end of the  
4 day, the catalytic converters are disposed of the way they  
5 should.

6 And then those agencies involved, whether it is  
7 a taskforce or whether it is another agency who came up to  
8 assist -- and of course, there is the DA's office. Then,  
9 that will be part of the sharing process. And also, it  
10 might be a great incentive to prosecutors, once they  
11 realize the value of the catalytic converters and it is  
12 not just a piece of property that the insurance company is  
13 going to replace.

14 Then perhaps we will get a lot more prosecution  
15 with those crimes. And also, once David and William start  
16 educating the prosecutors, then it should be a positive  
17 uptick for us.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Thank you, Sharon.

19 Major Sharon Jones.

20 Moving on to Agenda Item 9. Grant Budgets and  
21 Reporting Committee update. Major Jones.

22 MS. JONES: We had a fruitful two days. And  
23 pleased to announce that there are only three no-shows for  
24 whatever reason, various reasons. And then, there are  
25 only two that were not recommended to agencies -- that

1       were not recommended for funding.

2               And then, William Diggs in Item 10 and 11,  
3       Agenda Item 10 and 11, he will explain that. Because he  
4       is going to do that for me, because my voice is going to  
5       go. It will not last.

6               So, Item 10 and 11, William Diggs will present  
7       for me.

8               MR. DIGGS: So, good afternoon. William Diggs,  
9       MVCPA Director for the record. Mr. Chairman, and Board  
10       members. Agenda Item 10 is the recommendations for FY '26  
11       SB224 grant applications.

12               Today, we are going to do this in three  
13       separate votes because of the necessity that during two of  
14       the votes, either Member Sloan or Chairman Rodriguez will  
15       need to recuse themselves. So, I am going to do all of  
16       the grants, other than Round Rock Police Department and  
17       Laredo Police Department, first.

18               And so, you guys know, we went through this  
19       before lunch. So, you bear with me, please.

20               So, Addison Police Department --

21               MR. RODRIGUEZ: Director Diggs, I am going to  
22       interrupt you real quick. Before we proceed, I know that  
23       I had a question on Premont Police Department. Is Premont  
24       here? On the request --

25               CHIEF GARCIA: Yes, sir. Chief Garcia, Premont

1 Police Department.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon, sir. Can you  
3 identify yourself and turn on the mic, please?

4 CHIEF GARCIA: Chief Ric Garcia, Premont Police  
5 Department.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Welcome, Chief.

7 CHIEF GARCIA: Yes, sir.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And the question. I saw your  
9 requests, and it calls for two investigators. Are they  
10 investigators or officers?

11 CHIEF GARCIA: An investigator, sir, and an  
12 admin.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. And you are requesting  
14 two fully-marked units. Correct?

15 CHIEF GARCIA: Yes. Equipped, yes.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Fully equipped.

17 CHIEF GARCIA: Uh-huh.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Your population is 2,000?

19 CHIEF GARCIA: 2,800.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: What is your burglary rate and  
21 your motor vehicle rate?

22 CHIEF GARCIA: It is low, but it is because it  
23 is something that has not been explored fully. Upon  
24 taking this position about less than two years ago, there  
25 was an extraordinary amount of unreported crimes due to

1 the situation and trust in the environment that was there.

2 We have crime stats rise staggeringly, and it  
3 is just because people are actually reporting things. So,  
4 as we continue to gain that sort of reputation and  
5 building that cooperation with our community, we are  
6 starting to see that.

7 We know that there has always been a very hard  
8 focus on interdiction. Dealing with narcotics, the north-  
9 and the southbound stuff on I-69. But we have not had  
10 anybody give the focus to the catalytic converter issues,  
11 the auto theft issues. We know that it is happening, but  
12 it has never been a hot button issue, because it is not an  
13 issue that draws the funds that agencies depend on.

14 And as such, it is one of those things that  
15 when this grant come up, it was something to identify and  
16 say this is probably something that we want to start. We  
17 want to start developing a resource, start developing  
18 education in the communities, start motivating our  
19 sheriff's offices, our neighboring cities, to see that  
20 this is something that needs to be done. So, the purpose  
21 of my application is to start something, to start a new  
22 trend.

23 You know, the interdiction stuff is always  
24 going to be important, but I don't think this should just  
25 fall to the wayside because it is not hot money and things

1     like that. I know there is an issue. And I think that if  
2     we can build upon it, we can get something done.

3             Our nearest taskforces are Corpus Christi and  
4     down in the Rio Grande Valley. So, we kind of sit in that  
5     middle place, surrounded by counties that don't have  
6     something like this.

7             MR. RODRIGUEZ: Route 540, that is right --  
8     right up --

9             CHIEF GARCIA: It is about ten miles south of  
10    us. We have got Alice, about 40 minutes north of us. So,  
11    it is something that, as this region is growing, and it is  
12    growing quickly, I know that I don't want to play catch  
13    up. I want to have something established, even if it is  
14    small for now and as we continue to get buy-in from these  
15    stakeholders.

16            But I think now is the time to get something  
17    going outside of the -- like I said, the hot button  
18    interdiction stuff. I think auto theft is an issue that  
19    needs to be --

20            MR. RODRIGUEZ: So, how are you tracking it  
21    right now? How are you tracking your crime trends and the  
22    crime that is happening in your city?

23            CHIEF GARCIA: Very basically. Right now, it  
24    is just as -- we literally just transitioned to brand new  
25    COPsync software. We are basically -- when I tell you

1       this is -- it is a 45 year old agency but it is brand new.

2               That is why I was brought out of retirement --  
3       I was enjoying retirement -- to become the Chief here. It  
4       has been a complete rebuild, so everything is new.  
5       Everything is new, absolutely everything. From evidence  
6       to the way that we manage fleet, to our building, to  
7       painting walls.

8               Everything is brand new. So, as we are  
9       starting to look at these things, as we are starting to  
10      see these things, we see the markers. For example, I had  
11      an impound lot that I inherited with dozens and dozens of  
12      vehicles that had been ignored for decades, missing  
13      catalytic converters.

14              We know that a lot of the narcotics tips that  
15      we get out in the county, that we hear everybody talking  
16      about, watch this county road. Watch this county road.  
17      They are coming from chop shops. Nobody cares about the  
18      chop shops. They just care about the dope.

19              So, I know that this is something that a town  
20      like ours could start slow and small, and begin to  
21      progress. And as the area begins to develop, as we start  
22      to take advantage of a couple years of experience, we  
23      start to get buy-in, we can do something with it.

24              MR. RODRIGUEZ: You know, I would like to  
25      recommend to the Board that we can start with one vehicle,



1 one investigator. I know I told Director Diggs to run  
2 those numbers.

3 And the reason I am doing this is because we  
4 need to track your crime, right. We need to track where  
5 we are going with burglary vehicles. Once you can come  
6 back next year and can give us visibility as to, okay,  
7 yes, we do have an auto theft problem. We do have a  
8 burglary of motor vehicle problem.

9 Then we can -- this Board could be more  
10 comfortable in providing the additional funding that would  
11 be needed in your jurisdiction. And another thing I would  
12 like to recommend is also to combine your efforts with  
13 Falfurrias, which is, I think, your closest jurisdiction.

14 CHIEF GARCIA: Yes, in Brooks County.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Reach out to them. And maybe,  
16 you know, because they also have -- they have no Flock  
17 cameras. I don't think they have any kind of  
18 investigator, right.

19 CHIEF GARCIA: We get MOUs with them, with  
20 Brooks, with Jim Wells. When I came in, one of the first  
21 things that was lacking was any sort of interaction  
22 between the locals, the Sheriff's office, the state, the  
23 federal agencies. So, that bridge building has been a  
24 part of our immediate path to success.

25 And so, what I want to do is with the MOUs that

1 we currently have with all those cities and the counties,  
2 and the Coastal Bend Police Chiefs Association, and things  
3 like that, is, I see I want to have the ability for  
4 Falfurrias PD to call and say, hey, we have got something.

5 Yes, let me send my guy over there. Let's do some joint  
6 investigations for the Sheriff's office, the same things.

7 Just start building, to show the need for this.

8 And then, the second part being the education  
9 in the community. Hey, this is not okay. You can't be  
10 selling these things. You need to report these crimes.

11 These camera systems are in place to start  
12 catching these things. I see the tie-in naturally to the  
13 narcotics, because we know that a lot of that stuff. We  
14 get all the stolen trucks.

15 We get the pursuits. We have all that stuff  
16 happening. We know that there are shops in the county  
17 that are getting these vehicles and fixing them up.

18 I know that it is there. And I know that if we  
19 hit it at this angle as well, I see a beautiful tie in.  
20 That is going to strengthen the overall law enforcement in  
21 that region.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And this is where we have to,  
23 you know, get creative, right. And you have reportings,  
24 you have --

25 CHIEF GARCIA: Absolutely.

1           MR. RODRIGUEZ: And then, you have the other  
2 two. My way of thinking like this, is you put a Flock  
3 camera ten miles out, and you can have your interdiction  
4 unit there. All you're doing is interdicting auto theft,  
5 stolen vehicles, right. So, this is where you combine  
6 those efforts.

7           CHIEF GARCIA: Absolutely.

8           MR. RODRIGUEZ: I just want to see if we can go  
9 and start off like this, where we just start off with one  
10 unit, one officer, give you your Flock cameras. And then,  
11 next year, you can have some numbers for us. And that way  
12 this Board can be more comfortable in giving you the  
13 additional funding.

14          CHIEF GARCIA: Absolutely, sir. It starts  
15 somewhere. And we just need -- because we are a small  
16 town with big ideas and big pushes. We just need a little  
17 bit of that *apoyo*, a little bit of that help.

18          MR. RODRIGUEZ: Absolutely.

19          CHIEF GARCIA: We can do good things with it.

20          MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, sir. Appreciate it.  
21 Thank you, Chief.

22          CHIEF GARCIA: Yes, sir. All right.

23          MR. RODRIGUEZ: Director Diggs.

24          MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir. This will be three  
25 separate votes.

1           The first recommendation is Addison Police  
2 Department, \$216,017. The Allen Police Department,  
3 \$81,667. Alvarado Department, \$24,000.

4           The Andrews Police Department was not  
5 recommended by the GBR Committee. There is no nexus tying  
6 the request to the grant requirements.

7           Arp Police Department, \$21,200. Azle Police  
8 Department, \$138,750. Bandera Police Department, \$14,167.  
9 Beaumont Police Department, \$285,834.

10          Bellmead Police Department, \$7,083. Belton  
11 Police Department, \$18,250. Brownsville Police Department  
12 \$388,517. Bullard Police Department, \$21,600.

13          Bunker Hill Memorial Villages Police  
14 Department, \$65,417. Cattle Mills Police Department,  
15 \$20,833. Caldwell County Constables Offices, Precinct 2,  
16 \$18,501. Caldwell Police Department, \$17,791.

17          Castroville Police Department, \$28,800. Cedar  
18 Hill Police Department, \$55,209. Celina Police Department  
19 \$112,000. Cibolo Police Department, \$487,118.

20          Clear Lake Shores Police Department, \$25,416.  
21 Clute Police Department, \$119,999. College Station Police  
22 Department, \$301,492.

23          Collinsville Police Department, \$29,600.  
24 Commerce Police Department, \$60,000. Converse Police  
25 Department, \$288,800. Cooke County Sheriff's Office,

1       \$66,292.

2               Cuero Police Department, \$13,750. Cumby Police  
3       Department, \$29,600. Dallas Police Department,  
4       \$1,224,538. Eagle Pass Police Department, \$339,133.

5               Eastland County Sheriff's Office, \$29,583.

6       Eastland Police Department, \$46,667. El Paso Police  
7       Department, \$370,833. Elgin Police Department, \$43,880.

8               Elm Ridge Police Department, \$104,132. Euless  
9       Police Department, \$100,209. Fairfield Police Department,  
10      \$79,925. Fort Stockton Police Department, \$60,000.

11              Frisco Police Department, \$586,393. Fulshear  
12      Police Department, \$138,500. Galveston County Sheriff's  
13      Office, \$397,400. Galveston Police Department, \$533,212.

14  
15              Glasscock County Sheriff's Office was not  
16      present.

17              Groves Police Department, \$63,333. Gunter  
18      Police Department, \$12,500. Hallettsville Police  
19      Department, \$74,000. Harrison County Sheriff's  
20      Department, \$213,727.

21              Heath Police Department, \$12,000. Henderson  
22      Police Department, \$20,833. Hewitt Police Department,  
23      \$65,625. Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office, \$346,528.

24              Holland Police Department, \$202,654. Hondo  
25      Police Department, \$44,320. Hood County Sheriff's

1 Department, \$60,000. Houston Police Department, \$960,642.  
2 Jacinto City Police Department, \$24,372.  
3 Jefferson ISD Police Department, \$22,625. Johnson County  
4 Sheriff's Department, \$208,333. Kemah Police Department,  
5 \$55,042.  
6 Kendall County Sheriff's Department, \$215,254.  
7 Kleberg County Attorneys Office, \$22,917. Kyle Police  
8 Department, \$205,000. Lakeview Police Department,  
9 \$46,583.  
10 Lee County Sheriff's Department, \$84,146. Live  
11 Oak Police Department, \$30,208. Lubbock County DA's  
12 Office, \$204,245. Mabank Police Department, \$357,200.  
13 Mansfield Police Department, \$469,731.  
14 Maverick County Sheriff's Department, \$341,100.  
15 Mexia Police Department, \$35,000. Midlothian Police  
16 Department, \$185,471. Mount Belvieu Police Department,  
17 \$153,349.  
18 Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, \$200,375.  
19 Morgan's Point Resort Police Department, \$10,800. Murphy  
20 Police Department, \$15,000. Mustang Ridge Police  
21 Department, \$326,340.  
22 New Braunfels Police Department, \$438,724.  
23 Nolanville Police Department, \$25,800. Palestine Police  
24 Department, \$30,000. Palmer Police Department, \$10,000.  
25 Panola County Sheriff's Office, \$76,875. Town

1 of Pecos City Police Department, \$434,560. Polk County  
2 Sheriff's Department, \$45,000. Potter County Sheriff's  
3 Office, \$348,080.

4 Pottsboro Police Department, not present.

5 Premont Police Department, the adjusted total  
6 is \$372,543. Princeton Police Department, \$16,667. The  
7 Town of Prosper Police Department, \$309,834. Rains County  
8 Sheriff's Office, \$177,907. Roanoke Police Department,  
9 \$125,000.

10 Robertson County Sheriff's Office was not  
11 recommended by the GBR Board. There is no nexus tying the  
12 request to the grant requirements.

13 Robinson Police Department, \$21,600. Robstown  
14 Police Department, \$78,354. Rockwall County Sheriff's  
15 Office, \$226,190. Rosebud Police Department, \$20,667.

16 Sachse Police Department, \$16,208. San Angelo  
17 Police Department, \$133,962. San Saba County Sheriff's  
18 Office, \$19,200. Sansom Park Police Department, \$56,400.

19 Santa Clara Marshall's Office, \$28,800.  
20 Schertz Police Department, \$362,263. Sealy Police  
21 Department, \$25,000. Seguin Police Department, \$88,333.

22 Shelby County Sheriff's Office, \$30,000.  
23 Silsbee Police Department, \$33,125. Sinton Police  
24 Department, \$221,212. Smith County Sheriff's Office,  
25 \$29,500.

1                   Somervell County Sheriff's Office, \$40,833.  
2                   Sugarland Police Department, \$42,084. Temple Police  
3                   Department, \$875,029. The Colony Police Department,  
4                   \$125,000.

5                   Tom Green County Sheriff's Office, \$156,662.  
6                   Trinity County Sheriff's Office, \$63,333. Universal City  
7                   Police Department, \$45,642. University of St. Thomas  
8                   Department, \$70,330.

9                   Vidor Police Department, \$48,625. Waller  
10                  County Sheriff's Office, \$67,500. West Police Department,  
11                  \$63,200. Wichita Falls Police Department, \$254,166.

12                  The Willis Police Department was not present.

13                  Wood County Sheriff's Office, \$179,328. Young  
14                  County Sheriff's Office, \$78,400. Zavala County Sheriff's  
15                  Office, \$231,532.

16                  That will conclude the first vote.

17                  MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Director Diggs.

18                  Are there any questions from the Board members  
19                  on this first round?

20                  (No response.)

21                  MR. RODRIGUEZ: Are there any public comments,  
22                  Cassie?

23                  MS. FLINT: Chairman Rodriguez, there are no  
24                  comments. Thank you.

25                  MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. I will entertain a



1 motion on Agenda Item 10.

2 MR. SLOAN: Board Member Sloan. I make the  
3 motion that we approve and move forward with the vote for  
4 that motion that Director Diggs read.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do have a second?

6 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Board member Cantu-Serrano.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a second from Member  
8 Cantu-Serrano. Any further discussion?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will now call for the vote.  
11 Board members, when I call your name, please state your  
12 vote for the record.

13 Member Jones.

14 MS. JONES: Aye.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill.

16 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu-Serrano.

18 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Aye.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Sloan.

20 MR. SLOAN: Aye.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jackson.

22 MR. JACKSON: Aye.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote  
24 aye. Let the record reflect that there are six votes to  
25 none. The motion passes.

1 MR. DIGGS: William Diggs, MVCPA Director for  
2 the record.

3 The second vote will be for the Round Rock  
4 Police Department for \$423,519 for FY '26, SB224 Grant.

5 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman. David Richards  
6 for the record. Member Sloan will have to recuse himself  
7 on this vote.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the record reflect that  
9 Member Sloan will be recusing himself.

10 Do I have a motion on this item?

11 MR. JACKSON: Member Jackson. I move that the  
12 Board approve the FY '26 SB224 catalytic converter grant  
13 award recommendations as presented by Director Diggs for  
14 Round Rock PD.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a second?

16 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Board member Cantu-Serrano.  
17 I second.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any further discussion?

19 (No response.)

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

23 Board Member Jones.

24 MS. JONES: Aye.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill.

1 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu-Serrano.

3 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Aye.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jackson.

5 MR. JACKSON: Aye.

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

9 MR. DIGGS: The third vote for the SB224 FY '26  
10 grant will be for the Laredo Police Department, in the  
11 amount of \$1,511,895.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a motion?

13 MR. JACKSON: Member Jackson. I move that the  
14 Board approve the FY '26 SB224 catalytic converter grant  
15 award recommendation as presented by Director Diggs, for  
16 the Laredo Police Department.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a second?

18 MR. SLOAN: Board member Sloan. I second.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will now call for the vote.  
20 Member Jones.

21 MS. JONES: Aye.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill.

23 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu-Serrano.

25 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Aye.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Sloan.

2 MR. SLOAN: Aye.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jackson.

4 MR. JACKSON: Aye.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the record -- and I,  
6 Chairman Rodriguez, am recusing myself. Just forgot that.

7 Let the record reflect there are five votes for  
8 and zero against. The motion passes.

9 We'll move on to Agenda Item 11, FY '26  
10 taskforce grant award recommendations. Major Sharon  
11 Jones. And pass it over to Director Diggs.

12 MS. JONES: I will not get past the Cs.

13 MR. DIGGS: And you guys are just glad I have  
14 been working out and I have got some wind now. I don't  
15 even take a breath.

16 So, William Diggs, MVCPA Director for the  
17 record. The following are the FY '26 taskforce grant  
18 award recommendations from the GBR Committee.

19 The first one in this will also be -- there  
20 will be two votes. There will be a separate vote for the  
21 Laredo Police Department.

22 The first round will be Austin Police  
23 Department, \$532,588. Beaumont Police Department,  
24 \$760,241. Brownsville Police Department, \$1,960,343.  
25 Burnet County Sheriff's Office, \$744,122.

1 Corpus Christi Police Department, \$894,028.  
2 Dallas County Sheriff's Office, \$1,283,888. Dallas Police  
3 Department, \$1,732,442. Eagle Pass Police Department,  
4 \$361,449.

5 El Paso Police Department, \$2,023,985. Farmers  
6 Branch Police Department, \$240,000. Galveston County  
7 Sheriff's Office, \$1,075,096. Harris County Sheriff's  
8 Office, \$1,240,191. Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office,  
9 \$1,052,143.

10 Houston Police Department, \$2,402,936. Lubbock  
11 County Sheriff's Department, \$1,088,277. Mansfield Police  
12 Department, \$963,810. Maverick County Sheriff's  
13 Department, \$242,679. Montgomery County Sheriff's Office,  
14 \$1,074,187.

15 Paris Police Department, \$608,121. Pasadena  
16 Police Department, \$141,733. Potter County Sheriff's  
17 Office, \$531,273. Prosper Police Department, \$1,320,829.  
18 River Oaks Police Department, \$17,500. San Angelo Police  
19 Department, \$253,505.

20 San Antonio Police Department, \$1,369,199. San  
21 Marcos Police Department, \$182,922. Smith County  
22 Sheriff's Office, \$420,957.

23 Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, \$2,088,421.  
24 Travis County Sheriff's Office, \$1,164,849. Victoria  
25 Police Department, \$315,865.

1 We'll conclude the first round.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Director Diggs.

3 Is there any public comments?

4 MS. FLINT: We have no witnesses or comments.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Moving on to entertain a  
7 motion this first round.

8 MR. SLOAN: Board Member Sloan. I motion.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a second?

10 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Board Member Cantu-Serrano.

11 I second.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Say again. Motion from Member  
13 Sloan and a second from Cantu-Serrano. Any further  
14 discussion?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will now 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 Brotherton. Sorry.  
24 Member Cantu-Serrano.

25 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Aye.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Sloan.

2 MR. SLOAN: Aye.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jackson.

4 MR. JACKSON: Aye.

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

8 Director Diggs.

9 MR. DIGGS: William Diggs, Director of MVCPA  
10 for the record. So, for the second round, for  
11 consideration for FY '26 taskforce consideration will be  
12 the Laredo Police Department, in the amount of \$1,904,825.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a motion?

14 MR. JACKSON: Member Jackson, for the record.  
15 I move that the Board approve the FY '26 taskforce grant  
16 award recommendations for Laredo Police Department as  
17 presented by Director Diggs.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a second.

19 MR. SLOAN: Board Member Sloan. I second.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member  
21 Jackson. A second from Member Sloan. I will now call for  
22 the vote. Board members, when I call your name, please  
23 state your vote for the record.

24 Member Jones.

25 MS. JONES: Aye.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill.

2 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu-Serrano.

4 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Aye.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Sloan.

6 MR. SLOAN: Aye.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jackson.

8 MR. JACKSON: Aye.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the record reflect that I,  
10 Chairman Rodriguez, am recusing myself. Let the record  
11 reflect that there are five votes for, and zero against.  
12 The motion passes.

13 Director Diggs.

14 MR. DIGGS: That closes out the voting for the  
15 FY '26 grants.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We don't have Round Rock?

17 MR. DIGGS: No, sir.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Director. Everybody  
19 got their money, right. Good job, guys. Very good job.

20 All we ask that one very important thing,  
21 right, that we track everything that we do, that we take  
22 care of all the equipment that we are getting, and making  
23 sure that when we come back next year, that we have some  
24 good statistics and some good briefs from cases that you  
25 guys are developing and working on.



1           So, that is all we ask for, right. At the end  
2 of the day, this is what we do. And we do it very, very  
3 well.

4           So, thank you for being here and for  
5 presenting. And being here countless hours, listening to  
6 everyone, right. So, thank you.

7           Moving on to Agenda Item 12, MVCPA 2026  
8 Conference venue recommendation and selection. Member  
9 Jones.

10           MS. JONES: Mr. Chair, this year, our  
11 attendance reached 445 people. That was the number, 445,  
12 which is a huge, huge increase from years prior. I think  
13 this is year three. So, each year, it increases.

14           Billy Bob's, which to some people in here was  
15 the most important night, not the training -- around 9:00  
16 p.m., the count was 405 attendees.

17           Our sponsorship over 30 plus -- you know, over  
18 30 plus sponsors and vendors. Probably about between 35  
19 and 38ish, 35 to 40, with other vendors already telling us  
20 they have committed for next year.

21           So, with that in mind, when I first came here  
22 this week, I had a venue in mind. However, that venue  
23 will not be able to accommodate this group. It is only  
24 going to grow. Especially when the grantees, the new  
25 grantees understand that it is strongly encouraged for

1       them to attend the conference, and definitely the banquet.

2               So, with that in mind, I have two locations  
3       that I need to vet to make sure that they can hold all of  
4       us. You see, we outgrew this room like two days ago. So,  
5       I don't have a recommendation yet. I will ask for  
6       probably the next meeting, at October, that I have a  
7       recommendation for you.

8               MR. RODRIGUEZ: Definitely an upgrade from what  
9       was it, the King's Inn?

10              MS. JONES: Inn of the Hill.

11              MR. RODRIGUEZ: Oh, Inn of the Hill. Yes. So,  
12       we are improving every year. I know that I think we are  
13       counting on maybe 600 for next year.

14              So, definitely, a bigger, better, and always  
15       improving on our conferences. So, get ready for that.  
16       And welcome back, next Board meeting. Thank you.

17              We'll now move on to Agenda Item 13, Insurance  
18       refund requests. This is an action item.

19              And before I turn the meeting over to MVCPA  
20       Audit Manager, Dan Price, I would like to state for the  
21       record that Member Jackson is required under our statute  
22       to recuse himself from this agenda item.

23              Mr. Price.

24              MR. PRICE: Good afternoon. My name is Daniel  
25       Price. I am the MVCPA audit manager.

1           We have 22 refund requests to bring to you  
2           today. They will be done in two groups. One will be --  
3           the first one will be USAA and its associated companies  
4           and subsidiaries. The second one will be Philadelphia  
5           Indemnity Insurance Company.

6           I will read each time period, and then the  
7           individual companies names, the amounts, and the  
8           recommendation on each one.

9           So again, for USAA companies, this will be for  
10          the first half of 2019. The United Services Automobile  
11          Association, \$589,362. Staff recommends denial of this  
12          refund request.

13          The second one is USAA Casualty Insurance  
14          Company, \$494,612. The staff recommends denial of this  
15          request.

16          The third one is USAA General Indemnity  
17          Company. It is \$315,782. Staff recommends denial of this  
18          request.

19          The fourth one is Garrison Property and  
20          Casualty Insurance Company, \$257,030. And the  
21          recommendation from staff is to deny this request.

22          The next time period is the second half of  
23          2020. The United Services Automobile Association,  
24          \$761,444. Recommend denial.

25          The second one for that period is USAA Casualty

1 Insurance Company, \$663,840. We recommend denial.

2 The next one is USAA General Indemnity Company,  
3 \$376,816. We recommend denial.

4 And the last one for the second half of 2020 is  
5 Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company,  
6 \$328,528. Recommend denial.

7 I will now move to the second half of 2021.  
8 United Services Automobile Association, \$906,760. We  
9 recommend approval of that refund request.

10 The next one is USAA Casualty Insurance  
11 Company, \$809,232. Recommend approval of that request.

12 The third one is USAA General Indemnity  
13 Company, for \$467,632. Recommend approval of that  
14 request.

15 The last one for second half of '21 is the  
16 Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, for  
17 \$421,532. Recommend approval of that request.

18 I will now move on to the first half of 2023.  
19 United Services Automobile Association, \$427,550.  
20 Recommend approval of that request.

21 USAA Casualty Insurance Company, \$411,174.  
22 Recommend approval of that request.

23 The next one is USAA General Indemnity Company,  
24 \$305,513. Recommend approval of that request.

25 The last one is Garrison Property and Casualty

1 Insurance Company, \$261,716. Recommend approval of that  
2 request.

3 I will now move to the final period, which is  
4 the second half of 2023. United Services Automobile  
5 Association, \$8,510. Recommend approval of that request.

6  
7 USAA Casualty Insurance Company, \$14,825.  
8 Recommend approval of that request.

9 The third is USAA General Indemnity Company,  
10 for \$11,555. Recommend approval of that request.

11 And then, the final one for second half of '23  
12 is Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, that  
13 is \$9,060. Recommend approval of that request.

14 That concludes the USAA portion of the  
15 insurance refund requests.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Mr. Price. Are  
17 there any questions from Board members?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any public comments?

20 MR. PENCE: Deputy Director Pence for the  
21 record. There is no public comment.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will now entertain a motion  
23 for Agenda Item 13.

24 MR. SLOAN: Board member Sloan. I will make  
25 the motion.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member  
2 Sloan. Do I have a second?

3 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Board Member Cantu-Serrano.  
4 I second.

5 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, David Richards for  
6 the record. I just want to clarify, your motion is to  
7 approve what Mr. Price presented?

8 MR. SLOAN: That is correct. Board Member  
9 Sloan. My motion is approve and move forward.

10 MR. RICHARDS: Thank you.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member  
12 Sloan, and a second from Member Cantu-Serrano. Any  
13 further discussion?

14 (No response.)

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

18 MS. JONES: [Inaudible].

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill.

20 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu-Serrano.

22 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Aye.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Sloan.

24 MR. SLOAN: Aye.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the record reflect that

1 Member Jackson is recusing himself. I, Chairman  
2 Rodriguez, vote aye. Let the record reflect there are  
3 five votes for, and zero against. The motion passes.

4 MR. PRICE: With your permission, I would now  
5 like to move to Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance Company.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Go ahead, Mr. Price.

7 MR. PRICE: Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance  
8 Company has two requests before us. The first one is for  
9 the second half of 2023. The amount is \$96,529.62. The  
10 staff recommends approval of that request.

11 The next one is the first half of 2024. The  
12 dollar amount is \$9,644.25. We recommend approval of that  
13 request. The total of those two are \$106,173.87.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Mr. Price.

15 Do I have a motion on this item?

16 MR. SLOAN: Board Member Sloan. I make the  
17 motion that we approve the recommendation as made by Mr.  
18 Price.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have got a motion from Member  
20 Sloan. Do I have a second?

21 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Board Member Cantu-Serrano.  
22 I second.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a second from Member  
24 Cantu-Serrano. I will now call for the vote. Board  
25 Members, when I call your name, please state your vote for

1 the record.

2 Board Member Jones.

3 MS. JONES: Aye.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill.

5 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu-Serrano.

7 MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Aye.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Sloan.

9 MR. SLOAN: Aye.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And again, let the record  
11 reflect Member Jackson is recusing himself. I, Chairman  
12 Rodriguez, vote aye. Let the record reflect that there  
13 are five votes for, and zero against. The motion passes.

14

15 We will now move to Agenda Item 14. And I will  
16 turn the meeting over to Yessenia Benavides.

17 MS. BENAVIDES: Good afternoon, Chairman,  
18 Members. For the record, my name is Yessenia Benavides.  
19 I have the pleasure of serving as the Management Analyst  
20 of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority.

21 I know everybody in this room is really looking  
22 forward to my presentation. It has nothing to do with the  
23 fact that I was last.

24 It has been a long, but absolutely incredible  
25 week. We have gone over 1,000 slides in our



1 presentations. And as Member Jones stated, our attendance  
2 at the conference was 445 people. We have come a long way  
3 from Kerrville, which had an attendance of 145 attendees.  
4

5 Agenda Item 14 is a briefing item. And it can  
6 be found on page 23 of your Board books.

7 Chairman, and Members, I would like to start my  
8 presentation with our MVCPA mission. And that is all  
9 Texans are free from harm and loss caused by motor vehicle  
10 crime. It is important now we take a moment to recognize  
11 our mission, as it defines our purpose and our actions  
12 that our employees and our stakeholders take towards  
13 achieving a common goal. It acts as a compass, really,  
14 and a goal we strive to obtain.

15 At the end of fiscal year 2024, there was a  
16 total of 26 million registered vehicles in the state of  
17 Texas. Director Diggs mentioned in his opening speech at  
18 the MVCPA Conference, and I quote, more vehicle crimes  
19 have a devastating effect on people's lives. It is  
20 important to recognize this, because for many Americans  
21 and Texans, their vehicle is the second most valuable  
22 asset that they own, following their home. The total loss  
23 from motor vehicle burglary and theft in Texas in year FY  
24 '24 was \$2.3 billion.

25 I've had the privilege of serving the great

1 State of Texas with the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention  
2 Authority for almost five years. And in the past couple  
3 years, MVCPA has seen significant change, mostly notably  
4 with Senate Bill 224. Throughout many of our meetings, we  
5 have talked on how much of this change has come about.

6 And for new MVCPA grantees sitting behind me,  
7 and for new Board members of the MVCPA in fiscal year  
8 2024, Texas saw an increase in the price of catalytic  
9 converter parts, and a sharp increase in the number of  
10 stolen catalytic converters. As a result, the prevention  
11 of theft of catalytic converters became a priority of the  
12 Texas Legislature and law enforcement.

13 Glenna Bowman, Texas DMV Chief Financial  
14 Officer, highlighted how MVCPA is self-supported, and is  
15 funded from insurance fees that are deposited into the  
16 General Revenue Fund. The sight you see on the screen is  
17 the historical timeline of the MVCPA fee.

18 In 1991, MVCPA was established by the 72nd  
19 Legislature. The MVCPA was \$2 per motor vehicle year, for  
20 policies written on or before August 31st of 2019. That  
21 fee increased from \$2 to \$4 in fiscal year 2020 -- a  
22 change, Mr. Chairman, you might recall, as you served as a  
23 Board member at that time.

24 And in fiscal year 2023, MVCPA's fee increased  
25 by \$1, making the fee now \$5 per motor vehicle year of

1 insurance. In FY '24, over \$107 million were collected in  
2 MVCPA fees from the \$4 of the MVCPA fee. Of that amount,  
3 over \$24 million was appropriated to MVCPA.

4 And in that same fiscal year, over \$29 million  
5 was collected in MVCPA fees from the additional one  
6 dollar. Of that amount, over \$24 million was appropriated  
7 to MVCPA.

8 And this slide in particular is what explains  
9 the additional catalytic converter funding that we  
10 received, and what has ultimately been what I would  
11 consider the catalyst of all this growth. Looking at the  
12 past five years, we really didn't see much growth in the  
13 number of law enforcement grants awarded from FY '21 to FY  
14 '23. It wasn't until FY '23 to FY '24 with the additional  
15 SB224 funding that we saw a 142 percent increase in the  
16 number of grants awarded.

17 Fifty-eight grants were awarded in FY '24, 26  
18 of those being MVCPA taskforce grants, and 32 SB224  
19 catalytic converter grants. From FY '24 to FY '25, we saw  
20 a 95 percent growth in the number of grants awarded. In  
21 total, 114 law enforcement grants were awarded in FY '25,  
22 30 of those being MVCPA taskforce grants, and 83 SB224  
23 catalytic converter grants.

24 And this week, for FY '26, MVCPA saw even a  
25 more significant growth. The Board received 158 law

1 enforcement grants, 31 of those being taskforce  
2 applications, and 127 being SB224 catalytic converter  
3 grants.

4 As we take a step back and examine the last  
5 five fiscal years, FY '21 to FY '25, MVCPA has seen a 352  
6 percent increase in the number of law enforcement grants  
7 awarded. And I purposely placed that number in a big red  
8 circle to draw your attention to it and highlight the  
9 journey and progress we as an agency have made.

10 And it is important to acknowledge the  
11 collective effort that has also made this curve possible.

12 MVCPA currently has 15 full-time employees for MVCPA.  
13 Now MVCPA is led by Director William Diggs. We have  
14 Deputy Director Earl Pence.

15 Our grant audit team consists of Lauren  
16 Williams, Sterling Fielder, Katherine Norris, and Clarissa  
17 Rodriguez, managed by Dan Price. We have a grant  
18 coordination team that consists of Sandra Castro, Kate  
19 Turner, and Francis Alvarado.

20 And we also have a law enforcement training  
21 team that travels throughout Texas to train auto theft  
22 investigators, support staff, analysts, and district  
23 attorneys. That team consists of Herman Ebert [phonetic],  
24 Amber Ott, and Justin White.

25 Last but not least, we have our Executive

1 Assistant, Cassandra Flint, who I would like to say helps  
2 keep Director Diggs in check. And finally, we have my  
3 position, where I serve as a management analyst.

4 My apologies. It is thinking. It's a good  
5 one, I promise.

6 So for those that are curious, up on the screen  
7 is a picture of how we look like when we dress up.

8 But every individual contribution, every  
9 collaborative project, and every moment of determination  
10 have created the success we see today. The growth of the  
11 MVCPA program over the last two fiscal years has led to a  
12 number of operational impacts to grant applications, grant  
13 application reviews, awards, auditing, law enforcement  
14 training, coordination with multiple state agencies.

15 And while a specific number of staff requests  
16 is listed in your Board book, we will continue to closely  
17 examine our staffing model to determine what additional  
18 staffing, if any, is needed. Our plan is to keep working  
19 with DMV Executive Office staff, FAO, and the Government  
20 Strategics Offices.

21 And Mr. Chairman, I would like to end my  
22 presentation on a great achievement you touched during the  
23 conference. To quote John F. Kennedy, the processes of  
24 growth are gradual, bearing fruit in a decade, not a day.

25

1           With the graph you see displayed on the screen,  
2 we can see for the first time in several years, a decline  
3 in motor vehicle theft. That is a phenomenal  
4 accomplishment.

5           That concludes my presentation. Are there any  
6 questions?

7           MR. RODRIGUEZ: All great news, right. Great  
8 presentation, Yessenia.

9           MS. BENAVIDES: Thank you.

10          MR. RODRIGUEZ: We really appreciate that. And  
11 we need to keep on continuing pushing the fact that we  
12 keep on going down on motor vehicle crimes.

13          And our growth, right, we need to celebrate.  
14 Hopefully, we'll celebrate more next year, at the  
15 conference, with maybe 600 attendees.

16          So, thank you, Yessenia. Appreciate that.

17          MS. BENAVIDES: You are welcome.

18          MR. RODRIGUEZ: Agenda Item 15, there is no  
19 closed sessions.

20          Agenda Item 17, public comment.

21          Cass, are there any public comments?

22          MS. FLINT: Chairman Rodriguez, there are no  
23 comments. Thank you.

24          MR. RODRIGUEZ: All right. Agenda Item 18,  
25 adjournment.

1           If there isn't any further business, I would  
2     like to entertain a motion to adjourn. Who wants to go  
3     home?

4           MR. SLOAN: Board Member Sloan. I will make  
5     the motion to adjourn.

6           MS. JONES: Member Jones, second.

7           MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member  
8     Sloan and a second from Board member Jones. Board  
9     Members, when I call your name, please state your vote for  
10    the record.

11           Member Jones.

12           MS. JONES: Aye.

13           MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill.

14           MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

15           MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu-Serrano.

16           MS. CANTU-SERRANO: Aye.

17           MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Sloan.

18           MR. SLOAN: Aye.

19           MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jackson.

20           MR. JACKSON: Aye.

21           MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote  
22     aye. Let the record reflect that the vote is unanimous.

23           It is now 3:25 p.m. This meeting is adjourned.

24           (Whereupon, at 3:25 p.m., the meeting was  
25     concluded.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

MEETING OF: TxDMV MVCPA Board

LOCATION: Via Teams

DATE: July 18, 2025

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,  
numbers 1 through 80, 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: July 31, 2025

/s/ Carol Bourgeois  
(Transcriber)

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