

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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

10:05 a.m.
Wednesday,
January 22, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

William Diggs, Director
David Richards, General Counsel

ON THE RECORD REPORTING
(512) 450-0342

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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

5 It is 10:05 a.m., and I am now calling the board
6 meeting for January 22, 2025 to order. I want to note for
7 the record that the public notice of this meeting,
8 containing all items on the agenda, was filed with the
9 Office of Secretary of State on January 8, 2025.

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

14 I want to welcome those who are with us for
15 today's board meeting. If you wish to address the board or
16 speak on an agenda item during today's meeting, please
17 complete a speaker's sheet at the registration table.
18 Please identify the specific item you are interested in
19 commenting on, your name and address, and whether you are
20 representing anyone or speaking for yourself. If your
21 comment does not pertain to a specific agenda item, we will
22 take your comment during the general public comment portion
23 of the meeting.

24 In accordance with the department's
25 administrative rule, comments to the board will be limited

1 to three minutes. To assist each speaker, a timer has been
2 provided at the podium. The timer light will be green for
3 the first two minutes, yellow when the speaker has one
4 minute left, and then red when the speaker's time is up.

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

9 There are a few things that will help to make
10 the meeting run smoothly and assist the court reporter to
11 get an accurate record: please identify yourself before
12 speaking; speak clearly and slowly; do not speak over
13 others; and ask the chair for permission to speak and be
14 sure to get recognized before speaking.

15 I would like to thank our court reporter who is
16 transcribing this meeting.

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

25 Moving on to agenda item 1, roll call. Now I

1 would like to have a roll call of the board members.

2 Please respond verbally when I call your name.

3 Board Member Jones?

4 MS. JONES: Present.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Member Whitehill?

6 MS. WHITEHILL: Present.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Member Brotherton?

8 MS. BROTHERTON: Present.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Member Cantu Serrano?

10 MS. CANTU SERRANO: Present.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Member Sloan?

12 MR. SLOAN: Present.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Member Jackson?

14 MR. JACKSON: Present.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And let the record reflect that

16 I, Mike Rodriguez, am here too. We have a quorum.

17 Agenda item 2, pledges of allegiance. Please

18 stand and honor our country and state with the pledges of

19 allegiance.

20 (The Pledges of Allegiance - U.S. and Texas,

21 were recited.)

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

23 Agenda item 3, we'll now move to agenda item

24 3.A, approval of transcript from our October 17, 2024,

25 meeting as minutes.

1 Cass, are there any public comments?

2 MS. FLINT: No, Mr. Chairman, there are no
3 comments. Thank you.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

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

8 MR. SLOAN: I move that the MVCPA Board approve
9 the transcript as minutes from the October 17, 2024, MVCPA
10 Board meeting. Board Member Sloan, MVCPA, for the record.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a second?

12 MS. JONES: Member Jones. I second.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We have a motion from Board
14 Member Sloan and a second from Board Member Jones. Any
15 further discussion?

16 (No response.)

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

20 Member Jones?

21 MS. JONES: Aye.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

23 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton?

25 MS. BROTHERTON: Aye.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu Serrano?

2 MS. CANTU SERRANO: Aye.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Sloan?

4 MR. SLOAN: Aye.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jackson?

6 MR. JACKSON: Aye.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
8 aye. Let the record reflect that there are seven votes to
9 none, the motion passes.

10 Agenda item 3.B, I do not have any chair reports
11 today so we are not taken up agenda item 3.B, we will move
12 to agenda item 4.

13 Agenda item 4, MVCPA director's report. This is
14 a briefing only. I will turn the meeting over to Director
15 Diggs.

16 MR. DIGGS: William Diggs, MVCPA director, for
17 the record.

18 Mr. Chairman, board members, I'm pleased to
19 announce that we remain fully staffed. I'm going to tell
20 you that MVCPA is a great place to work and we have 15 FTEs
21 hired and working, and we've been fully staffed for well
22 over six months. And so I am pleased that we are fully
23 engaged at each of our levels and each one of our sections.

24 So we're fully staffed and I don't see that changing
25 anytime soon.

1 Thank you, sir.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Director Diggs.

3 Are there any questions for Mr. Diggs on agenda
4 item 4.A?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Moving on to agenda item 4.B.

7 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir.

8 Then I'd like today, just as a briefing item,
9 I'd like to give you a brief update on our FY25 budget.
10 Attached you will find the MVCPA fiscal year FY25 financial
11 report for the period ending December '24. The reports
12 include statistical and monetary information on the
13 authority's budget, actual expenditures, and some
14 outstanding obligations. The MVCPA is self-supporting and
15 is funded from motor vehicle insurer fees deposited to the
16 General Revenue.

17 The key highlights for FY25 are as follows. For
18 all MVCPA programs is \$69.5 million, which includes the
19 following: there's \$22.9 million in the motor vehicle
20 crime prevention budget; \$32 million in the catalytic
21 converter program budget; we had an estimated \$5.3 million
22 that UB'd forward from the motor vehicle crime prevention
23 previous year's appropriation. And I'm happy to announce
24 we had over \$6.1 million in additional insurance
25 collections in FY24 for our motor vehicle crime prevention

1 budget -- that's our task force budget. Also, during FY24
2 we had just over \$3 million in additional insurance
3 collections in FY24 for our catalytic converter program
4 budget.

5 The total estimated budget for the motor vehicle
6 crime prevention task force strategy is the following: the
7 total estimated FY25 task force budget is \$34,440,395; the
8 total FY25 task force grants budgets equal \$25,429,698; our
9 total operating estimated cost is just over \$1.5 million.
10 This is going to give us a remaining estimated FY25 budget
11 in our task force strategy of \$7.5 million. This will
12 change some; we'll be navigating some additional things
13 with our Texas DMV finance over the next few months, but it
14 is approximately \$7.5 million.

15 For our catalytic converter program strategy,
16 the estimated FY25 catalytic converter program strategy
17 budget is \$35.1 million. We have FY25 catalytic converter
18 grants awarded, including our negotiations so far to date,
19 of \$7.2 million. The total FY25 second round requests for
20 SB 224 grant funding was \$5.9 million, and this would have
21 been if all of those applicants would have been approved,
22 and that's pending today.

23 And our total state partner agency budget, which
24 includes our current IACs with the Texas DMV and the Texas
25 Department of Public Safety and the Texas Department of

1 Licensing and Regulations, is a total \$5.7 million. Later
2 this morning, you're going to hear an additional request
3 from the Texas DPS, one of our partner state agencies, for
4 an amount of \$5.5 million. This is subject to change
5 slightly, depending on the final execution of the IAC
6 between the Texas DMV and MVCPA and the Texas DPS.

7 The total remaining estimated FY25 catalytic
8 converter program strategy, after operating costs of just
9 under \$600,000, is roughly \$10 million. And so, again,
10 these numbers are solid estimates.

11 All that to say that I feel like the MVCPA
12 financial budget, we're in good shape and we have some
13 reserves for some things that we may want to do throughout
14 the year. So I feel good about where we're at financially
15 this morning.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Those were a lot of numbers, Mr.
17 Diggs.

18 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I want to say that it's a beauty
20 when we have additional funds left. And I remember when we
21 first came in we only had what, about \$12 million in grant
22 money, and now look at where we're at.

23 So thank you for that report and happy to always
24 have a balanced budget but more than anything, to have a
25 little bit of a surplus. So thank you.

1 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir.

2 Any questions for Mr. Diggs on agenda item 4.B?

3 (No response.)

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

5 Agenda item 5, rule review adoption under
6 Government Code 2001.039, Chapter 57. This is an action
7 item.

8 We will now move to agenda item 5 and we'll turn
9 it over to David Richards.

10 MR. RICHARDS: Good morning. Thank you, Mr.
11 Chairman, board members. David Richards, general counsel,
12 for the record.

13 Agenda item 5, as the chairman indicated, is an
14 action item, seeking approval to publish the notice of re-
15 adoption of Chapter 43, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter
16 57, with the *Texas Register*.

17 As you recall, 2001.039 of the Government Code
18 requires the authority to review and consider all of its
19 rules every four years. We did that at our last meeting.
20 As a result of our review, we identified various necessary
21 amendments which the MVCPA recommends for adoption today,
22 and furthermore, we've determined that the reasons for
23 initially adopting the Chapter 57 rules continue to exist,
24 subject to these proposed amendments.

25 So I would ask for a vote approving the notice

1 for final adoption.

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

3 Are there any questions for Mr. Richards?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Cass, are there any public
6 comments on this item?

7 MS. FLINT: Mr. Chairman, there are no public
8 comments at this time. Thank you.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will now entertain a motion on
10 agenda item 5.

11 MR. SLOAN: Board Member Sloan, for the record.

12 I move the board approve the notice of
13 re-adoption of 43 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 57, as
14 recommended by staff, for publication in the *Texas*
15 *Register*. In addition, I move the board grant the
16 department the authority to make the non-substantive
17 changes in the notice of re-adoption, as recommended by the
18 Office of the Texas Secretary of State for purposes of
19 filing in the *Texas Register*.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a second?

21 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton. I second.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We have a motion from Board
23 Member Sloan and a second from Board Member Brotherton.
24 Any further discussion?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will now call for the vote.
2 Board members, when I call your name, please state your
3 vote for the record.

4 Member Jones?

5 MS. JONES: Aye.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

7 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton?

9 MS. BROTHERTON: Aye.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu Serrano?

11 MS. CANTU SERRANO: Aye.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Sloan?

13 MR. SLOAN: Aye.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jackson?

15 MR. JACKSON: Aye.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
17 aye. Let the record reflect that there are seven votes for
18 an zero against. The motion passes.

19 Agenda item 6, rule adoption, Chapter 57,
20 another action item.

21 We will now move to agenda item 6 and we'll turn
22 it over to David Richards.

23 MR. RICHARDS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members.

24 Agenda item number 6 is an action item as well,
25 seeking approval for final adoption of the amendments that

1 were proposed for adoption at the last meeting. These
2 amendments, as I mentioned, are a part of the rule review.

3 Chapter 57 was reviewed to bring the MVCPA rules into
4 alignment with statute, remove language that is redundant
5 with statute, cite statutory authority when helpful,
6 modernize language, improve readability, to use consistent
7 terminology, and to clarify or delete unused, archaic or
8 inaccurate definitions.

9 The rules were published in the *Texas Register*
10 for a 30-day comment period. We had no public comments.
11 Just so you are aware, we are hoping to publish these rules
12 for final adoption in the February 7, 2025, issue of the
13 *Texas Register*, which would cause an effective date to be
14 February 13 of this year.

15 Again, it's an action item so you'll need a
16 motion and a vote, please, sir. Thank you.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Are there any questions for Mr.
18 Richards?

19 (No response.)

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

21 Cass, are there any public comments on this
22 item?

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

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

1 I will now entertain a motion on agenda item 6.

2 MR. SLOAN: Board Member Sloan.

3 I move the board approve the adoption of the
4 following amendments to 43 Texas Administrative Code,
5 Chapter 57: 57.9, 57.14, 57.27, 57.29, 57.48, 57.50,
6 57.51, and 57.52, as recommended by staff, for publication
7 in the *Texas Register*. In addition, I move the board grant
8 the department the authority to make the non-substantive
9 changes to the notice of re-adoption, as recommended by the
10 Office of the Texas Secretary of State for purposes of
11 filing in the *Texas Register*.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a second?

13 MS. CANTU SERRANO: Member Cantu Serrano. I
14 second.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Board
16 Member Sloan and a second from Board Member Cantu Serrano.

17 Any further discussion?

18 (No response.)

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

22 Member Jones?

23 MS. JONES: Aye.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

25 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton?

2 MS. BROTHERTON: 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: And I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
10 aye. Let the record reflect that there are seven votes for
11 and zero against, the motion passes.

12 Moving on to agenda item 7, Senate Bill 224 plan
13 of operation, this is a briefing only.

14 We will now move to agenda item 7.A and we'll
15 turn it over to William Diggs.

16 MR. DIGGS: William Diggs, MVCPA director, for
17 the record.

18 Mr. Chairman, board members, I'm very pleased to
19 announce that when it comes to our interagency contracts
20 with our state partner agencies, Texas DPS and Texas
21 Department of Licensing and Regulation, they're moving
22 forward briskly with the funding that they've received. We
23 have monthly meetings with them to make sure that they
24 don't have any unmet needs. You'll hear a little more
25 about that this morning.

1 But I'm very pleased to announce in my
2 communication with Service Director Ron Joy over the
3 Regulatory Services Division over in Texas DPS, they have
4 actually got 14 out of the 16 total FTEs that we're
5 assisting with funding. They've got those folks hired and
6 actually working today. They've actually issued purchase
7 requisitions for 14 vehicles and they expect to get half of
8 those real soon and the other half here to arrive not too
9 far down the road.

10 When it comes to Texas Department of Licensing
11 and Regulation, we were supporting four FTEs, and they are
12 finishing up getting those folks hired and those staff
13 members working.

14 The Texas DMV is doing a great job. They're
15 actually navigating some software enhancements in support
16 of SB 224, along with a couple of FTEs have been hired to
17 support the SB 224 initiative.

18 So I feel like all three agencies are doing a
19 great job. Like I said, we meet monthly and we have some
20 good conversation when it comes to some intelligence
21 sharing, best practices, and also just checking for any
22 unmet needs. And everyone is real supportive and those
23 meetings go really well.

24 So with that, that will end my update for agenda
25 item 7.A.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Director Diggs, is there any way
2 that we can get numbers from all of our task forces
3 comparing the 2022, 2023 and then 2024 numbers, like a
4 three-year span of catalytic converter thefts, and how it's
5 been declining? And so what we want to do is we want to
6 make sure that we start tracking those. And I know we have
7 already, but I think the numbers are now down and it's a
8 very low number now. And I think it's a good way to put
9 out to the public that they can now feel secure that this
10 is working.

11 That the plan of operation that we executed --
12 we don't have to go into the details of it, but whatever
13 we're helping with in support to all those agencies, that
14 it's working. Right? So I think it will be good that we
15 get the numbers from 2022, 2023 and '24, put them out
16 together and kind of do like a little news release or press
17 release on it.

18 MR. DIGGS: Absolutely, Chief, we'll do that. I
19 know I've got a lot of staff on this call right now.
20 They're taking some good notes, and we'll absolutely do
21 that.

22 I think we can also share some of that
23 information in our social media posts and actually let the
24 public know that the new statute is actually working. And
25 I agree with you and I'll get that done, yes, sir.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Even if we simplify it. Right?
2 We don't have to put every single number but simplify, in
3 general Texas had so many catalytic converter thefts in
4 2022 versus 2023 and then 2023 to 2024, just like a nice
5 post. And then kind of send out, you know, thanking
6 everybody that put some effort into this, especially the
7 representatives and the senators that pushed out these new
8 laws and then the ability for us to get this grant money
9 and everything that was put into play so that we can reduce
10 the number of incidents of catalytic converter theft.

11 So I think we're at that moment where we should
12 at least tell the public now that, you know, they can feel
13 a little bit safer now for the efforts that have been put
14 in for every agency across the state.

15 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir, will do.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

17 Are there any questions for Mr. Diggs on agenda
18 item 7.A?

19 (No response.)

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

21 Agenda item 7.B, SB 224 partner agency funding
22 requests update, Texas Department of Public Safety. This
23 is an action item.

24 We will now move to agenda item 7.B, and I will
25 turn it over to Director Diggs, who will introduce our

1 presenter.

2 MR. DIGGS: Mr. Chairman, William Diggs,
3 director MVCPA, for the record.

4 I'm very pleased to bring this action item to
5 the board today for consideration. Again, in our partner
6 agency meetings, we routinely talk about unmet needs and
7 some things that we can do to improve, you know, our
8 efforts in the catalytic converter theft and prevention,
9 apprehension, to include making Texas a safer place today.

10 And so the Texas Department of Public Safety proposes to
11 increase their collaborative efforts with local law
12 enforcement to detect and prevent catalytic converter theft
13 by providing a more robust license plate reader coverage
14 throughout the State of Texas. The information gained
15 through the enhanced network of LPRs will be shared with
16 local law enforcement throughout the state.

17 Today we have an outstanding representative from
18 the Texas DPS, DPS Captain Shawn Hallett. He's going to be
19 providing some information and help navigate the request
20 today. So I would like to call up Captain Hallett, if I
21 may, sir.

22 MR. HALLETT: Good morning.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning, Captain.

24 MR. HALLETT: I am Captain Shawn Hallett. I'm
25 with the Texas Department of Public Safety Criminal

1 Investigations Division.

2 I want to reiterate some things that you all
3 know and that have been said already. There were
4 approximately 26,742 catalytic converter thefts during the
5 first six months of 2023. You were asking about the
6 trends. That represented a 43 percent decrease from that
7 same time period in 2022.

8 California, Texas and Illinois lead the nation
9 in catalytic converter thefts, as you would expect. So far
10 this year, Texas has had 2,235 catalytic converter thefts
11 which, again, is a significant decrease. Obviously, we
12 believe that most of the decrease is from the efforts of
13 our task force people and the passing of Senate Bill 224,
14 as well as the cost of Rhodium, the most expensive metal
15 found in the catalytic converters. I just looked it up a
16 second ago, it's risen just a little bit, it's at \$166 a
17 gram, as opposed to in 2021 Rhodium was approximately \$958
18 a gram, so that cost has also led to the decrease.

19 So while the theft of catalytic converters is
20 trending downward, most likely due, as we said, passing
21 legislation, the cost of metals and the work that we've
22 done, it still is a major crime that has financial impacts
23 on the companies and the consumers.

24 We put this up here. This is currently the
25 Flock camera LPR readers that they have in place here in

1 Texas. DPS, along with the interagency funding from the
2 MVCPA, is proposing the addition of 1,183 additional LPRs.

3 So this is the current one, this is what we are requesting
4 to move to, and I think you'll see a dramatic difference
5 here.

6 So the red on this other map is what we're
7 proposing with the interagency funding from MVCPA.
8 Currently, DPS operates a covert criminal observation
9 program across the state for the purpose of gathering video
10 evidence used to document illegal activity, including
11 catalytic converter theft investigations. DPS is seeking
12 to add this LPR technology across the state. We currently
13 have contracts in place to access Flock database and these
14 cameras will provide data to Flock to further assist in our
15 investigative efforts.

16 I would like to add that all of this is
17 contingent upon DPS and TxDOT reaching an agreement to
18 place these cameras on the roadway. We're currently in
19 talks with them; as soon as they give the go-ahead, then
20 that will be our time to go ahead and do the installs. So
21 that's in the works right now and we should have an answer
22 soon.

23 What DPS is requesting from MVCPA for the
24 current year is approximately \$5.5 million for the purchase
25 of the cameras, the installation of the cameras, and then

1 there's a maintenance fee associated with these cameras.
2 It's a three-year program, but this year we're asking for
3 the \$5.57 million.

4 Any questions?

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: This is awesome. I can tell you
6 when, Major Jones and myself, she brought this into the
7 conversation and we thought of it as, you know what, it
8 would be the perfect scenario for everybody, right, for us
9 to have this coverage. You know, and again, I know the
10 conversations are there with TxDOT.

11 But to me and I think to everybody here, law
12 enforcement, a hostile environment for the bad element is a
13 safe environment for the people, the community. So this is
14 exactly the vision, right, not only for DPS to be able to
15 have that coverage but for every task force out there that
16 can just ask, hey, this car was stolen, can you run this,
17 where has it gone through. We're not talking only about
18 catalytic converters but everything that has a nexus to
19 catalytic converter. With this coverage, it can keep us a
20 lot safer.

21 As soon as they're placed, I think it's going to
22 show in numbers and show as well, not only with SB 224 but,
23 again, once you put that hostile environment for the bad
24 element, crime decreases.

25 So kudos to everyone involved in this project,

1 kudos to Ms. Sharon Jones, and I'm excited. I hope this
2 conversation with TxDOT kind of speeds up and that way we
3 can start installing all these LPRs.

4 MR. HALLETT: Yes, sir.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Well, this is an action item.
6 Are there any questions for Captain Hallett?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board members that are online,
9 any questions for Captain Hallett?

10 MS. BROTHERTON: This is Member Brotherton.
11 That board looks fantastic. Just to tell you, it makes me
12 feel safer just seeing it.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I wanted to add that I know
14 Eagle Pass, Laredo is already bringing in more Flock
15 cameras within the city. So even if we have perimeter here
16 on the outer perimeter, we do that hardening on the outside
17 perimeter, inside the cities you're going to have more
18 LPRs. So I mean, this is great. This is great, I'm
19 excited.

20 MR. HALLETT: Yes, sir.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Director Diggs.

22 MR. DIGGS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. William Diggs,
23 MVCPA director, for the record.

24 I did want to make a note that I also echo
25 phenomenal effort to work on this. It's going to provide

1 all sorts of information to law enforcement throughout
2 Texas, not just our task forces but law enforcement
3 agencies throughout Texas. And the one thing that we know
4 that is happening right now that we are working feverishly
5 on in our task forces to help reduce is the flow of
6 vehicles to the cartels that they are using those vehicles
7 in Mexico.

8 And we also know that today that those folks are
9 now considered, you know, terrorist organizations. And so
10 this is going to help us reduce the flow of those stolen
11 vehicles into Mexico to help reduce logistically what the
12 cartels have been using against us and using against the
13 State of Texas, and it's going to make a huge difference.

14 And again, I appreciate all the work that
15 Captain Hallett has done on this and the Texas DPS in
16 general. So thank you, sir.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Captain.

18 Cass, are there any public comments on this
19 agenda item?

20 MS. FLINT: Mr. Chairman, there are no comments.
21 Thank you.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will entertain a motion on
23 agenda item 7.B.

24 MR. SLOAN: Board Member Sloan, for the record.
25 I move the MVCPA Board approve the request for

1 additional funding for the Texas Department of Public
2 Safety, not to exceed \$6 million in fiscal year '25. The
3 additional funding will be used to increase the
4 collaborative efforts with the local law enforcement to
5 detect and prevent catalytic converter theft by providing
6 more robust license plate reader coverage throughout the
7 State of Texas. The information gained through the
8 enhanced network of LPRs will be shared with local law
9 enforcement throughout Texas. The MVCPA Board shall also
10 grant the MVCPA director the ability to approve the
11 interagency contract in conjunction with the executive
12 director of the Texas DMV and the executive director of
13 Texas DPS.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a second?

15 MR. JACKSON: Member Jackson seconds the motion.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We have a motion from Board
17 Member Sloan and a second from Board Member Jackson. Any
18 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 Member Jones?

24 MS. JONES: Sir, Member Jones. I recuse myself.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

1 Member Whitehill?

2 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton?

4 MS. BROTHERTON: Aye.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu Serrano?

6 MS. CANTU SERRANO: Aye.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Sloan?

8 MR. SLOAN: Aye.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jackson?

10 MR. JACKSON: Aye.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
12 aye. Let the record reflect that there are six votes for,
13 one recused, the motion passes.

14 Agenda item 7.C., SB 224 Advisory Committee
15 update.

16 Now that the motion passes, Director Diggs, is
17 there any way I can ask -- I know this is all in
18 conjunction with, in partnership with Flock. Is there any
19 representatives from Flock here?

20 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir, there are.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Can y'all come to the podium
22 just for a couple of questions on the project itself?

23 Good morning.

24 MR. KOENIG: Good morning. Bob Koenig with
25 Flock Safety.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning. I was looking at
2 this map and I wanted to ask you how long would it take for
3 us to be 100 percent with this project?

4 MR. KOENIG: Our expectation, outside of
5 permitting, which we don't have control over, would be
6 about 90 days to implement all the devices that you see on
7 the map.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So along the permitting status,
9 which we know is currently, as Captain said, with TxDOT.
10 Is that not correct?

11 MR. HALLETT: Yes.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So we're talking about 90 days
13 after those permits are issued. Do you have any status
14 update on that permitting process with TxDOT?

15 MR. KOENIG: We're actively working with them on
16 resolving a couple open items. We hope to get those
17 resolved here in the next few weeks. The plan we have is
18 that we would do them in batches of 50. So 50 devices a
19 week, which is how we would get through them in 90 days.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So the other question is all of
21 this will require permitting from TxDOT. Am I correct?

22 MR. KOENIG: All the ones that are on TxDOT
23 right of way will, which I believe most of them are.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Most of them are. That's where
25 I was going that some if it's city property or a town

1 property, it would be a different permitting.

2 MR. DIGGS: It would be a different permitting
3 jurisdiction that we would work with for those.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Now, the other question -
5 - and I forgot to ask Captain Hallett on this -- all this
6 would be -- the monitoring would happen at the Fusion, or
7 where would the monitoring be? Is it through each trooper?

8
9 Because I know it goes through the app and it
10 goes through to a center, right, so the center can get the
11 updates as to if there's a hit on a stolen vehicle or a hot
12 list vehicle. Right? So how would it operate with the
13 troopers also having it in their MCTs?

14 MR. HALLETT: Anybody who has a log-in for Flock
15 can access that data. So if you're asking me if all of our
16 troopers have it, I'm not sure about that. I know our
17 Fusion Center has it and, of course, they're open 24 hours
18 a day, seven days a week, so we always have access to that.

19 And then anybody else that has access to the database will
20 be able to access any of these cameras as well.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. And I'm just asking
22 because I know once we launch, once you launch, that would
23 be the question: How can I get one of my cars in that hot
24 list, so how can I check if this car has gone through a
25 certain street or highway? Right?

1 And so just to start thinking about that
2 process, you know, giving those rights to whether it's
3 through the same Flock licensee that our task force
4 commanders have, just to switch off on being able to get
5 those LPRs, the additional LPRs all over the state and how
6 is that going to work. That was just the process that I
7 was going to ask for.

8 MS. JONES: Mr. Chairman, Sharon Jones, for the
9 record.

10 The intent of the camera placement and the
11 access is for all law enforcement purposes. So whether
12 it's the task force commander or members of his task force
13 or any law enforcement who is not a member of our task
14 forces, these cameras are not Texas Department of Public
15 Safety's, they're for all law enforcement. And then I'm
16 quite sure that Flock will address who will have access,
17 the differentiation between the homeowners associations who
18 have access and the privacy.

19 But to answer your question, all law enforcement
20 will have access to Flock. It's not for Texas DPS, it's
21 for the State of Texas and beyond.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Great, awesome.

23 Thank you, Captain. And I just wanted to thank
24 you for being here. I know that most of our task forces,
25 they've already engaged in conversations to get Flock in

1 their cities.

2 You know, I do want to say it's great technology
3 and I'm hoping that it continues evolving. You know, it's
4 something that I know in our city of Laredo, we're barely
5 at 30 percent of installation, and it's already paying
6 dividends. We've had multiple vehicles, stolen vehicles
7 from San Antonio, from Houston, from different areas, and
8 we just pick up on them and create a policy where we engage
9 in what we need to engage in. But more than anything, if
10 we didn't have these readings, we would have never caught
11 them, and the majority of them were going to the border.

12 So piggyback on what Director Diggs said about
13 going to the cartels, which are now terrorist
14 organizations. You know, we've always said it right here
15 at MVCPA, we stop the flow of vehicles for them going into
16 Mexico for them to be used as weapons and being used
17 against the military. It will be a great help not only for
18 us but also to the country in Mexico, which they're having
19 a hard time battling these individuals.

20 But more than anything, I think this kind of
21 technology is going to help us tremendously. And I do want
22 to thank you for being here and continuing to partner up
23 with the agencies that chose Flock to move forward with it.

24 So thank you for that.

25 Major Jones.

1 MS. JONES: To Flock, can one of you address who
2 has address to Flock, privacy, the privacy rights and the
3 privileges? And please discuss the homeowners associations
4 aspect and whoever has access, please.

5 MR. KOENIG: Sure. So homeowners associations
6 or commercially purchased cameras, the companies or
7 homeowners associations that purchase those cameras have
8 access to that information and they also share it with law
9 enforcement. They do not have access to any law
10 enforcement owned cameras. Although law enforcement owned
11 cameras -- which are the ones we're talking about on the
12 map here -- are able to be shared with other law
13 enforcement agencies, you all would control which agencies
14 you share it with and those agencies can request access
15 through the system.

16 The rights, as far as who within that agency can
17 see the information is provided by the agency
18 administrator. So for Laredo, the administrator of your
19 agency would assign roles and then assign access rights to
20 those roles, so it could be limited to just the real-time
21 crime center or it could be expanded all the way out to
22 officers in a patrol car. But all those things are
23 controlled by each agency administrator for their group of
24 users.

25 MS. JONES: And, sir, one last question from me.

1 Sharon Jones, for the record.

2 Does Flock sell information?

3 MR. DIGGS: No, we do not. The data is the
4 agency's.

5 MS. JONES: Thank you, sir.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

7 Any other questions for Flock?

8 MR. DIGGS: I'd just like to say we're honored
9 to be partnering with you on this project and help drive
10 down the catalytic converter crime and make Texas a safer
11 place.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

13 Moving on to agenda item 7.C, SB 224 Advisory
14 Committee update. This is a briefing only.

15 Major Jones.

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

17 On January 16 and 17 -- stand by -- my
18 apologies, I was elsewhere. In reference to our Senate
19 Bill 224 Committee, we are meeting this afternoon at 2:00
20 p.m., and I am pleased to announce as of this morning the
21 position from the Houston Police Department that was vacant
22 by Commander Hitzman, it is now filled by Commander Daryn
23 Edwards of the Houston Police Department. And Commander
24 Edwards would attend the committee meeting this afternoon
25 via Zoom.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Great. Welcome, Commander
2 Edwards, and thank you for joining the SB 224 Committee.

3 Have any questions for Major Jones?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Major Jones.

6 All right. It's 10:49, let's take a 15-minute
7 break. We'll be back at 11:05.

8 (Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We are back. It is 11:12 a.m.,
10 MVCPA Board is back in session.

11 We will now move to agenda item 8. This is a
12 Grants, Budget and Reporting Committee update.

13 I will turn it back over to Major Sharon Jones.

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

15 Sir, with your permission, I wanted to address
16 one thing about Flock to the commanders and other agencies
17 who already have Flock cameras.

18 The placement of the statewide cameras, they're
19 already de-conflicted. So you're not going to see a
20 camera -- a new camera next to an existing camera. The map
21 is small, like that was the best our DPS team could expand.

22 So it may look as though they're sitting on top of each
23 other, but weeks and weeks went into the placement of the
24 cameras.

25 So those placements are before, of course, last

1 week's requests from grantees. So with that said, based on
2 where grantees are placing their cameras, I don't see an
3 issue. Because many times last week in our meeting where I
4 asked are these cameras within your city, within your city,
5 so the placement of the statewide project is on the
6 highways, they're not in the cities. And Flock did a lot
7 of work and research and deployment with their teams to
8 ensure specific placement of the cameras.

9 Also, none of the cameras are affixed, they're
10 all solar. So they're not a part of an existing
11 infrastructure, so they're all solar. And once again,
12 they've been de-conflicted so you're not going to see one
13 of these cameras in the city limits or next to an existing
14 camera.

15 The whole goal of this is to put cameras where
16 there are existing gaps. There is an interactive link that
17 I have for Flock where I'm able to zoom in and actually see
18 the location of each camera. So we have that, it just
19 didn't really make sense to bring it today. It's a lot of
20 zoom-in and picking and choosing, but once you zoom in or
21 out, you can literally see the actual placement of the
22 cameras.

23 So I just wanted to make that clear because
24 there were several questions during our break.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Major.

1 MS. JONES: You're welcome.

2 I will now proceed with our Grants, Budget and
3 Reporting Committee report.

4 So January 16 and 17, last week, 61 agencies
5 presented and requested grant funding. Two or three of the
6 agencies were funded in the first round of 224 grants, and
7 they were just asking for administrative funding to support
8 what they already have. And I will say that several
9 agencies echoed the fact that vehicles are being stolen and
10 driven across the border and that trend is to circumvent
11 cutting a catalytic converter here in Texas.

12 Unfortunately, it's just very easy to just steal
13 the car, take it across the border and cut it there. So
14 oftentimes we must associate the theft of an automobile
15 with the catalytic converter, like, I mean, there's no way
16 not to.

17 And then the fact that the trends are showing --
18 trends and patterns are showing that the whole car is being
19 stolen just to get a part off, like that speaks volumes to
20 what we're doing. So even though the reporting of
21 catalytic converter thefts are down, we also know that
22 oftentimes they're not reported; they're simply replaced.
23 Like a person comes out, the catalytic converter is gone,
24 they get a new one, it's not necessarily reported.

25 And then, of course, those that are off the

1 stolen vehicles and cut in Mexico, of course those aren't
2 reported. So yes, the numbers are down but they're down
3 also based on the fact of non-reporting.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I think it goes back to it's
5 felony both ways.

6 MS. JONES: Absolutely, yes, sir.

7 As I mentioned, there were 61 grantees, so we
8 have a lot to do today with several different motions. So
9 please bear with me as we go through the grantees who came
10 last week.

11 First, we need to have a separate motion for the
12 City of Round Rock.

13 Am I out of order again?

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: On agenda item 8, are there any
15 questions for Major Jones?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, thank you, Major
18 Jones.

19 Now we're moving on to agenda item 9, FY 2025 SB
20 224 second round grant award recommendations.

21 We'll now move on to agenda item 9 and we'll
22 turn it over to William Diggs, and after a presentation,
23 we'll go back to you.

24 MR. DIGGS: William Diggs, director MVCPA, for
25 the record.

1 Mr. Chairman, board members, I'll echo some of
2 the information that Major Jones just gave you a little bit
3 of excerpt on. We had a total of 71 applicants that
4 actually applied, and unfortunately, we had nine that were
5 unable to show last week that did not make the meeting on
6 either day. Staff navigated that over the last few weeks,
7 advising everyone that they needed to be there to present
8 and nine did not. There were a couple of grant
9 applications that we made some adjustments to the funding
10 request, as well as there was one that was not approved by
11 the GBR Committee.

12 But with that, I'm going to go ahead and close
13 and I'll yield back over to Major Jones.

14 MS. JONES: Thank you, sir.

15 Am I in order now?

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Point of order.

17 (General laughter.)

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Director Diggs.

19 MS. JONES: We have a lot to get through.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We're going to turn it over to
21 Major Jones.

22 Major Jones.

23 MS. JONES: Yes, sir. Thank you.

24 So the first motion will be for the City of
25 Round Rock, and Member Sloan is a commander with the City

1 of Round Rock so he will recuse himself from this vote.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. So we're going for the
3 motions. Correct?

4 MS. JONES: Yes, sir.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Before we get into the
6 motions, is there any discussion or questions for Mr. Diggs
7 on agenda item 9 before we move into motions and seconds?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Cass, are there any public
10 comments on this agenda item?

11 MS. FLINT: Mr. Chairman, there are no comments.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will now move to Major Sharon
14 Jones for the motions.

15 MS. JONES: I move that the MVCPA Board approve
16 the FY 2025 Senate Bill 224 second round grant for the City
17 of Round Rock in the amount of \$347,874.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Board
19 Member Jones. Do I have a second?

20 MS. BROTHERTON: I second. Member Brotherton.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. I have a motion from
22 Member Jones, second from Board Member Brotherton. Any
23 further discussions on this grant?

24 MS. WHITEHILL: Member Whitehill. I was just
25 wondering why we're doing this one separately.

1 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, David Richards, for
2 the record.

3 Because, Member Whitehill, we have a recusal
4 from Member Sloan, we're going to take a separate vote on
5 that, and then we'll have groupings as we further go
6 through, and some that will not be recommended for
7 approval. So that's why.

8 MS. WHITEHILL: Got it. Thank you for the
9 clarification, I missed that.

10 MR. RICHARDS: Yes, absolutely.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: For the City of Round Rock we
12 have a motion from Member Jones and a second from Member
13 Brotherton. Any further discussion?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Members, when I call your
16 name, please state your vote for the record.

17 Member Jones?

18 MS. JONES: Aye.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

20 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton?

22 MS. BROTHERTON: Aye.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu Serrano?

24 MS. CANTU SERRANO: Aye.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Sloan?

1 MR. SLOAN: I recuse myself.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jackson?

3 MR. JACKSON: Aye.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
5 aye. Let the record reflect that there are six for and one
6 refusal, motion passes.

7 We will now go into groupings. Member Jones.

8 MS. JONES: For those online, please stop me or
9 ask questions if I confuse you.

10 The next round is for those who were not
11 approved, so we're going to have a second set of voting for
12 those who were not approved by the committee last week.

13 Hearing no questions, I move that the MVCPA
14 Board not approve the following grantees who applied for an
15 FY 2024 Senate Bill 224 second round grant: the City of
16 Andrews, \$12,500, they were absent; City of Bangs, \$14,000,
17 not approved due to absence; Clute Police Department,
18 \$86,667, not approved due to absence; County of Culberson,
19 \$20,800, not approved due to absence;

20 Dimmitt County, \$247,242, not approved due to
21 absence; City of Early, \$19,200, not approved due to
22 absence; City of Falfurrias, \$42,500, the chief stated that
23 he would not receive public support for catalytic converter
24 prevention reporting; Hamilton County, \$12,000, due to
25 absence; City of Heath, \$7,200, due to absence; City of

1 Mount Vernon, \$22,200, due to absence.

2 So those are all of the motions for this --
3 those are all the grantees for this motion.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We have a motion from Board
5 Member Jones to not approve the agencies that she just
6 stated, which are ten in total. Do I have a second?

7 MS. WHITEHILL: Member Whitehill. I second.

8 MS. JONES: Board Member Sloan makes a second.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I've got a second from Board
10 Member Sloan. Any further discussion?

11 (No response.)

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

15 Member Jones?

16 MS. JONES: Aye.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

18 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton?

20 MS. BROTHERTON: Aye.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu Serrano?

22 MS. CANTU SERRANO: Aye.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Sloan?

24 MR. SLOAN: Aye.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jackson?

1 MR. JACKSON: Aye.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
3 aye. Let the record reflect that there are seven votes for
4 and zero against, the motion passes.

5 MS. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I now move that the
6 MVCPA Board approve the FY 2024 Senate Bill 224 second
7 round grant award recommendations submitted by the
8 following agencies:

9 City of Arcola, \$14,167; Bertram Police
10 Department, \$14,400; City of Bulverde, \$33,333; City of
11 Caddo Mills, \$10,000; City of Castle Hills, \$30,000; City
12 of Cedar Hill, \$83,333; City of Cibolo, \$483,517; Cooke
13 County, \$24,376; City of Cuero, \$10,625; City of Cumby,
14 \$9,600; City of Elgin, \$30,400; City of Farmers Branch,
15 \$104,166; City of Fort Stockton, \$17,600; City of Frisco,
16 \$346,376; City of Galveston, \$416,087;

17 City of Gun Barrel City, \$16,680; City of
18 Holland, \$22,440; City of Hondo, \$43,000; Hood County,
19 \$109,167; City of Jacinto City, \$33,458; City of Jasper,
20 \$41,500; City of Jersey Village, \$108,333; City of Kaufman,
21 \$14,400; Killeen Police Department, \$400,000;

22 City of La Marque, with the exception of
23 portable radios for a total amount of \$206,177; City of
24 Live Oak, \$18,250; City of Mabank, \$48,180; City of Marble
25 Falls, \$31,625; Marlin Police Department, \$38,400; Maverick

1 County, \$180,266; City of Meadows Place, \$27,500; City of
2 Mexia, \$16,400; City of Monahans, \$44,840;
3 City of Mont Belvieu, \$47,084; City of Murphy,
4 \$15,000; City of Navasota, \$27,717; City of New Braunfels,
5 \$120,126; Oak Ridge North Police Department, \$7,083; City
6 of Palestine, \$30,000; City of Palmer, \$12,800; City of
7 Pasadena, with the exception of BLTN BOLO software for a
8 total of \$160,166;
9 Rains County Sheriff Department, \$20,000;
10 Robertson County, \$33,125; Rusk County, \$70,833; San
11 Patricio County, \$33,251; City of Sealy, \$24,583; City of
12 Sour Lake, \$202,069; City of Splendora, \$50,000; City of
13 Sulphur Springs, \$25,000; City of Temple, \$200,000;
14 City of Terrell, \$160,417; City of Universal
15 City, \$40,000; City of Waller, \$98,958; Waller County,
16 \$39,520; City of Weslaco, \$238,533; City of West, \$32,400;
17 West Columbia, \$36,000; City of Wharton, \$17,708; City of
18 Wichita Falls, \$90,000; and finally, Zavala County,
19 \$139,770.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good job.

21 I've got a motion from Board Member Jones. Do I
22 have a second?

23 MS. WHITEHILL: Member Whitehill, second.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Board
25 Member Jones and a second from Member Whitehill. Any

1 further discussion?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I will now call
4 for the vote. Board members, when I call your name, please
5 state your vote for the record.

6 Member Jones?

7 MS. JONES: Aye.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

9 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton?

11 MS. BROTHERTON: Aye.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu Serrano?

13 MS. CANTU SERRANO: Aye.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Sloan?

15 MR. SLOAN: Aye.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jackson?

17 MR. JACKSON: Aye.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
19 aye. Let the record reflect that there are seven votes for
20 and zero against, the motion passes.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Before we move on to agenda item
22 10, I just do want to thank Member Jones and Member Sloan
23 for hearing all these 71 agencies -- well, there were ten
24 missing, right, so what is it, 61 agencies?

25 MS. JONES: Sixty-one, yes, sir.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I know you were there Thursday
2 and Friday listening to each one, so thank you for going in
3 depth into the conversation as to what the use was going to
4 be and that they're going to be able to enhance our program
5 with what they're asking. So thank you for that. I know
6 that I heard a couple of them and they were very detailed
7 as to having a policy and all that.

8 Director Diggs.

9 MR. DIGGS: William Diggs, director MVCPA, for
10 the record.

11 I also wanted to echo the same. I'm very
12 appreciative of Major Jones and Commander Sloan. They did
13 a phenomenal job over the two days, very patient with me as
14 we navigated a few things on the fly up there. Thank you,
15 Major Jones, for that.

16 I did want to say that even with some of these
17 agencies not approved, we're still pushing out over \$5.3
18 million of funding around the State of Texas in addition to
19 what we had already pushed out earlier this year, over \$7
20 million. And so we're going to get this money out there.
21 It's going to go to some good efforts by our local law
22 enforcement partners all over Texas, and I'm excited about
23 making Texas a safer place.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Awesome, and thank you for that,
25 Director. And I do also want to thank you and the staff

1 because I know that everybody was there helping and I know
2 that to put together everything for our board members, it
3 takes a lot. So I do want to thank you, thank David
4 Richards here next to me because, again, we just ask the
5 questions and you just give us answers. So thank you for
6 that.

7 I know I saw Roland, our Texas DMV executive
8 director there as well, and I do want to thank for being
9 very involved in what we're doing. So thank you for that.

10 But again, this is great work and hopefully we start
11 getting these funds out for them to use. So thank you.

12 Moving on to agenda item 10, MVCPA FY 2024 year
13 in review, this is a briefing only.

14 We will now move to agenda item 10 and we'll
15 turn it over Earl Pence.

16 MR. PENCE: Good morning. My name is Earl
17 Pence, deputy director of the Motor Vehicle Crime
18 Prevention Authority. Thank y'all for being here.

19 I'm going to go over the FY24 year in review,
20 with a little help.

21 Had a great year. It was our first full year of
22 having a full staff. When came here there were five. The
23 work got done, just quick, quick, quick, we rolled a lot of
24 stuff out, got a lot of stuff done in a short period of
25 time, with the understanding that all of us were freshmen.

1 We didn't know what we were doing and we were looking for
2 the fights in the hallway as we were going.

3 But everybody, even the new staff, adhered,
4 learned, caught on, and just burning through it quick. Dan
5 was a great help. Dan was the old horse in the barn and he
6 helped us a lot and is still helping us.

7 The 2024 year in review. 2024, we celebrated 31
8 years of grants, first ones being issued in '93. The
9 vision of the MVCPA is to empower local law enforcement
10 agencies and communities to combat and prevent motor
11 vehicle theft, motor vehicle burglary, related motor
12 vehicle crimes so that all Texans will be free from harm
13 and loss caused by these crimes.

14 We have reached that goal and it shows in stats.

15 I know everything is on the uptick; stolen vehicles,
16 they're up, I look at them every month, and catalytic
17 converters down. That was one mission, but I do believe in
18 heart of hearts that if it wasn't for our task forces' hard
19 work, the stolen vehicle rate would be much higher, at
20 least 30-40 percent easy.

21 These ladies and gentlemen work hard, 24/7. It
22 shows in their monthly reporting, their quarterly
23 reporting, which I put an eye on all of them. And there's
24 not one that's slacking. They're all doing a phenomenal
25 job.

1 To note, this is 2023. It takes a complete year
2 to get all the stats on a lot of issues like stolen motor
3 vehicle theft. What you can see is the calendar years from
4 2019 to 2023. That's a significant increase; that's almost
5 50 percent. We're sitting at a 28 in 2022 up and ten with
6 2018 to 2023, a 65 percent change, increase in motor
7 vehicle theft.

8 A lot of factors come into play. We've got the
9 Kia/Hyundai challenge, that is for fun. Recovery rates on
10 Kia and Hyundai are quick because they're joy riding. They
11 trash them, we recover them.

12 The Texas losses, these are the losses suffered
13 by Texans for the burglary of motor vehicle and motor
14 vehicle theft. You can see for the year 2023, the total
15 loss is \$5 billion -- with a B -- 107,155,792. We're
16 hoping with the increase of our task forces and the
17 increase of the grants for the SB 224, we'll actually make
18 this come down quite a bit. We're hoping.

19 Catalytic converter theft goes back to motor
20 vehicle theft, motor vehicle burglary. It implies all kind
21 of crimes, not just the fact that they're stealing a
22 catalytic converter out from under a car.

23 We've noticed this year that we have car
24 crushers that are unregulated and nobody thought about that
25 until a few of us kind of looked at each other and said,

1 Who regulates them? Nobody knows. They go to yards, scrap
2 50, they're out. Well, there's 50 cats unreported. We're
3 looking at a few angles on what we can actually do to help
4 that.

5 Next, please. Here's your FY 2024 task force
6 grants. We provided finance to support the law enforcement
7 agencies for economic motor vehicle theft and fraud-related
8 motor vehicle crimes. Twenty-four task forces to the right
9 represent 130 law enforcement and 204 law enforcement
10 investigators, five crime analysts, one prosecutor, and 100
11 administrative and support personnel that were funded
12 through the task force grants.

13 That will probably increase; FY25 it did and
14 FY26 I see another increase too. There's a lot of
15 interest. Where motor vehicle theft, auto theft actually
16 took a little side road and nobody showed interest, now it
17 is a hot topic. Everybody wants to be part of the game.

18 Next, please. These are the catalytic converter
19 grants. The bill was passed through in FY23. We didn't
20 get the first funds out till late, they were due to a lot
21 of staffing problems but we did get them out.

22 We supported 32 law enforcement agencies to
23 combat catalytic converter theft in FY24. As you've heard
24 today, that number just increased by threefold to 71, I
25 believe, or high 60s. We have more grantees, we have more

1 equipment out there, we have more funding, we're getting it
2 out there. So I believe it's going to make a positive
3 impact on next year's stats; I firmly believe that.

4 Next, please. The interagency contracts. With
5 SB 224 came the combined effort of DPS, TDLR, DMV and
6 MVCPA. With those four powerhouses together, I believe
7 we're going to make a positive dent in catalytic converter
8 theft, as well as some of the other motor vehicle crimes.
9 I've mentioned burglary of motor vehicle, auto theft. I
10 believe with the partnerships that we have, the very, very
11 strong partnerships, it's going to show a positive impact.

12 You see at the bottom, TDLR are in for a little
13 over \$500,000, Department of Motor Vehicles, \$1.3 million,
14 and then Texas Department of Public Safety, \$2.3 million,
15 right at almost \$2.4 million.

16 Next, please. Looking at some of the end-of-
17 year reports that our task forces turn in, we took a few
18 excerpts, the challenges that they're facing. One of them
19 is the overall lack of sworn personnel throughout the city
20 and the vacant positions within that unit. It's hard to
21 train auto theft.

22 It's not like writing tickets. There are tricks
23 to the trade; we provide the training, we provide a lot,
24 and you're going to hear later that we have stepped up our
25 training quite a bit in the last year. And next year we're

1 looking at probably a lot more training, which we will go
2 over that here in just a little bit.

3 Next, please. Another one is the manpower
4 shortage, not only with auto theft units but
5 department-wide. The shortage is also the result of losing
6 new recruits fresh out of the academy -- which if you're in
7 law enforcement, you know about this -- to higher paid
8 agencies. It costs a lot to put a man in a uniform and a
9 car to have him do some work, and when that man leaves
10 within six months, the return on investment is not there.

11 When they go to auto theft, it's the same thing.

12 You need NICB, you need a Part 1 from us and a Part 2, and
13 then you're pretty well on-the-job training, it takes about
14 maybe a good solid year and a half, two years to have an
15 agent actually trained for auto theft. Very meticulous,
16 auto theft is.

17 Next, please. Another challenge in operating of
18 the program was addition of a new agency. For the agency,
19 they have to familiarize with documentation for the grant
20 as well as auto theft requirements in reference to
21 protocols for vehicle inspections. They're referring to
22 68-A inspections when they say vehicle inspections, by the
23 way.

24 Next, please. This is another one, having three
25 investigators tackle cases and responding to leads in a

1 timely manner while understaffed is a consistent challenge.

2 Internally, the most significant issue was a shortage of
3 manpower due to staffing limitations. The task force
4 struggled to allocate resources for proactive operations
5 and covert surveillance.

6 Next, please. This was another one which we're
7 all pretty familiar with. The tendency for criminals to
8 cross state lines, international boundaries and federal
9 boundaries has created a unique challenge that the task
10 forces have to navigate on a consistent basis within the
11 region. The gangs that were released from prisons and
12 mental institutions in other countries came here on a free
13 ticket and there's some of our grantees out here now that
14 are dealing with them up to this day. There's a Venezuelan
15 gang we're all familiar with, and right now in the northern
16 region, they're dealing with a lot of their issues up
17 there.

18 Next, please. On the end of year on the self-
19 reports, the Southeast Auto Theft Task Force actually
20 worked tirelessly identifying, either arresting or
21 obtaining warrants and directives for juveniles for the
22 actors in motor vehicles crimes committed in the project
23 area. That included collaboration with other agencies and
24 other task forces. The efforts resulted in a high recovery
25 rates of vehicle, more arrests of adults and juveniles, and

1 a higher vehicle recovery rate.

2 Next, please. Laredo, these guys, they wail.
3 Laredo recovered a value of \$2.4 million in stolen vehicles
4 and heavy machinery. That's good.

5 In a fiscal year, that's outstanding. I think
6 they're in the run for task force of the year again, I
7 believe.

8 Next, please. Also in the self-reports, the
9 addition of new equipment. This is going to be up in, I
10 believe, the Plains, South Plains Task Force. This is
11 going to be Doug's operation; he found this.

12 It's a trailer that you can do portable 68-A
13 inspections and the catalytic converter etching on. You
14 see the cat, he put that on the inside. We actually looked
15 at it, we got up under it, we rode the chair, it's awesome.

16
17 You know, if your agency can't afford a barn and
18 lifts, this is really something to look at. But you can
19 see the stats at the bottom. In FY24, the motor vehicle
20 thefts decreased 17.2 percent and decreased 18.5 percent in
21 the area of operation, meaning the manpower physically
22 going out and putting their hands on it. So you save
23 manpower, you save a lot of money.

24 Next, please. Dallas, the Dallas Auto Theft
25 Task Force began a proactive and aggressive stance when it

1 came to arrests and court filings against impact offenders.

2 To illustrate how significant the decline was, their auto
3 theft rate increased from 4.2 percent on May 1 and in five
4 months it decreased from a 4 percent gain to a 20 percent
5 decrease. It works.

6 This is their program called Watch Dallas. You
7 can call in, report stuff, it's just like Crime Stoppers,
8 but Dallas has their own little gang. And I know the
9 commander is here. It works, doesn't it? Very positive,
10 very positive.

11 Next, please. This is Heart of Texas, another
12 shining star in our task forces. Texas being one of the
13 leading states in auto theft, vehicle identification -- VIN
14 swapping is a growing issue spreading in Central Texas.
15 During this week, investigators with the task force, along
16 with McLennan County Sheriff's Office, Waco Police, and the
17 NICB recovered five stolen pickup trucks in Waco with
18 swapped VIN numbers. That was within a three-day period, I
19 guess, I believe.

20 Another hot item right now, heavy equipment
21 going from north to south. And I believe Laredo just
22 recently recovered some heavy equipment stolen from the
23 north end of Texas.

24 Next, please. This was published October 8 of
25 '24, receiving the funding, the SB 224 funding for

1 catalytic converter theft. Auto thefts were a major issue
2 across the city, including North Oak Cliff in Dallas saw an
3 uptick in these crimes, for DPD shifted officers in order
4 to facilitate the successful violent crime reduction plan.

5
6 The additional funding renewed focus on auto
7 theft. Thanks to this grant is very welcome and the funds
8 will be put to good use by our men and women in blue. And
9 they've got a good program going using those funds from SB
10 224.

11 Next, please. Corpus Christi, I got a call on
12 this one. Their auto burglary crime stats include a lot of
13 theft of firearms. Everybody in Corpus is packing and
14 leaving their cars unlocked, apparently.

15 Chief Markle spoke out about the string of
16 shootings across the city that killed two and injured
17 eleven in one weekend. And this came from a lot of
18 burglary of motor vehicles in the past few months where you
19 can see the headlines: 263 guns stolen just in one year
20 from cars in Corpus Christi, 13 in one week.

21 Just a friendly reminder, lock your car; take
22 your gun out of your car, please.

23 Next, please. Tri-County, I spoke with the
24 commander on this one. This was a good hit. This was
25 recent, December 27.

1 They tracked down a stolen vehicle to a local
2 repair shop. Upon inspection, they discovered additional
3 stolen vehicles and parts. Among the recovered items was a
4 2023 Ferrari F-8 Spyder, contributing to the total
5 estimated value of \$862,000 worth of recovered property.

6 I did talk to Jim about that. I believe the
7 wrecker decreased the value of that vehicle. Correct?

8 Outstanding on Tri-County, they do good work up
9 there. That's a good lick.

10 Next, please. This is some of our social media.

11 Last week proved everybody wants on this. Me and Amber
12 are fixing to start making the calls, doing the Teams
13 meetings to get them onboard, get the intel sharing going.

14

15 Facebook is hot, they like us. Over 200 posts
16 created January 2024 to December 2024, 84,000 views, 648
17 percent increase in reach. She does a phenomenal job with
18 this, by the way.

19 Next, please. This is our top content on
20 Facebook which was the temperature drop, the freeze -- if
21 you're going to let your car warm up, lock it. Sending the
22 condolences to the officers hurt and killed in the line of
23 duty. Of course, MVCPA, the catalytic converter stuff, and
24 everybody likes the Cat.

25 Next, please. We are on Instagram also, not as

1 hot of a following but we're getting there. 101 posts from
2 January to December of '24, 2,600 views.

3 Next, please. This was some of the content on
4 Instagram from TAVTI, had some information from TAVTI. The
5 Hyundai owners, trying to help them from getting their
6 vehicles stolen.

7 The 68-A inspections which the requests for
8 those are increasing; we find over the last few months a
9 lot of people want 68-A inspections. Then you have the ATF
10 investigators stuff and then MVCPA, we came in dead last,
11 so not good on Instagram.

12 Next, please. The new logo. This is where it
13 started and where it's at now. You'll see you have Watch
14 Your Car. MVCPA came out with the first guy, if that's a
15 car or a guy with a cap on, I don't know what it is,
16 haven't figured it out.

17 Then we went to the black shield. And now we're
18 at the one that everybody agreed on, looks awesome. Thanks
19 to Mr. Torrance Clemmons with Dallas County Sheriff's
20 Office, the new logo, which will be going on everything
21 we've got. As slow as it goes, it's going on everything.

22 Next, please. The FY24 conference held in
23 Houston. It was a great conference, however, there were
24 some climatic issues beyond our control. Besides what
25 happened -- there was a hurricane previous week before we

1 got there and I think everybody enjoyed the conference.

2 There were some setbacks, but everybody enjoyed
3 it. We got good reviews. The training was good.

4 One class from the gentleman at Dallas, he had a
5 couple hundred attendees. He filled that entire room up.
6 And I still want to go back and see him again. You can't
7 get enough of the guy on the social media stuff, the black
8 web, dark web stuff.

9 But 73-plus agencies represented, 288 attendees;
10 I would call that a successful conference. Thanks to Major
11 Jones, she did it. We helped a little bit.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. PENCE: Next, please. All right. FY 2024
14 training. In 2023 October, I hired the first guy, which
15 was Justin White, for a law enforcement trainer. Since
16 then we have two more.

17 Getting started, getting everything laid out was
18 kind of rough. Now you can see we had one Part 1, which is
19 auto theft, intermediate auto theft, 24 attendees. We had
20 one advanced auto theft, a Part 2 school, we had two
21 fraudulent document classes, one conference. We assisted
22 DPS with four auto theft schools, one fraud school, NICB
23 with four schools, and assisted the 2024 North Texas Auto
24 Show in a vehicle finance fraud course with 65 attendees.

25 This year, myself and Herman have put together

1 an eight-hour patrol-only course for auto theft. What that
2 will do is let patrolmen go up on a car and see the initial
3 signs it's going to take for them to call auto theft and
4 bring them in on a stolen vehicle: if the VIN plate has
5 been tampered with, if there's things about the driver,
6 things to see, just something to enlighten auto theft --
7 your patrolmen as far as auto theft.

8 Everybody has electronic control module hookup
9 now, even patrol officers. And they've got to understand
10 that probable cause is not the ECM. You've got to develop
11 probable cause. We were talking about that this morning
12 with some of the commanders.

13 The trainings will increase this year. We have
14 two Part 1s, two Part 2s, five NICB, I believe, and then
15 the eight-hour auto theft courses which will stretch
16 anywhere, one day, financially good for any department.
17 We're looking at holding the first one maybe in Alpine,
18 Texas, another in Fort Stockton, Pecos and areas where they
19 don't get a whole lot of training yet you have Interstates
20 10 and 20.

21 So that's where our focus is going to be on
22 that. That can be taught by one instructor and we can
23 spread them out all over the state. So get a lot more done
24 with a lot less work is what we're hoping.

25 Next, please. These were our '24 board meeting

1 locations, Houston, Austin and then Houston again a couple
2 times. The advisory committee meetings were in Dallas, El
3 Paso, Houston and San Marcos.

4 I want to thank the board for allowing us to do
5 this. Without y'all, we couldn't do it. Thanks for
6 letting us use the funds to do it.

7 And that's the end of my presentation. I'll
8 take any questions of you have any.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Earl, great
10 presentation.

11 Anybody has questions?

12 MS. JONES: That was probably -- actually, not
13 probably, that is the best comprehensive report that MVCPA
14 has presented in my tenure. You covered training, I like
15 the fact that you mentioned West Texas and going to the
16 problem instead of having the problem come out. I enjoyed
17 that. The logos, once again to the cat con artist and to
18 the MVCPA logo, fantastic.

19 Amber, fabulous job on social media.

20 The task forces presenting what the tax forces
21 have done in 2024, excellent job. Great job by your team.
22 And whoever put that PowerPoint together, I absolutely love
23 it.

24 MR. PENCE: Yessenia, she helped me do that so
25 she did an awesome job.

1 MS. JONES: Of course.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Anybody else has any questions
3 for Mr. Earl Pence?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We're going to move on to agenda
6 item 13; we're going to leave pending 11 and 12. We're
7 going to skip to agenda item 13, closed session.

8 And we will now take up agenda item 13, we're
9 going to go into closed session. It is now 12:01 p.m. on
10 January 22, 2025. We will go into closed session under
11 Texas Government Code Sections 551.071, 551.074, 551.076
12 and 551.089.

13 For those of you in the audience, I anticipate
14 being in closed session for approximately 30 minutes, and
15 we'll reconvene in open session after that.

16 With that, we are recessed from the public
17 meeting and we are going into closed session.

18 (Whereupon, at 12:01 p.m., the meeting was
19 recessed, to reconvene this same day, Wednesday, January
20 22, 2025, following conclusion of the closed session.)

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It is 12:50 p.m. and the board
22 of the MVCPA is now back in open session.

23 No action items will be taken up from closed
24 session, so I just want to do some remarks on Director
25 William Diggs.

1 William has been the MVCPA director for a little
2 more than a year now, and William has done a great job
3 during his first year as MVCPA director and has hired a lot
4 of the new positions that are here with us today. And a
5 lot of these new positions from the last legislative
6 session implemented SB 224, created the SB 224 partner
7 agency meetings, increased grant awards to further combat
8 auto thefts in Texas, explored a new grant management
9 system, and created a plan to transition to a new system in
10 the near future. He also ensured motor vehicle theft
11 training continues to be a focus for law enforcement
12 throughout the State of Texas, not only for the task forces
13 but for every city that we always support through MVCPA.

14 William's unique reporting structure to both the
15 MVCPA Board and the Texas DMV, and I appreciate the
16 flexibility and responsiveness he has displayed over the
17 past year.

18 And I just want to congratulate you on your
19 first year, William. You've done a tremendous job. I know
20 that you continue saying that we're in a much better
21 position now than we were in the past years, and I know
22 that a lot of this is your contribution to what you've
23 done, but more than anything is the fact that you're a
24 go-getter.

25 I can tell you that we talked about positions

1 and we talked about bringing a team together and putting a
2 team together. I can tell you it's not easy. It's not
3 easy, and doing it as fast as you did is just phenomenal.

4 And so I want to congratulate you on your first
5 year. Keep on doing the great work that you're doing, and
6 I want to thank you for always being very transparent and
7 always being very responsive to every call that you get,
8 but more than anything, always keeping me on top of
9 everything.

10 I know that sometimes I answer five minutes
11 later, sometimes six hours later, but I answer. But
12 sometimes when I see two or three texts from you, I say,
13 okay, this is an emergency. Let me open it up and let me
14 respond to William.

15 But I do want to thank you for that and I know
16 the board is very impressed as well, so I'll let them say a
17 few words if you want to.

18 MR. SLOAN: I don't want to speak out of turn.
19 Sharon, do you want to go?

20 So Director Diggs, I believe a leader's legacy
21 is what you can do for your people with empowering them,
22 and being a junior member of the board, it was readily
23 apparent to me that you are an exceptional leader because
24 of the interaction I had with your staff. It's been
25 fantastic, and your zest and appeal for public service

1 hasn't wavered for 30-something years. I've gotten to know
2 you and I think you're a fantastic person. I think the
3 State of Texas is benefitting greatly from your leadership
4 in the position that you're in, and I feel like I'm in very
5 good company.

6 Thank you, sir. Congratulations.

7 MS. WHITEHILL: So, Director, you and I have not
8 worked closely together much, but I know that MVCPA is
9 blessed to have you, and for many reasons. And as was just
10 said about your employees, you know, you just said earlier
11 that MVCPA is a great place to work. And a lot of that
12 comes from the top and it's evident that you care about
13 your employees and about their development, and that does
14 make a great leader.

15 And your demeanor allows people to feel
16 comfortable coming to you with problems, questions,
17 anything like that. And I know that when you came on a
18 year ago, you kind of had a firehose of information that
19 came right out to you, but you were able to navigate that
20 and hit the ground running. So thank you for that.

21 And someone had mentioned to me that you put
22 Texas first, and to me, that is very important and
23 appreciate that you do that. So thank you.

24 MS. BROTHERTON: I ditto all of that, so thank
25 you, thank you, thank you. It was great to get to know you

1 a little bit better when we were at the conference and I
2 look forward to this year's conference. What a super job
3 you guys do putting that on, and I think that's a good
4 service for all of our people that are out in the field. I
5 think that honors them, and so I look forward to that.

6 But thank you so much that all you've done for
7 us and will continue to do, we're expecting that.

8 MR. JACKSON: Director Diggs, I just echo some
9 of the other comments, but you know, as I'm one of the
10 newest board members. I wanted to comment on what a great
11 pleasure it's been to serve alongside you. We've watched
12 you seamlessly transition into this new role and really
13 prioritizing results over busy work and fostering a truly
14 positive team environment and culture. It's been
15 incredible to watch your leadership thus far, and again,
16 thank you for always putting Texas first.

17 MS. JONES: Director Diggs, when you started
18 there was a fire, it was pretty wild. It was a wild fire
19 burning, and you walked through that fire, sir. And not
20 only did you walk through the fire and you made it to the
21 other side, but prior staff and your new hires can see a
22 difference, especially those who were prior, totally
23 different.

24 The behind the scenes that you do for your
25 employees that never make it out front -- you never talk

1 about it, you don't mention it. I hear about it only if
2 someone mentions it. That speaks a lot to your heart, your
3 kindness, your leadership, and it is with great honor that
4 you frugally serve the State of Texas.

5 Thank you for your leadership.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. DIGGS: Well, I did want to say this. I
8 appreciate all the kind words from the MVCPA Board and from
9 working with the Texas DMV, the executive office. But I'll
10 assure you, any success that I've had, it's been, you know,
11 at the very top of the MVCPA team, Deputy Director Pence,
12 Dan Price, the manager over our audit and insurance
13 collections, Cassandra Flint, Yessenia, Lauren Williams,
14 Kathryn, those are the folks that are here in person, I
15 believe -- every one of my staff members who I know every
16 one of them are on the call today, they have done a
17 phenomenal job. They have stepped up.

18 They are 14 fantastic public servants for Texas.

19 They've made the difference. They've made things --

20 I tell Roland Luna, the deputy executive
21 director of the Texas DMV, I tell them this every now and
22 then, I'm having fun. And Sunday when I woke up, I
23 realized that that was my 38 years on January 20 that I've
24 been blessed to work for the State of Texas and I am so
25 fortunate. And to be in this position working closer again

1 with law enforcement -- and all of you know that I spent
2 almost 29 years in the Texas DPS and retired as a major --
3 this is truly an honor to be in this position to work with
4 all these -- you see these men and women in her today,
5 these task force commanders from all over Texas.

6 And then I know most of them are online right
7 now because of some inclement weather we have been having,
8 but I've been blessed. I've got a great team. I'll assure
9 you, I didn't navigate this by myself, and we've been busy
10 in the last year and the success is based on the 14 people
11 that come to work every day and work with me, and for that,
12 I'm so grateful to them.

13 But anyway, thank all of you for your kind
14 words, and I look forward to the next year. It's going to
15 be fun.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, it is.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All right. We're going to go
19 back to agenda item 11, FY 2021 MVCPA State Auditor's
20 Office report update. This is a briefing only.

21 I'll now turn it over to Jason Gonzalez.

22 MR. GONZALEZ: Good afternoon MVCPA Board
23 members. For the record, I'm Jason Gonzalez. I'm the
24 Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Internal Audit Division
25 director.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon, Jason.

2 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you.

3 In March of 2023, the State Auditor's Office, or
4 SAO, issued an audit report on the Motor Vehicle Crime
5 Prevention Authority processes. The audit found that the
6 MVCPA had processes in place to ensure that it rewarded,
7 administered and monitored grants according to applicable
8 requirements. However, the SAO did report that the MVCPA
9 should strengthen awards administration and monitoring
10 processes to ensure that grant funds are used properly and
11 reimbursements are supported. Also, the SAO reported that
12 the MVCPA should develop policies for its grant management
13 and tracking systems.

14 Since the SAO's report issuance, the Texas
15 Department of Motor Vehicles Internal Audit team has
16 tracked recommendation implementation with the assistance
17 of the MVCPA staff. During the Internal Audit Division's
18 most recent review, the Internal Audit Division and MVCPA
19 management concluded that the SAO recommendations had been
20 implemented.

21 So concerning reimbursement processes, the
22 authority has developed and implemented a thorough review
23 process of applications and related expenditure reports to
24 ensure reimbursements are reasonable and allowable.
25 Additionally, the authority will continually review and

1 adjust processes related to applications and expenditures
2 in a time frame that coincides with submission of biannual
3 plans of operation.

4 Concerning system grant monitoring, the
5 authority will identify and implement a solution for all
6 grant types to be included in the grant monitoring and
7 tracking system and solutions will ensure automation and
8 establish checks to indicate reports have been submitted,
9 reviewed and approved before grant payments can be issued.
10 Additionally, the authority no longer approves or issues
11 Rapid Response Strike Force Grants and all other grants are
12 posted and monitored in GMTS.

13 Concerning system user access, change management
14 and backup and recovery of information systems, the
15 authority has developed and implemented procedures to
16 ensure all users accessing the grant monitoring and
17 tracking system are authorized. Specifically, the approved
18 account management policy requires all accounts to be
19 reviewed at least annually, and the authority has developed
20 and implemented procedures to monitor, document and approve
21 changes made to the grant monitor and tracking system.
22 Finally, the authority monitors, reviews and approves
23 backup and recovery plans from Texas A&M's monitoring and
24 tracking system.

25 Concerning limitation of user access to all

1 systems, the department reviews user access annually to
2 ensure users only have access privileges required for their
3 job duties.

4 And we've reported all of these recommendations
5 as implemented to the SAO.

6 I'd like to thank Director Diggs for his
7 collaboration, and this concludes my presentation. Thank
8 you.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Mr. Gonzalez.

10 MR. GONZALEZ: You're welcome, sir. Thank you.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Are there any questions for Mr.
12 Gonzalez, board members?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, moving on to
15 agenda item 12, MVCPA insurance fee collection process
16 overview. This is a briefing only.

17 We'll turn it over to Daniel Price.

18 MR. DIGGS: William Diggs, director MVCPA, for
19 the record.

20 Mr. Chairman, board members, this presentation
21 Dan is about to do, he actually did it for our GBR
22 Committee meeting back in October and I thought it was an
23 excellent presentation, gives very good informational
24 thoughts on how we navigate collection of the insurance
25 fees. And he and his team did a great job putting this

1 together, and I wanted all of you to understand what it
2 takes to navigate the collections of the MVCPA fees through
3 the Comptroller's Office, working with TDI and then also
4 with the insurance industry.

5 So I just wanted you to know. Some of you have
6 heard it before, but I wanted him to come back and repeat
7 the conversation, and then he's got a little more
8 information as well at the end.

9 So, Dan, I'm glad that you're able to be here
10 today and do this again.

11 MR. PRICE: Thank you. So that was a great
12 opening, I appreciate it.

13 So as was discussed earlier, MVCPA is funded
14 through a biennial appropriation from the State of Texas
15 General Fund. The MVCPA fee, there's about a thousand
16 insurers in the State of Texas that are required to pay the
17 fee on policies that they write related to motor vehicle
18 insurance. The fee is due twice a year, once on March 1
19 and then also on August 1. The collections are posted in
20 the fiscal year that they are actually received, so if
21 somebody is delinquent, that pushes them into the following
22 fiscal year.

23 Based on the Texas Transportation Code 1006.153,
24 the fee is \$5 and it's multiplied by the total number of
25 motor vehicle years of insurance or partial years for

1 insurance policies delivered, issued for delivery or
2 renewed by the insurer.

3 Also, out of each fee collected, one dollar is
4 taken off the top and directly deposited into the General
5 Revenue Fund for SB 224. The remaining 80 percent is
6 divided up 20 percent appropriated for MVCPA, 20 percent
7 for the general appropriation to be used for criminal
8 justice purposes only, and 60 percent is designated for the
9 trauma facility and emergency medical services under
10 account section 780.003.

11 Forms and payments are remitted to the Texas
12 Comptroller of Public Accounts. The Comptroller maintains
13 all of the accounting records regarding each taxpayer's
14 account. For us we do have an interagency agreement with
15 them to do this work.

16 They also send two reminders to fee payers who
17 have not filed forms or made payments when they are due.
18 After that, we request a report from the CPA which is
19 provided to the MVCPA that shows all the payments and notes
20 who has not filed and those who have not paid the fee.

21 The Comptroller's report, when it's received, we
22 will send a reminder notice to non-filers letting them know
23 that their filing is not received. We wait then a minimum
24 of 30 days -- with COVID it was extended, but a minimum of
25 30 days for them to be able to process any forms that they

1 are now delinquent on. At that point we get another report
2 from the CPA; we try to determine who are in some form of
3 restructuring, such as bankruptcy or reorganization.

4 The second letter is then sent, this time via
5 certified mail, return receipt requested, and that's needed
6 for the administrative actions that will come later if
7 they're non-compliant. The letter outlines the
8 consequences of not being compliant, including potential
9 loss of their insurance license in the State of Texas.

10 After waiting a minimum of 30 days for that
11 letter to be processed, we then put together a package of
12 all of the correspondence, all of the communications to
13 these insurance companies that are still showing up as non-
14 compliant, and we send it to the Texas Department of
15 Insurance with a request for enforcement. TDI looks at the
16 list and they will take action on insurance companies that
17 meet their standards for enforcement. Depending on what
18 reporting they're receiving, whether they're in bankruptcy
19 status or reorganization, liquidation, trustee, whatever,
20 they will look at those items and then determine who they
21 can and take enforcement action against.

22 Regulations have been enacted to add penalties
23 for late payment and non-filers, thanks to y'all. And that
24 has helped us to a large degree to increase our compliance,
25 although we still have a lot of folks who do not comply.

1 Any requests for penalties or waivers for those
2 fees come to MVCPA for approval. December a year ago you
3 approved the director to handle the lesser dollar amount
4 requests, so he will approve or reject those requests. Any
5 larger ones would come to you in the board meeting.

6 In 2024, we had a good year and we were able to
7 collect in excess of \$40,930,605 in previously unreported
8 fees, penalties and interest from various insurance
9 companies for periods from 2020 through the first half of
10 2023. We've never done more than a million dollars in the
11 past, so we did a good job last year.

12 The next steps. MVCPA has identified six
13 companies who bill between \$72,000 and \$1,490,325 per motor
14 vehicle year per vehicle, so a million dollars for a one-
15 year vehicle insurance policy, a million and a half
16 dollars. We are looking into what that might be.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's one million for like
18 insurance for one vehicle?

19 MR. PRICE: Yes. You know, I was half joking,
20 but I made a comment to Mr. Richards saying, you know, they
21 do move the space shuttle once in a while between museums
22 and I could see that they might need a policy that would be
23 quite sizable -- but literally per vehicle per year. So I
24 think that company may have five vehicles and their policy
25 cost is a million five apiece.

1 So we're trying to determine the nature of those
2 policies. We've been told they're proprietary. We are
3 working with TDI and others to try and figure out whether
4 somebody is just reporting one to start the clock, if you
5 will, on a statute of limitations or whether it truly is a
6 million and a half dollar insurance policy.

7 So those are the types of things, one of the
8 things that we're working on to try to and improve
9 compliance is to look at these statistical outliers and
10 what is happening with these statical outliers.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: What is the preliminary
12 information that we have on these vehicles? Are they like
13 exotic vehicles?

14 MR. PRICE: They are telling us that it's
15 proprietary and they're refusing to provide us with the
16 information at this point.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Really? Wow. We're going to
18 have to find out what it is.

19 MR. PRICE: Oh, absolutely. David has been
20 working diligently with us, corresponding with these
21 people. They ask what the nature of the information we
22 wanted was, we sent them the request, and crickets, you
23 know. So we're going to be focusing more on these types of
24 folks.

25 But additionally, MVCPA has identified 31

1 companies who reported total motor vehicle premiums of \$255
2 million and didn't pay a dime in fees in 2033.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And they collected it.

4 MR. PRICE: We don't know if they collected it,
5 we just know that they are reporting to Texas Department of
6 Insurance that they are writing automotive insurance
7 policies with a total premium of \$255 million, yet they are
8 saying they do not owe the fee, or they're ignoring us, one
9 of the two.

10 MS. BROTHERTON: Dan.

11 MR. PRICE: Yes, ma'am.

12 MS. BROTHERTON: Sorry. Member Brotherton.

13 Do we have a list of those six companies and the
14 other 31 companies that are in these two brackets of
15 outliers?

16 MR. PRICE: Yes, we do.

17 MS. BROTHERTON: Okay. Is that private
18 information that I can get later or is that something we
19 can speak of in the board meeting?

20 MR. PRICE: I'm sure that the information is
21 available to you, but I would have to clear it through
22 David Richards and William first.

23 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, David Richards,
24 general counsel, for the record.

25 Member Brotherton, let us reach out to you

1 offline, if that's okay.

2 MS. BROTHERTON: Okay.

3 MR. RICHARDS: Would that work for you?

4 MS. BROTHERTON: That would be great.

5 MR. RICHARDS: Wonderful. Thank you.

6 MR. PRICE: So moving on, again, there's a lot
7 of low-hanging fruit, if you will, that we need to
8 evaluate.

9 Clarissa Rodriguez, who was added to the staff
10 shortly after Mr. Diggs came onboard, came from the
11 Comptroller's Office. She's been invaluable in her
12 contribution in navigating some of these items.

13 When I gave this presentation previously, Major
14 Jones felt that we had been doing a good job. We still
15 feel that in previous years we had requested additional
16 personnel to help with this effort. She told us to ask for
17 what we felt we needed, and what we feel we can utilize at
18 the moment would be to request two additional staff during
19 the 90th Legislative Session to improve insurance company
20 compliance with paying the fee.

21 The examination of the records maintained by the
22 CPA indicates there's at least \$15 million a year not being
23 properly collected. Also, many requests for refunds by
24 insurers in fees have not been calculated correctly, and we
25 can frequently look at, again, just the remittances and we

1 know, based on the size of policies and the number of
2 policies written that what they're remitted to us and
3 reported cannot be correct, statistically speaking.

4 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton again. I am
5 so sorry. You know, this is always going to be my hot
6 topic.

7 What was the amount that we have not collected
8 again?

9 MR. PRICE: We know it's a minimum of \$15
10 million. Again, that's a statistical estimate. Again, we
11 collected \$40 million just in 2024, almost \$41 million.

12 You know, we do think that there are people who
13 are habitually determining that they don't owe the fee, and
14 there's a lot of technicality around what they're trying to
15 explain. And again, David Richards is helping us to
16 navigate some of those discussions. It could be
17 significantly more, but we know that there's a minimum of
18 \$15 million a year, statistically speaking, that's not
19 being collected.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Also, the \$254 million that
21 these companies are reporting, not even counting those fees
22 that we're not collecting in those \$15 million?

23 MR. PRICE: It would be included in the \$15
24 million.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: In the \$15 million, okay.

1 MR. PRICE: So, again, we spent an hour and a
2 half with Director Diggs on some of the little technical
3 aspects of the way that the law is written for us to
4 collect our money, and then there's been several Attorney
5 General letters.

6 You know, we also handle a large number of
7 citizens that are coming to us about the fee, and the fact
8 of the matter is the way the statute is written, the fee is
9 due from the insurance company. Now, the insurance
10 companies had a lawsuit and went to the Supreme Court of
11 Texas a number of years ago saying that we need to be
12 allowed to recoup that fee from our consumers. That's
13 between them and their consumers. That's not part of the
14 statute.

15 The Supreme Court said yes, you should be
16 allowed to recoup it. So they send them to us and say go
17 talk to them about why you need to pay the fee. They don't
18 need to pay the fee, the company does. So we spend a lot
19 of time on things like that that really, you know, is sort
20 of noise coming from the insurance companies to try and
21 slow us down a little bit, perhaps.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Charla, do you have any other
23 questions?

24 MS. BROTHERTON: Are you asking me specifically
25 if I have any questions?

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Or Scott?

2 MS. BROTHERTON: Oh, yes, but I'll get with them
3 on the sidebar. No reason to take up the whole board. You
4 just know it's a touchy subject for me, I want every dollar
5 collected from insurance companies.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Charla.

7 MR. PRICE: So we do have or we have had an
8 Insurance Committee in the past, I think we probably still
9 do. Charla, I believe you were on that committee, I'll
10 have to go back and check the records.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It was Charla, Kit and I think
12 Julio was in it, but we can bring in Scott.

13 MR. PRICE: Right. So if y'all would like to
14 call a committee meeting, we can certainly discuss to set a
15 committee meeting for the Insurance Committee of the board,
16 if that would be helpful to you, ma'am.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Director Diggs.

18 MR. DIGGS: William Diggs, director MVCPA, for
19 the record.

20 I did want to echo some of what Dan has said
21 today. You know, Dan and Clarissa, and with some
22 assistance at times from his other staff members, have done
23 a phenomenal job in the past 12 months. We were able to go
24 back -- and Dan talked about that almost \$41 million that
25 was collected in back fees, penalty and interest from a few

1 years back, three to four years ago in some situations.
2 And so his team has done a fantastic job.

3 David Richards, right here to my right, did a
4 phenomenal job navigating that with some of the general
5 counsel of some of those insurance companies, you know, and
6 meeting at the Comptroller's Office. We've met at the TDI
7 office and met with some of the counterparts and those that
8 support us over there in the enforcement.

9 We are going to continue to navigate this. We
10 are sending out letters almost monthly to either non-filers
11 or those that we believe have not paid their fair share.
12 And we send out two sets of letters, as Dan said, and you
13 know, we're not going to be bashful about it. We want to
14 do everything that we can do to collect the appropriate
15 fees from all of the insurance companies who are actually
16 selling these motor vehicle policies according to statute
17 and when it's due.

18 What I also want to do is I want to support Dan
19 in his request, and we realize that the 90th Legislative
20 Session is out there a ways. You know, this is how we do
21 it. We need your support on the additional FTEs, then I
22 will navigate it appropriately with the Texas DMV executive
23 office, with the finance department in the Texas DMV, work
24 with Keith Yawn over there, our government and strategic
25 communications director.

1 We'll do all those things the right way and make
2 sure that we have the support from each level of Texas DMV,
3 Texas DMV Board to ask for those additional FTEs during the
4 next legislative session. And this is just touching the
5 surface. You know, we preliminarily think that we would
6 need two. And this is what I told Dan, you know, we might
7 get six or seven months further down the road, we may
8 decide we need three, that we need four. But we're also
9 looking at something similar over in Earl's shop, over in
10 the grants and training section. And so this is just the
11 surface of it.

12 You know, they've done a phenomenal job. We're
13 going to collect doing everything we can. And then also,
14 what I'm looking forward to -- and I've talked to staff
15 about this and Member Brotherton -- what I would love to do
16 is to sit down with you and Member Jackson and have some
17 conversations about possibly going out to some of the
18 insurance industry's conferences that they may be having
19 and let us come out and do some presentations so that we
20 can help educate the insurance industry if there is any
21 just a lack of knowledge, you know, and help some of these
22 folks know when they need to pay and the fact that they
23 have to file regardless.

24 You know, if you have a license -- and David is
25 going to get me here and maybe Dan -- if you have a license

1 to sell a motor vehicle policy in the State of Texas, you
2 have to file regardless if you sell one or not, each six-
3 month period. Anyway, we're actively working on this. I
4 think the guys are doing a phenomenal job, and with that,
5 I'll go ahead and close. I'm in full support of Dan and
6 his request for additional staff and we'll do it the right
7 way with Texas DMV executive leadership.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We don't need to do a motion to
9 request the two?

10 MR. DIGGS: No.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All right. Any other questions
12 for Mr. Dan Price?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Dan.

15 Agenda item 15. Before we move to the next
16 agenda item, I would like to note that we have a public
17 comment listed as agenda item 15. Is there any public
18 comments?

19 MS. FLINT: Mr. Chairman, there are no public
20 comments. Thank you.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

22 Moving on to agenda item 16, adjournment.
23 Unless there's any further business, I would like to
24 entertain a motion to adjourn.

25 MR. SLOAN: Board Member Sloan. I'd make that

1 motion.

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

4 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton. I second.

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

9 Member Jones?

10 MS. JONES: Aye.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

12 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton?

14 MS. BROTHERTON: 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 was unanimous.

23 It is now 1:24 p.m. This meeting is adjourned.

24 (Whereupon, at 1:24 p.m., the meeting was
25 adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

MEETING OF: MVCPA Board
LOCATION: Austin, Texas
DATE: January 22, 2025

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages, numbers 1 through 87, inclusive, are the true, accurate, and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording made by electronic recording by Nancy King before the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

DATE: February 4, 2025

/s/ Nancy H. King
(Transcriber)

On the Record Reporting
7703 N. Lamar Blvd. #515
Austin, Texas 78752