

1
2 Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority
3 Senate Bill 224 Advisory Board Committee Meeting
4 Friday, July 24, 2026
5 10:38 a.m.

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8 Hilton Downtown Fort Worth
9 815 Main Street
10 Fort Worth, Texas 76102

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18 Reported by:
19 Steve Owen, CER/CDR-1232
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APPEARANCES OF COUNSEL

Senate Bill 224 Advisory Committee Board for MVCPA:

Major Sharon Jones-TXDPS, Chair

Ricardo Porras-El Paso Police Department, Member
Mike Sullivan-Texas Governmental Affairs, LLC, Member
Nhatthien Nguyen-Houston Police Department, Member

Robert Carson- Houston Police Department, Member

Josh Martin-TXDPS, Member
Chad Taormina-LKQ Corporation, Member
Todd Foreman-Retired Chief of Police, Member

Staff:
William Diggs, MVCPA
David Richards, MVCPA

Nicole Giles, MVCPA

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1 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: The time is 10:38 a.m. and we
2 will now begin. I apologize for being tardy I had some DPS
3 matters that I had to take care of. I did not have a choice,
4 I apologize for that. I got here as quickly as possible.
5 Good morning my name is Sharon Jones and I'm pleased to open
6 the meeting of the Senate Bill 224 Advisory Committee of the
7 Board on the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority. As I
8 mentioned it is 10:38 a.m. and I am now calling the Advisory
9 Committee meeting for July 24th, 2026 to order. I want to
10 note for the record that the public notice of this meeting
11 containing all items on the agenda was filed with the Office
12 of Secretary of State on July 9th, 2026. Before we begin
13 today's meeting, please place all cell phones and other
14 communication devices in a silent mode. And please as the
15 courtesy to others do not carry on side conversations or
16 other activities in the meeting room. I want to welcome
17 those who are with us for today's Advisory Committee meeting.
18 If you wish to address the Committee or speak on an agenda
19 item during today's meeting please complete a speaker sheet
20 at the registration table. Please identify the specific item
21 you are interested in commenting on, your name and address,
22 and whether you are representing anyone or representing
23 yourself. If your comment does not pertain to a specific
24 agenda item we will take your comment during the general
25 public comment period of the meeting. In accordance with the

1 Department's Administrative Rule comments to the Advisory
2 Committee will be limited to three minutes. To assist each
3 speaker, a staff member will keep time. When addressing the
4 Advisory Committee please state your name and affiliation for
5 the record. There are a few items that will assist in making
6 the meeting run smoother and assist the MVCPA in securing an
7 accurate record. Please identify yourself before speaking,
8 speak clearly and slowly, do not speak over others and please
9 ask the Chair for our permission to speak and be sure to get
10 recognized before speaking. Before we begin today, I'd like
11 to remind our presenters and those in attendance of the rules
12 of conduct at our Advisory Committee meetings. The Advisory
13 Committee Chair has the authority to supervise the conduct of
14 meetings. This includes the authority to determine when a
15 speaker is being disruptive of the meeting or is otherwise
16 violating the timing and presentation rules I just discussed.
17 I will now move to agenda item number 1. Roll call and
18 establishment of quorum. Please respond verbally when I call
19 your name. Please indicate if you are present. Member
20 Carson?

21 ROBERT CARSON-MEMBER: Present.

22 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Member Doran? Member
23 Foreman?

24 TODD FOREMAN-MEMBER: Present.

25 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Member Nguyen?

1 NHATTHIEN NGUYEN-MEMBER: Present.

2 MAJOR SHARON JONES: Member Porras?

3 RICARDO PORRAS-MEMBER: Present.

4 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Member Prentice? Member

5 Rodriguez? Member Martin?

6 JOSH MARTIN-MEMBER: Present.

7 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Member Taormina?

8 CHAD TAORMINA-MEMBER: Present.

9 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: And Member Sullivan?

10 MIKE SULLIVAN-MEMBER: Present.

11 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Let the record reflect that
12 I, Sharon Jones, am present too, we have a quorum. We will
13 now move to agenda item number 2, the pledges. Please be
14 seated. We now move to agenda item number 3. Comment and
15 Announcements from Senate Bill 224 Advisory Committee Chair
16 and MVCPA Director. We have a lot of important matters to
17 cover today. So my comments will come as we go. Mr. Diggs.

18 WILLIAM DIGGS: Good morning. William Diggs, Director,
19 MVCPA. Madam Chair, I don't have any prepared comments
20 today. I'm glad to see everybody back here today. Like
21 Major Jones said, there's a number of things that we need to
22 go over today, and I look forward to the discussion. Thank
23 you.

24 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Members, do you have any
25 comments at this time? Agenda item number 4. Introduction

1 of Senate Bill 224 Advisory Committee attendees. I would
2 like for each of you to take several minutes to introduce
3 yourself to the Advisory Committee attendees as I call your
4 name. I will ask that each of you provide us with some
5 background information on your affiliation or interest in
6 this Advisory Committee. Member Carson?

7 ROBERT CARSON-MEMBER: Yes, ma'am, good morning, my name
8 is Robert Carson. I'm a Sergeant with the Houston Police
9 Department. I supervise our metal theft unit. We're
10 fortunate enough to have a large enough department where I
11 have seven detectives assigned to me. And our investigations
12 deal with investigations of all metal thefts, whether it be
13 copper from the air conditioner, aerial cable wire,
14 underground cable wire. But I have two detectives
15 specifically assigned to inspect scrap yards. Within the
16 city of Houston, there's about 90 scrap yards. They're
17 licensed MRE's through the city, and so we spend a lot of
18 time in these scrap yards looking for catalytic converters
19 and looking for stolen material. I have two detectives that
20 also do jewelry stores, that's primarily what they do. But
21 because of the importance of the catalytic converter theft
22 and the impact it's had on the community throughout the state
23 of Texas and, frankly, across the nation. I have cross
24 trained my two jewelry store folks to do inspections of the
25 scrap yards also. And then I have three investigators who

1 follow up whatever my detectives do. Captain Nguyen, who is
2 my captain at the time when we started the cross training,
3 encouraged us to do that. We saw the impact that this theft,
4 whether it be auto theft and the catalytic converter theft,
5 had on the city. One of the things we found is because of
6 our, I guess. We stay on top of these yards. We meet with
7 them. We see them daily. When we find violations, we cite
8 them, whatever it may be. We think that we're driving this
9 to other areas where the laws less enforced, I guess they
10 don't have the ability to be in the scrapyards every day.
11 Some of these agencies have other things to do, so it's good
12 and bad for us. The good part is we're not finding just tons
13 of catalytic converters sitting in a scrap yard. We have
14 found them. We have done some undercover stings to where
15 trying to sell them and we have scrap yards refusing to buy
16 them. So that-- that is a good thing for us. I'm not saying
17 everyone's legit, because they're not. But we also had to
18 look at we can't demonize an industry. So we were walking a
19 very fine line in that. So thank y'all.

20 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Member Foreman?

21 TODD FOREMAN-MEMBER: Good afternoon, Todd Foreman.
22 First off, I'm sorry I can't be there in person. I had some
23 other family commitments to make, though I had to be on the
24 Teams meeting. I'm a retired Chief of Police out of
25 Virginia. I'm also the chair of the crime prevention

1 committee with the International Association of Chiefs of
2 Police. And I am third vice president of the Southeast
3 International Association of Auto Theft Investigators. I
4 retired as the chief of police about four years ago. When I
5 retired, I went to work for, it was at the time ISRI,
6 Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries. Now it is ReMA, the
7 Recycled Materials Association. I work with the recyclers
8 across the country in the US tech across the whole United
9 States, working with them on all metals, everything from
10 catalytic converters, copper, aluminum, anything that could
11 be stolen or sold improperly. So I work with the recyclers
12 and law enforcement across the country, helping to train law
13 enforcement and helping to build relationships between the
14 recycling industry and the law enforcement. And I'll talk
15 about that more later and how we can stop theft and cut
16 through our collaborations. And I also instruct law
17 enforcement at times on how to do exactly what Sergeant
18 Carson does on working with the inspections of the recyclers
19 to go in and help find the ones that aren't acting properly
20 so that we can stop the theft of these materials. It's,
21 yeah, I work all across country doing that and working with
22 them to make sure they're in compliance. Thank you.

23 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Thank you sir. Member
24 Nguyen?

25 NHATTHIEN NGUYEN-MEMBER: Thank you, madam. I'm

1 Nhatthien Nguyen. Captain with Houston Police Department.
2 I'm currently assigned to Auto Theft Division. Prior to that
3 I worked with Sergeant Carson in property financial crime.
4 And I believe that having a continuity knowledge is very
5 important. So try to transition to Auto Theft. We work very
6 closely with the critical infrastructure task force, which
7 I'm still a member, and they deal with the same thing that we
8 face. They have copper theft issue and also part of it also
9 catalytic converter theft. So having great members like
10 Sergeant Carson has been very helpful. Not only that with my
11 prior experience I look at the legislation as part of a big
12 boost for it. As I, we just have a meeting this month with
13 the critical infrastructure and the copper theft issues.
14 Huge issue in California, because the legislation is so less
15 compared to ours. So the similarly I want to push. Ours is
16 very good with the Senate Bill 224, which make it tougher.
17 Even possessing the catalytic converter without providing
18 ownership can be a crime where as before it was not. So
19 having that legislature support from the legislature is very
20 important. So being a member SB 224 I intend to do the same
21 thing in that aspect. Thank you.

22 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: You're welcome sir, thank
23 you. Member Porras?

24 RICARDO PORRAS-MEMBER: Morning, everyone. My name is
25 Ricardo Porras. I go by Rick. I'm the task force commander

1 and program director of the El Paso Police Department's Auto
2 Theft Task Force. Been assigned to that role within the
3 department for 13 years. Been with the department going on
4 31 years. But our program consists of, I guess, in El Paso
5 is we do catalytic, aside from our task force activities,
6 just specifically pertaining, I guess, to SB 224. We do
7 catalytic converter investigations, metal recycling entity
8 regulatory and education inspections. We work very closely
9 with Texas DPS regulatory. We conduct a lot of cat VIN
10 etching events. We do a lot of public awareness
11 presentations and displays when it comes to catalytic
12 converters. We do presentations to law enforcement officers.
13 We conduct catalytic bait vehicle operations, conduct warrant
14 roundups of catalytic converter thieves. And we also conduct
15 southbound bridge operations for catalytic converters, I
16 guess, being crossed into Mexico. I've been here since
17 Chairman Sharon Jones invited me for a couple of years now.
18 It's been a pleasure knowing her, and she's going to be a
19 great loss when she leaves. Thank you.

20 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: You're welcome sir. Thank
21 you for the kind words. Member Martin?

22 JOSH MARTIN-MEMBER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good
23 morning. My name is Josh Martin. I'm a Compliance
24 Enforcement Specialist with the Regulatory Services Division
25 at DPS. I help manage the Texas Metals Program, and I work

1 closely with the field investigators that go out and inspect
2 the metal recycling entities. But as far as Senate Bill 224
3 goes, our focus remains on ensuring that these metal
4 recycling entities are operating within the rules and laws
5 when it comes to catalytic converters, copper, any of the
6 regulated metals. So we do that through routine inspections
7 out at these locations. And I think we've had quite a few
8 success stories throughout this past year working closely
9 with local law enforcement across the state. Being part of
10 MVCPA and being able to collaborate with the members here
11 helped on that front. And I look forward to continuing that
12 relationship. Thank you.

13 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: You're welcome sir. Thank
14 you. Member Taormina?

15 CHAD TAORMINA-MEMBER: Thank you, morning. My name is
16 Chad Taormina. I work for the LKQ Corporation as well as
17 serving for the Legislative Chair for the Texas Automotive
18 Recyclers Association. I've been in the industry 23 years. I
19 run a salvage yard here in New Braunfels. Some of you have
20 been to on tours. We do the end of life vehicles as well as
21 catalytic converters, recycle catalytic converters, and
22 ultimately sell to the MRE's. We've been facing some
23 challenges here locally, not just with catalytic converters
24 for theft of individuals, but our fleet has been hit several
25 times. We have an Isuzu box truck, so they're very

1 accessible to catalytic converters, very chopped off and
2 steal. So this theft is still there, and we're doing what we
3 can here at the recycling centers to help, but I'm glad to be
4 on the advisory board committee.

5 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Thank you sir. And now our
6 brand new member, Mike Sullivan.

7 MIKE SULLIVAN-MEMBER: Yes, ma'am, thank you, and have a
8 little bit of a scratchy throat this morning, so forgive me,
9 Major. Thank you for working with me on the interview
10 process to help get me here. Mr. Richards, it's always a
11 pleasure to work with you. Thank you for the background
12 material and prepping me and getting me ready so that I can
13 be here today. To other advisory committee members, I look
14 forward to working with you and being part of the process. I
15 don't want to leave out Mr. Diggs. I told him that I saw him
16 give his presentation on MVCPA at the Texas Tax Assessor-
17 Collectors Association meeting in Waco. And I felt like that
18 was a really good briefing for me coming into this. So you
19 are proud of the work that's being done at the Authority, and
20 you should be, because it's certainly grown and does a lot of
21 good across the state. About myself, I made a couple of
22 notes. I have a long history of public policy and public
23 service. Not to brag, former Houston City council member,
24 former Harris County tax assessor- collector, currently board
25 chair of the Lone Star College system, vice president of the

1 100 Club, which is strongly supportive of law enforcement
2 with respect to equipment and assistance at most needy time
3 of first responders. And 100 Club of Houston is much bigger
4 than Houston. We serve law enforcement and first responders
5 in 20 counties, if you will. We support DPS and game wardens
6 across the state regardless of where they are stationed. And
7 we're very proud of that, and I'm proud of that. With Group
8 1 Automotive as director of governmental affairs for nine
9 years, where I was responsible for public policy in 17
10 different states as well as working with National
11 Associations in the automotive industry. I left Group 1 in
12 December, started on governmental affairs firm January 1st,
13 headquartered in Houston with an office in Austin. I attend
14 Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Board meetings on a
15 regular basis to monitor what's going on in the franchise and
16 independent automotive industries. I am fortunate to serve
17 on a couple of DMV advisory committees, and I toured, this
18 was a real eye opening experience for me, toured the MRE in
19 San Marcos. And I think one of our committee members may be
20 with that company and if he is, it was a great tour, and I
21 saw cradle to grave, if you will, and the volume of catalytic
22 converters that are going through these facilities is
23 staggering. And I just had no idea. So Major, once again,
24 thank you. To my colleagues here, look forward to working
25 with you.

1 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Thank you and welcome. Now
2 move on to agenda item number 5, Senate Bill 224 committee
3 meeting in San Marcos. Just a quick recap. As I said, we
4 have a lot to discuss. On January 15th in San Marcos we
5 discussed the relationship between auto theft, catalytic
6 converter theft, and other motor vehicle related crimes, the
7 relationship between those and automatic license plate
8 readers. We also discussed several success stories and the
9 impact that license plate readers have on protecting the
10 citizens of Texas, assisting law enforcement as an additional
11 tool to capture whether someone who just robbed someone from
12 the grocery store or as they're leaving a bank they follow
13 them, they take their hard-earned money just because they
14 can. We also talked a lot about just the different crimes
15 itself and going across state lines into different states and
16 the importance of making sure that we have to keep the
17 automatic license plate program growing. It is to protect
18 Texas. So we'll talk a lot more about that. We'll have a
19 larger conversation regarding the need to educate the public,
20 and we must put a stamp on those who are spreading false
21 information on license plate readers. We will now move on
22 to, pardon me. Before I move on to agenda item number 6,
23 based on what I just said on number 5, is there any
24 discussion or questions? I couldn't tell if you were going
25 to say yes.

1 NHATTHIEN NGUYEN-MEMBER: Yes, I just want to thank you
2 for bringing up the fact that now criminals bring the theft
3 across state lines. So in our presentation, including our
4 discussion, and I want to talk more about that because I know
5 other states. We even have cases that go to Fort Louisiana,
6 and the law is a lot less strict than at home so we can work
7 with them. I think that'd be great idea to have that
8 cooperation among different agency.

9 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Any other members? Member
10 Taormina, did you have an issue an additional issue with your
11 fleet of vehicles? I think in San Marcos or the Austin area.

12 CHAD TAORMINA-MEMBER: Austin several times and then
13 recently San Antonio. And in Austin, the prosecution thing,
14 they're getting out and ultimately we caught them twice, same
15 folks. So it's just more of along the lines of they know
16 that they're getting released and going to continue with the
17 activity.

18 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Okay, thank you. Agenda item
19 number 6 is Senate Bill 224 Plan of Operation and Discussion.
20 And I will turn this agenda item over to Mr. Diggs.

21 WILLIAM DIGGS: William Diggs, MVCPA Director.
22 Currently, the SB224 partner agencies, which consist of the
23 Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, the Texas Department of
24 Public Safety, and the Texas Department of Licensing and
25 Regulations, we meet quarterly. We discuss unmet needs,

1 budgeting trends related to catalytic converter theft. And
2 also we discuss everything that's related to criminal
3 investigations that can be discussed, as well as inspections,
4 regulatory inspections that the different agencies are doing,
5 as well as enhancements to improve reporting for catalytic
6 converter concerns around the state, rather than concerns
7 dealerships or repair locations or metal recycling or the
8 auto parts themselves. So we've, we have some very robust
9 conversations. It's been a very good couple of years, almost
10 two and a half years now that we've been having these
11 meetings. I believe we will continue to have them. We have
12 a number of divisions involved from Texas DMV, including our
13 enforcement division, our vehicle titles and regulations
14 division, as well as our technology division. Over on the
15 Texas DPS side, we have our homeland security division
16 involved, regulatory services division, and then the criminal
17 investigations division involved. So we feel like that we're
18 touching every part of the oversight that is provided by
19 state government as it relates to catalytic converter theft.
20 And again, we all remember in the spirit of this, which was
21 not to hamper the normal, legitimate process of business.
22 You know, that's not what any of us want to do, but we want
23 to make sure that the bad actors around the state are getting
24 the message. And we are doing our part to make sure that
25 they don't have an easy time of moving catalytic converters

1 in the state of Texas. I think we heard yesterday, it's
2 either yesterday or the day before, from one of the agencies
3 that they felt like that possibly some of these folks have
4 gotten a message so much here in the state of Texas that now
5 they're trying to move the catalytic converters out of Texas,
6 right? Rather if that's in New Mexico or north and east and
7 west across Texas borders into other states. So I feel like
8 that we've made some, we've gotten where we need to be. I
9 know we've had some conversations. There's still some things
10 that we need to do, I believe, to help support possible
11 further legislation, and I know you've got a legislative
12 update that you want to talk about today, so I look forward
13 to hearing about that. But my hat's off to everybody and to
14 this committee for the things that you've done to help push
15 that along and the support that all of you have provided, and
16 to include some of our members that are not here today. So
17 anyway, I will pause there and take any questions.

18 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Any questions for Director
19 Diggs? Comments? We will now move on to agenda item number
20 7, Law Enforcement Update. And that will be presented by
21 Captain Nhatthien Nguyen with the Houston Police Department.

22 NHATTHIEN NGUYEN-MEMBER: Thank you, madam. I will
23 present this issue along with some Bob Carson, with the five
24 main topic that we have. One is the issue that we're facing,
25 the training issue with the increase in theft. Second is the

1 resource that we have to fight the problem, and third is the
2 cause of it. And Bob will talk about the operation side
3 along with some of the proposal that we think that should
4 happen. Do we have a slide? Thank you. There we go. Oh,
5 there you see. Just the second slide. All right. Our task
6 force is make up of the auto theft division and also we have
7 property financial crime metal theft unit led by Sergeant Bob
8 Carson. And we deal with the investigation side and Bob also
9 do investigation, but he worked a lot with the DPS in terms
10 of inspecting the scraps metal that house these copper, I'm
11 sorry, these are catalytic converters. And with the help of
12 the SB 224 and the MVCPA. Okay, you can see this year we have
13 a big increase in the catalytic converter theft compared to
14 last year. And as I mentioned earlier, we believe a lot of
15 these theft being transported to outside of our state because
16 the fact that house law is more stringent than other state.
17 So that's one of the reason I said earlier that we need to
18 work more closely with these other state in terms of labor
19 relations along with their law. And with the fund that we
20 have with you for our investigation, invest in our ALPR
21 camera, and I agree with Sharon that we need to keep that,
22 continue to head that program because it's very important for
23 us, especially when these criminals go across the state line,
24 that's the only way we can capture the information. And this
25 year the funding we have, we ask for a little bit less

1 because we don't really have to increase the equipment that
2 we have bought, so we have us a little bit less, but we still
3 need the funding to continue with the program operation that
4 we currently have. And as you can see for the slide,
5 especially in May of this year, we have 232% increase
6 compared to last year. And we believe the root cause of it
7 is the price of the precious metal, especially palladium and
8 rhodium. It has been hovering around \$8,000 to \$10,000 this
9 year. So these criminals, they have a cost benefit analysis,
10 so if the cost of doing business is less than what they make,
11 they will continue to do so. That's the reason we have a big
12 increase in these catalytic converter theft. And I will turn
13 over the operation side and Bob will talk about the operation
14 and the proposed resolution.

15 ROBERT CARSON-MEMBER: I'm sorry, Robert Carson again,
16 Houston P.D. These are some of the cars that we're seeing
17 that the catalytic converters are being cut off of here
18 recently. I am 100% convinced if you were to go to an AI
19 program, whatever it is, and you said, give me a graph of the
20 price of rhodium for the last five years, and then you take
21 your municipality or city's stat for the last five years
22 catalytic converter theft, and I think they would parallel
23 one another. The folks we are dealing with, they are they
24 are onto it, they know when to sell. They know they're
25 stealing them constantly. And member Prentice, who is not

1 here today, who's one of the managing partners of Techemet,
2 where they process catalytic converters, they are in
3 Pasadena, Texas, they have the smelters, they extract the
4 metals out of these things. I was jokingly asking them, I
5 said, are you-- about three months ago around in May, there
6 was a large spike and catalytic converter thefts in the city
7 of Houston. And when you looked at the price of rhodium,
8 rhodium went from about \$7,400 an ounce to \$11,400 an ounce.
9 So I jokingly asked them, are you getting a bunch of dusty
10 catalytic converters now? Because we know our thieves are
11 hiding them somewhere until they can maximize their profit.
12 Whether it be the thieves or the scrap yards that are taking
13 them in illegally. So we are seeing that, but if you look at
14 this list, I mean, it's a comprehensive list, I mean, it's
15 every type of vehicle, it's just not Toyota or Honda, it's
16 everything, so that's just wanted to put that out there.
17 We're catching them cutting, we're catching them cutting
18 during the day, it's not necessarily just a nighttime crime
19 anymore. We had-- we arrested three at a Costco on a
20 Saturday morning at 10 a.m. right when Costco opened. So
21 they're doing it wherever they think they can make money, do
22 it very quickly and get out of there thinking. I explained
23 to Mr. Richards that I was working a job and I walked out and
24 they end up arresting three people for cutting catalytic
25 converters, but these guys were using a lawn blower to

1 disguise the sound of the cutting. And then they just got
2 their timing off a little bit, so I was able to arrest them
3 all. So that's what we're dealing with in Houston. This
4 right here, if you look at this picture, this was posted on
5 Grizzy's Hood News. I don't know if y'all are familiar with
6 Grizzy's Hood News. It's a lady in Houston who started this,
7 this podcast and website. People send her all kinds of
8 videos and all kinds of pictures such as this from Instagram
9 or wherever it's at. Kid holding us all that money, and it
10 says "a saw changed my life." That same saw changed somebody
11 else's life also. It affected them personally, financially,
12 probably their business, so this is the mentality we're
13 dealing with when we're we're doing it. So just keep that in
14 mind, use our social media platforms, and I speak about
15 Grizzy's Hood News. I was asked to go on. She does a
16 podcast, and I was asked to go on and do it. I've done two
17 podcasts with her. I got a call and they asked me to come on
18 there, and I gave the standard, I have to go through my
19 department, get my permissions, and then I hung up the phone
20 and called my daughter and said, hey, what's a podcast? I
21 just didn't know, so we have to be willing to keep up with
22 the times and get that information out to the public, no
23 matter how we do it, through public service announcements,
24 through billboards, through podcasts, and she has become very
25 popular. Actually, she just signed a partnership deal with

1 one of our major news agencies in Houston. So when we did
2 the second podcast, when we went live, she showed me her data
3 platform, 17,000 people were listening. We were able to
4 reach 17,000 in that short period of time. And some of the
5 things we talk about, we preach about, was see something, say
6 something. If you see it, call us. Don't-- we don't want
7 folks to step in there and do it and get our-- let us do
8 that, that's our job, not to get hurt but to catch them. And
9 I call it one of our greatest successful failures, is we did
10 have somebody call in, they saw something that didn't look
11 right, luckily our patrol units, who got there very quickly,
12 and it turned out to be a legitimate thing these people were
13 doing, so we didn't make an arrest, but the success in that
14 story was because of our public service awareness campaigns
15 is somebody saw and somebody picked up the phone. Not sure
16 that that would have happened before, but I think we've been
17 very fortunate in that area. So again, this is kind of a
18 brief overview of what we do, and I think looking at the
19 third dot on there where it talks about we found no evidence
20 of illegal activity, I could have probably worded that
21 differently. I think we have found a illegal activity.
22 We're not finding piles of catalytic converters, we are
23 finding other things as well. That affords us to get in that
24 scrapyard and look for other things where we just don't go in
25 there with blinders on looking for catalytic converters only,

1 we're looking for other things. One of the things we do is I
2 meet with all the telecommunication electric providers in the
3 city of Houston monthly, and what I've done is I do a show
4 and tell, bring in your most stolen equipment. Let us see
5 it, so when my guys-- and we invite law enforcement agencies
6 from all over-- so when my guys are walking through a scrap
7 yard, they see it, they know it shouldn't be there
8 automatically, and then the investigation really kicks off.
9 So we partner with DPS, Harris County, Montgomery County,
10 everybody around us. We get calls from other states, we get
11 calls-- I'm on Todd Foreman with the ReMA group, I'm on his
12 National Law Enforcement Advisory Board also. So we just had
13 a conference and we preach to the industry, we were able to
14 speak directly to the industry about catalytic converter
15 thefts and about how one or two or three or four, whatever
16 the number is, bad actors are given the whole industry a bad
17 name. And the industry itself there-- a lot of these are
18 publicly traded corporations, I mean, they're making money
19 legitimately and they don't want these folks in their group,
20 and so we get scrap yards calling us on other scrapyards, so
21 we've been very fortunate, and that's that aspect. And if
22 you don't know, Texas DPS, they have inspectors that will
23 come work with your agency if you don't have somebody, if you
24 you don't inspect a scrapyard because you're not
25 knowledgeable about it, you haven't done it or you're, you

1 know, kind of scares you off a little bit, call DPS. They
2 will come to your agency and they will come out there and
3 show you how to do it, they will walk through it with you,
4 they will teach you-- you'll be surprised what you find in
5 scrapyard. Our recommendation, one of them, is we have to
6 partner better with our bordering states, because we believe,
7 because of our enforcement efforts, we are pushing it away,
8 we're pushing it out of the state. They're going to places
9 where it's very less regulated. We want to catch them
10 without a doubt, but some of them are making it to Louisiana
11 or Oklahoma or Florida, and it's a big business, it's not a
12 little business. I think one of the best things we do is
13 partner. And on a personal note, I want to close, make sure
14 I don't have another slide here. Our public awareness
15 campaign, just like I talked about, I want to close on this.
16 I sat last night, and this is a personal comment, I sat last
17 night at the awards ceremony and I listened to the awards. I
18 listened to one young detective got an award for investigator
19 of the year, he recovered personally \$3.5 million dollars in
20 stolen material, stolen cars, and all I could think about
21 was, you know, we are literally walking in the footprints of
22 giants, there are some guys that are studs in auto theft
23 investigations in this group. And this conference, the
24 partnerships, the everything we're doing, we're building the
25 new giants. That's what this group allows us to do, we're

1 training the new generation to take over for the guys. And it
2 really struck me hard last night, I don't know why, but it
3 did. So we appreciate everything the MVCPA does. Chief
4 Rodriguez spoke last night and he said the MVCPA board will
5 do everything in their power to help you. And I want to let
6 y'all know that Houston police will also-- were available.
7 And that the Senate Bill 224 committee is also available to
8 help in any way possible. Thank you for your time.

9 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Thank you, sir. Any
10 comments?

11 WILLIAM DIGGS: Madam Chair, William Diggs, Director
12 MVCPA. So Bob, thank you for the report. I was curious
13 because you mentioned something, that this ain't just a
14 nighttime crime on the on the sawing off these catalytic
15 converters, you're seeing them during the daytime. I'm
16 curious, are the daytime crimes, I would suspect, are they
17 more the higher profile vehicles, the trucks, the commercial
18 vehicles, to where they're under them quickly and out from
19 under them and gone?

20 ROBERT CARSON-MEMBER: I think they're higher up
21 vehicles, more SUV type, everything we've seen, because they
22 can just park right beside it, roll out of their car, roll
23 right under, zap zap, and they're rolling back in their car.
24 And usually when we do catch them, there are other catalytic
25 converters already in there where they've hit before. This

1 it wasn't the first time they were doing it that day, that's
2 what we found.

3 WILLIAM DIGGS: Thank you.

4 NHATTHIEN NGUYEN-MEMBER: May add to what your question,
5 they also target area when it's cluster of vehicles. We
6 recently work the shuttle bus in the medical center when the
7 10 of them was there at the same time, so they get the best
8 bang for the buck whenever they do it, beside the fact that
9 it's higher up vehicle.

10 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Major Carson, I do you agree
11 with something or you're saying that our crimes are going to
12 other states and we are Texas proud and all of us can find a
13 way to combat that and stop it from flowing over. Because I
14 go to other states and do a lot of presentations. I travel
15 throughout the United States and I do not like hearing like,
16 oh this happened in Texas, this came from Texas, it's not a
17 good look for Texas, and we are Texas proud, so we need to
18 figure out a way to make sure that we take care of Texas and
19 those beyond our borders.

20 ROBERT CARSON-MEMBER: Yes ma'am, I agree. I think we
21 need to rely on the industry to teach us, too. A lot of
22 times we think we know a lot, where they know the in's and
23 out's, so partnering with LKQ, partnering with Techemet, and
24 all the some of the scrapyard industry with Todd Foreman with
25 ReMA. We learn a lot, and so then, while we're here, what we

1 learn we need to go back and teach our officers. A lot of
2 them don't have the benefit of coming to some of this
3 training, so we need to make sure that we're going back and
4 telling and preaching what we've learned and, because a lot
5 of times, our patrol officers are the first one there. So we
6 need to teach them what's the next step, and I think we've
7 done that within our department very, very good. We just
8 need to continue to do that.

9 CHAD TAORMINA-MEMBER: I have a comment and question.

10 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Yes sir.

11 CHAD TAORMINA-MEMBER: It's Chad Taormina again, LKQ,
12 Texas Automotive Recyclers. Quick question for Mr. Carson
13 before I do, I like to add a comment on our industry
14 struggles and challenges right now. We have a high volume
15 number of crushers or mobile crushers that will set up at
16 MRE's. They will advertise social media, I'm sure a lot of
17 you've seen no title no problem. They will get these
18 vehicles in and you know pay the consumer. We've got some
19 video and some evidence of them shredding the vehicle,
20 literally taking the motor out with a grapppler as well as
21 cutting the catalytic converters. But you know, quick
22 question for you guys, do you see these mobile crushers, do
23 you on the inspections? What kind of determination between
24 that crusher? Because what we're finding is these crushers
25 are not affiliated with the MRE's, like I said, they're

1 mobile, advertising and using the MRE's to crush these
2 vehicles and to get the proceeds, and then ultimately, that
3 cars crushed and then, you know, never see this vehicle again
4 either in a scrapyard or in our side of the business.

5 ROBERT CARSON-MEMBER: So when we do see those, we're
6 bringing DPS in to start looking at titles, what
7 documentation they have for the vehicles they have crushed.
8 We're relying, we use their expertise in working with the
9 DMV, following up on the paperwork. Was it legitimately
10 sold? And that's how we start that investigation and then we
11 continue it once we can.

12 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Any additional questions,
13 comments? Great presentation, Houston P.D. We will now move
14 on to agenda item number 8. Possible Legislative Topics for
15 the 90th Legislative Session that starts in January of 2027.
16 I have done research, which we all know what the problem is.
17 We know the issue, there is do we have Senate Bill 224, and
18 we're very appreciative of it. We also have an issue at
19 times with prosecution, there those who commit the crime,
20 dependent on where, they are in and out. But also, part of
21 the issue is if those that you catch, if you have one person
22 and he has 2,000 catalytic converters in the back of that
23 truck, when it is entered into TCIC, which is called a Texas
24 Crime Information Center, when it's entered in there, it is
25 on the entered as one. And the issue for that is they're not

1 marked, and you have there's no serial numbers on the
2 catalytic converters. So if you take the official reporting
3 numbers from crime records, they're very low. And our very
4 first meeting we discuss marking those converters, and I
5 admitted then I was very surprised at the pushback we
6 received because to those in law enforcement, and this is the
7 beauty of having this committee with so many different
8 representatives from the auto industry, like to law
9 enforcement it was very simple to us, put serial numbers
10 there. And then the counter from those in the auto industry,
11 the counter was if we mark them at the factory, which that's
12 what law enforcement, that's in our minds that makes sense to
13 us, but the industry says if we mark them at the industry and
14 we have a bunch of stack a box that are dedicated to be
15 shipped to Beaumont, and then somewhere along the way that
16 shipment is going to be redirected to Chicago, then the issue
17 for them is, you just, we have to mark for Texas, for
18 Beaumont, but now they're going someplace else. So that
19 became a lot of logistics for the auto industry. But there's
20 no way to identify them if you stop a car and they have one,
21 three, five, who does that catalytic converter belong to?
22 You need someone to claim it, there has to be a victim, like
23 who does it belong to, and so that is the issue and we've
24 known that, we've known that for a while, so I am interested
25 to hear your thoughts on what needs to be done, it's we can

1 say have a database, we can we can have a database, you can
2 say, well, Texas Department of Public Safety have a database,
3 but at the end of the day we still have to have some type of
4 marking to identify those stolen catalytic converters. Yes,
5 sir.

6 WILLIAM DIGGS: William Diggs, Director of MVCPA. And I
7 know you saw my finger, I was ready to push the button,
8 right? So here's my thoughts on it. I realize coming from a
9 law enforcement background, we can't enter it into stolen,
10 right, we're not going to be able to run TCIC, NCIC on it,
11 but what I would say is Texas DPS already has that
12 relationship, reporting already comes to the Texas Department
13 of Public Safety, and maybe it's a reporting mechanism so
14 that we can get a good count of these catalytic converters
15 that are stolen. So law enforcement is still required to
16 report the stolen theft of a catalytic converter, and let's
17 discern between, you know, it being just a simple property
18 crime that's under \$1,000 or under \$50 and it's a stolen
19 catalytic converter. We don't enter it into TCIC or NCIC,
20 but like you said, it's a database, it's a repository of
21 stolen catalytic converters throughout the state, and I feel
22 like that would be a good way to go, because right now it's
23 very challenging, because we went through this two years ago
24 to try and determine how many catalytic converters actually
25 got stolen in state of Texas two years ago, prior to the

1 legislative session. Hey, we need a repository, and I think
2 the Department of Public Safety would be the place for that
3 to be.

4 ROBERT CARSON-MEMBER: Member Carson. One of the things
5 I've talked about, and I talked with the Assistant Chief
6 Roland Luna yesterday, is I would like to see a report from
7 the insurance industry. How many are they paying off, how
8 many claims are they paying off? They may not report it to
9 the police, but if they have insurance, they're going to be
10 reporting it to them. I think they I think we'll see a big
11 variance in numbers to get an accurate count of how many are
12 stolen. I think that's something we really need to look at
13 as a group and touch that industry and ask them for a report
14 on that and how much, how many are they paying out?

15 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Two years ago, when for the
16 last legislative session. When, how do you count catalytic
17 converters, the answer wasn't necessarily a stolen vehicle
18 equals a stolen catalytic converter. Because yes, we know
19 they're attached, which so are the four wheels and the
20 lights. How do you, are you going to set each one of those
21 are stolen? But one thing that I, you guys should know me by
22 now, like I don't give up. So I did contact the insurance
23 industry, and the response to me was, well, the other issue
24 is, is that when they're stolen there are not necessarily
25 reported based on the dollar amount. So they're quickly

1 replaced, the homeowners with just the car owners would just
2 replace them. So that's also, it was information they gave
3 me, but it was not the number that we know that we need. But
4 perhaps that could be some type of regulation to that aspect,
5 but also just remember that they're not always being reported
6 to the insurance. That was the first thing they told me, the
7 very first sentence, they're not always reported to us.

8 TODD FOREMAN-MEMBER: Todd Foreman, ReMA. I was just
9 going to say that Carfax also has collected some of that data
10 also, because they collect it when it's repaired on the
11 vehicle. So I've seen data from the insurance industry and
12 exactly what Major Jones said, that they don't collect all of
13 it because not all of them are reported. Carfax has some
14 data from where they get to see the repairs. So we have to
15 combine all the data that we can collect from all of them.
16 As far as marking the catalytic converters, one of the things
17 that I heard in the group was that there's some, the police
18 departments marking them, and that's, I was going to talk
19 about that later, but that's an important part of this,
20 because then they can be entered into the system, as they
21 have part of the VIN or the VIN on them, they can be entered
22 into the NCIC system, or we call it NCI system, because they
23 have marked it and they're identifiable. There is
24 information out there on the PART Act, also the federal
25 legislation for vehicle manufacturers to mark the catalytic

1 converters on the vehicles when they're manufactured. Again,
2 this is going to take some time for it to happen after that
3 legislation comes into effect. So there's going to be a gap,
4 and there's going to be gap between the vehicles that are
5 there and the new vehicles are marked. So we need to figure
6 out how to mark the ones that are on the vehicles currently.
7 Because I think it's about 30 million, I can't remember the
8 exact number, there's so many at the end of life, and Chad
9 may be able to answer that better than I can. There's so
10 many yearly vehicles at the end of their life, so these are
11 the legitimate ones going into the market. But we need to
12 mark them so we can track them, and if there's got to be a
13 way that we can do it to through grant money also helps with
14 that.

15 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Thank you, sir, and the gap
16 that Member Foreman just described. Member Foreman, he's the
17 chairperson of an IACP committee, International Chiefs of
18 Police. I'm a member of that committee. So it's our crime
19 prevention committee, and we have members that are
20 international members that are all over the United States,
21 and that is one of our continuous topics. And it's, he's
22 correct, there will be a gap even if we got some type of
23 legislation pass, there still would be a gap, it's better
24 than nothing. We move forward, and also it's important to
25 note that Member Doran is in this week planning to get a

1 similar bill introduced to Congress that is in relation to
2 our Senate Bill 224 as well. So there is a national concern
3 here, especially with crossing borders. And so again, if
4 it's super easy to go next door to a state or further beyond,
5 and maybe I'm quite sure they're pricing that, oh, I can go
6 over here and get more money, and they travel on. It's
7 always going to continue until there's a national attack to
8 this problem. Yes, sir.

9 TODD FOREMAN-MEMBER: One more thing. The problem is
10 that I see Texas does it well, you have a lot of inspections
11 of the recyclers. The recyclers want an even playing field.
12 They want everybody following the rules, the ones that are
13 following the rules. And you got your Texas helped with that
14 because they have people from Texas TPS and Houston PD and
15 others and doing the inspections. All states don't do that.
16 And even with federal legislation, that would be the
17 challenge, because not everybody's going to, there's not
18 going to, there's not going to be an agency that's going to
19 be out inspecting, making sure that everybody's in
20 compliance. So that's where our challenge is. We need all
21 the states and all the communities doing what Texas does and
22 some other states do, where we have some of the insurance
23 compliance by the recyclers, the yards, so that we make sure
24 that everybody on an even playing field, everybody's
25 following the rules.

1 JOSH MARTIN-MEMBER: Josh Martin, Regulatory Services
2 Division. I just wanted to reiterate, or at least remind
3 everyone, that when it comes to certain transactions,
4 catalytic converters are being marked when they're purchased
5 at the metal recycling entities from individuals. They are
6 required to mark them with a CCID number. I understand
7 that's a very limited number of catalytic converters and
8 doesn't help with tracking totals of stolen catalytic
9 converters. And I don't have an answer for that. I think
10 we're marking them at the end of their life, after they've
11 already been stolen and they're sold to an MRE. I think it
12 makes more sense if we can have a marked prior to that,
13 earlier in the life cycle of that catalytic converter.

14 WILLIAM DIGGS: William Diggs, Director, MVCPA. So I've
15 got one final comment, everyone brings up extremely valid
16 points. Insurance industry Major Jones ran, got some numbers
17 from NICB, I believe it was, that helped a couple of years
18 ago. I realized that what we're talking about has a
19 significant impact on the manufacturer's. I don't know that
20 that's the route to go, and I think in the spirit of SB 224.
21 The original intent was not to hamper the legitimate flow of
22 business and the commerce when it comes to catalytic
23 converters. Anything that we do to require dealerships to
24 report, we're not going to be able to discern if that is from
25 just a repair, if that's from a warranty. I still believe

1 that what we need to do is if we could have some sort of
2 legislation that required law enforcement to simply report a
3 stolen catalytic converter, because I believe that's what the
4 Texas legislature is going to be interested in. They're
5 going to be interested in how many catalytic converters were
6 stolen, not how many catalytic converters were replaced by
7 dealership or a muffler shop. That's not required, that we
8 don't have a lot of oversight right now. It's how many were
9 actually stolen. So if we had something that required Texas
10 law enforcement to report a stolen catalytic converter, we
11 realize it's not going to go on TCIC or NCIC so that law
12 enforcement, that if they stop, they're going to be able to
13 determine, oh, this one was stolen from here because it's got
14 a VIN number on it. I don't know that that's what
15 manufacturers in this nation. And then think about other
16 vehicles that are made overseas that are brought into the US
17 to be sold. So I believe it's simple, a repository of stolen
18 catalytic converters, and I believe that our state partner
19 agency, the Texas DPS, is the place for that to occur.

20 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Any other comments? We will
21 now move on to agenda item number 9. National and
22 International trends in catalytic converter theft by Member
23 Foreman.

24 TODD FOREMAN-MEMBER: Good morning again. Go ahead and
25 go to my third slide please. I'm going to repeat a lot of

1 what you heard from Houston P.D. First off I want to talk
2 about our LEAC, since Mr. Carson brought Sergeant Carson
3 brought that up. We have a Law Enforcement Advisory Council
4 within ReMA. So I invite law enforcement officers from all
5 over the country to be involved in our Law Enforcement
6 Advisory Council because we want us to work together
7 collaborate and try to solve the problems together. So I
8 have members from Arizona, Colorado, Virginia, and New York.
9 All over the country and then I've got Houston P.D. I've got
10 several people from Texas that comes because you do it
11 differently than others and I like the way you do it where
12 you're doing inspections. So as part of the collaboration
13 together. So we look at this is this still happening, it's
14 happening all over. I can tell you recently I got a call
15 from some detectives in California that we're dealing with
16 this and they believe those crossing state lines. They
17 caught some what they've been doing some surveillance on
18 somebody. They saw them cutting it. They saw them taking
19 him to a storage unit and storing the catalytic converters.
20 While they were stored there and they were doing their
21 surveillance, two vehicles pulled up and started loading them
22 up to take them out of the state. So at that point they made
23 the arrest and stopped their surveillance and were able to
24 make an arrest on it and arrested several people. This is an
25 organized crime because this is happening this way. But I

1 also get those from individuals thefts. I get reports every
2 now and then from somebody reporting an individual theft of
3 one or two catalytic converters from a specific vehicle. One
4 of the ones that I really hate seeing was AT&T just had some
5 catalytic converters stolen and off of one of their vehicles
6 because they're already having the copper thefts too. So
7 we're having them across the country and you can see them
8 here that they're they up. Talking about next slide please.
9 The legislation we were talking a little bit about this a
10 minute ago. So legislation we've got the part act which
11 deals with the legislation federally. This is talking about
12 detailed record keeping. This is talking about grants for
13 marking the catalytic converters from the federal government
14 to do that. It's got a lot and it's talking about the
15 manufacturer marking them that's all well. Again we go back
16 to who's going to make sure the enforcement's happening
17 within the industry and doing it right the right way.
18 There's some state legislation that changed Ohio, Colorado,
19 Pennsylvania. Ohio is one that I'm remembering right off is
20 they specifically put their public safety in charge of public
21 safety in charge of the legislation this way now. They also
22 added to it that certain people can't buy them so that
23 they're changing it to where only certain people are able to
24 buy detached catalytic converter, because you narrow it down.
25 Pennsylvania has changed their law a little bit but their law

1 already was fairly strict. Because an individual in
2 Pennsylvania cannot sell a catalytic converter to a recycler.
3 So in Pennsylvania, you have to be a company to sell a
4 catalytic converter. So there's still modifications being
5 made to all these laws. One of the things that I think are
6 important because as law enforcement and if you have it in
7 Texas is that we make possession illegal without proof of
8 ownership. It's illegal or without being in the business
9 because that's where we catch the people. We stop the
10 vehicles and see somebody in the vehicle with catalytic
11 converters. We need to be able to do something. Before I
12 retired, we weren't able to do anything. So that was a
13 challenge for us. We've got several states that have passed
14 that now, so that's important. And we've talked about it.
15 Some of the other things that are important is training
16 individuals on what to look for. I can talk about another
17 state where an individual searching a vehicle and the deputy
18 was searching the vehicle looking for items in the vehicle
19 when he was searching it he was looking for drugs and he
20 talked to his supervisor and said I had to move these
21 mufflers around looking for it. There were catalytic
22 converters in the vehicle but he didn't know what he was
23 looking for. So we need the legislation but we also need the
24 enforcement side of it. So we need somebody that's able to
25 go in and do the inspections if there's legislation related

1 to recyclers. We need somebody to make sure there's
2 compliance and so that there's an even playing field for all
3 the recyclers. Next slide please. What does Texas need do
4 that helps their legislation work, you do inspections and
5 enforcement. They like I said we want to even playing field.
6 Legislation doesn't work without law enforcement. Do we can
7 we can pass a law but if there's nobody enforcing the laws
8 and enforcing it and making sure compliance and those laws
9 aren't as effective. And that's why you say that they're
10 moved they could be crossing state lines because other places
11 aren't as effective as Texas. And this is an international
12 crime. This is a crime that's spreading across the country
13 because these catalytic converters could be leaving the
14 country. They can be going from state to state there they
15 can be going just about anywhere because once they're boxed
16 up and mixed into legitimate market then they're heading
17 somewhere else to be taken care of. And we want to keep
18 these platinum, palladium and rhodium within our country,
19 they're essential to our country. Next slide please. So
20 we've talked about this and Sergeant Carson talked about
21 this. We can't control a price but the price does drive the
22 theft. So we have people watching it and that's why I think
23 it's organized crime. So how do we prevent the crime if it's
24 if we can't control the price we have to prevent crime. And
25 this is a risk versus reward mentality. In crime prevention,

1 we look at the opportunity to the risk versus the reward.
2 Right now the reward is high. They see it is a low risk and
3 there's a lot of opportunity out there because people aren't
4 protecting their property well. Next slide please. There we
5 go. So this shows it right here. You got the thieves you
6 got the locations you got the catalytic converters, and they
7 are the reward. So how do we harden the targets and how we
8 protect them? We've mentioned it in here a few times because
9 it's crossing state lines because it's doing all the things
10 that we're talking about. We have to work on a way to help
11 make the target harder for the thieves, increase the risk and
12 help our citizens and our communities know how to protect
13 their property better. And it's difficult in large parking
14 lots and that's where a lot of things are hitting the large
15 parking lots because they're able to move through quickly and
16 hit them all. Next slide please. So this is one of the
17 things that I think are effective and I'll tell you why at
18 the end. So this raises a risk for the marking the catalytic
19 converters. You can see these are this is one way they're
20 marked and AT&T marks their catalytic converters because one,
21 they're notified me of the theft dates and sprayed theirs
22 blue. Now the blue helps but if you have the VIN number on
23 them like these for Patray that is that is beneficial and
24 helps raise the risk. And there's some things that I would
25 suggest we do along with that. And I know that El Paso is

1 doing some of this. Next slide please. Many methods to
2 marking. Colorado uses stickers and acid etching. There's
3 engraving tools. There's VIN etchers and then high heat
4 paint is one of the things that I suggest. And you see them
5 all in here. There's all different ways to do it. Colorado
6 passes out stickers to their citizens when they go to the
7 state police and they can get stickers to add to their, and
8 put it on there and then they etch it with acid. Next slide
9 please. So the question is does it work? So first you need
10 the partners wanting the recyclers. So let me tell you two
11 examples in Virginia. One was Martinsville. They were
12 having a lot of church thefts and we went there and one of
13 those pictures on the other side with the VIN number was from
14 Martinsville. So Martinsville contacted me there in Virginia
15 and the chief and I knew each other. So I helped him set up
16 a program marketing the catalytic converters. They were
17 etching them. They partnered with the schools so that they
18 could lift them up and they marked the school buses, but they
19 also marked church vans. They partnered with the recyclers
20 in their area. And then they were able to make some arrests
21 by this. So they were able to stop the thefts. Another
22 community and I'm not going to name them in Virginia was
23 marking their catalytic converters but they didn't partner
24 with anybody. They actually were putting the stickers on
25 there and they didn't notify the recyclers of what the

1 marking looked like. I was with them and with the law
2 enforcement officer and a recycler and she was asking the
3 recycler how he liked how she marked they marked the
4 catalytic converters. They hadn't notified them so they
5 didn't know what to look for. I already mentioned Colorado,
6 they provide the stickers and they use the partnerships and
7 then they work on the compliance just like Texas does. New
8 Jersey is one that was a very big success in a community that
9 I worked with. And I'll show you some of the things that
10 they did. I don't have their pictures because I switched
11 phones and didn't have them. But New Jersey started marking
12 catalytic converters. And when they did, they started a
13 social media blitz with talking about marking the catalytic
14 converters. They started with exactly what Sergeant Carson
15 was talking about. And we talked about it, if you see
16 something say something if you hear a noise that sounds
17 different notify them. They're putting all this on social
18 media. Then they started marking the catalytic converters
19 and they started notifying the community that we're marking
20 these catalytic converters. We're going to catch the thieves
21 if they steal them. And then they went to the recyclers and
22 worked with them to put signs out and we'll show an example,
23 go to the next slide please. They started they started
24 marking them and they started putting signs out. You can see
25 the center sign there don't bring soil material to our yard.

1 I made that one but that's not the exact one they use. But
2 you can see and the sergeant that I was working with talked
3 about how the recyclers were saying some vehicles at first
4 before their thefts dropped. They were pulling up and they
5 were seeing the sign and they were having to leave because
6 they wouldn't go into their yard to sell them. So they were
7 working with them. So the collaboration with the with them
8 was key. And part of the media partnerships were key. So
9 they were providing all this information. And they were
10 putting these up so that they dropped their thefts and he
11 said they were having a few hundred a week down to almost
12 zero once they started this. The other thing is you want to
13 provide your prevention tips your police department or your
14 citizens in your community so they know the parking well lit
15 areas. And it's a challenge now because they're exactly what
16 Sergeant Carson said. They're doing it in daylight. That's
17 why we need to get the tips when somebody sees something and
18 say something. But we need to partnership with the dealers
19 is another thing I was thinking. And I know we've talked
20 about the marking and marking them because I think one I
21 think Mr. Diggs is correct. We need to know exactly how many
22 are stolen and where they're being stolen. So if you can put
23 those into a system and you can map them out it helps provide
24 that information. But I think marking them is also important
25 so you can know them. But marking them while they're still

1 on the vehicle. Next slide please. And I don't know if this
2 will play or not. This is a video of that of the marking
3 them. Go ahead and play it. I don't know how well the sound
4 will be on this or if it will play. Okay. Yeah, this is and
5 you can keep it playing and I'll just I'll walk through it.
6 This is we when I first started partnered with Habersham
7 County in Georgia marking the catalytic converters. Because
8 they passed the same laws. And when I started in 2022, about
9 possession and all that they wanted to mark them. So as you
10 can see this is going through he's looking at it. You can
11 fast forward a little bit in this if you want. Moving
12 forward to a little bit. This is where again NICB partnered
13 a little bit farther you'll see the marking it, I think.
14 Because it's very easy to market. So you can see he's
15 spraying the high heat paint on it and then talking about it
16 and then they have an engraver that engraves it. You don't
17 need to show any more of these video. It's an engraver that
18 engraves it. And I know that's a grant money pays for
19 through MVCPA. You'll help pay for some of the engravers and
20 some of the information to do and I think that's one of the
21 ways to stop it. Again it's a challenge because they're
22 going to cross state lines. But if you answer them into the
23 stolen vehicles and somebody's doing inspections then you
24 might be able to recognize them. Does anybody have any
25 questions for me? This is my information here. If anybody

1 needs to contact me.

2 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: No question sir, excellent
3 presentation great detail. We will now move on to agenda
4 item number 10. And that is an update on the Statewide
5 License Plate Reader Program. Thus far, 876 have been
6 installed with others to come. So of course this week there
7 are many, many agencies who requested either to start a
8 program or to continue with the LPR's that they have and
9 together all of them. Whether it's the ones on the highway,
10 the local agencies those that are in the homeowners
11 associations, the neighborhoods in and out, that is how we
12 protect Texas. That is a very useful tool we heard yesterday
13 where there are people who were committed a crime whether
14 they stole a vehicle committed a murder attempted murder and
15 they were caught immediately. It's it's very important that
16 we have those as tools to use because when you have those who
17 are running around our city wreaking havoc, shooting at
18 persons or buildings whatever they're shooting at, we need to
19 catch those immediately. It is a public emergency. We need
20 to save lives. License plate readers as we know they save
21 lives. Any questions or comments on that part? Okay we'll
22 move on to agenda item number 11 which is Advisory Committee
23 Dates and Locations for the Future. January 2027 no specific
24 date or location yet but the next meeting will be January of
25 '27. We'll move to agenda item number 14. Nicole do we have

1 any public comment?

2 NICOLE GILES: No, Madam Chair, there are no public
3 comments.

4 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Hearing none, I will now move
5 to agenda item number 15, which is Adjournment. Do I have a
6 motion for adjournment?

7 ROBERT CARSON-MEMBER: Motion.

8 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Member Carson, thank you. Do
9 I have a second?

10 NHATTHIEN NGUYEN-MEMBER: Member Nguyen, I second the
11 motion.

12 MAJOR SHARON JONES-CHAIR: Thank you, Member Nguyen. We
13 are adjourned at 12 noon.

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Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority
Senate Bill 224 Advisory Board Committee Meeting
Friday, July 24, 2026
10:38 a.m.

Hilton Downtown Fort Worth
815 Main Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Steve Owen, Reporter and Notary Public for the
State of Texas, hereby certify to the following:

I certify that I am neither counsel for, related to,
nor employed by any of the parties or attorneys in the
action in which this proceeding was taken, and further
that I am not financially or otherwise interested in the
outcome of the action.

Certified to me this 3rd of August, 2026

Steve Owen, CER-1232; CDR-1232
Notary Commission No. 10000679
Commission Expires: 10/28/2026
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1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST

2
3 I, Steve Owen, legal transcriptionist, do hereby
4 certify:

5 That the foregoing is a complete and accurate
6 transcript of the original digital audio recording of the
7 testimony and proceedings captured in the above entitled
8 matter. As the transcriptionist, I have reviewed and
9 transcribed the entirety of the proceeding to ensure a
10 verbatim record to the best of my ability.

11 I further certify that I am not neither attorney
12 for, nor a relative or employee of any of the parties to the
13 action; further, that I am not a relative or employee of any
14 attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or
15 otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter.

16 In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand this
17 3rd of August, 2026.

18
19
20 _____
21 Steve Owen
22 Legal Transcriber
23
24
25

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