



**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Homeland Security Advisory Committee**

*HSAC Meeting*

*December 4, 2025 @ 1:30 PM*

*310 Railroad St., Weslaco, TX*

**MINUTES OF HSAC MEETING**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Jesus Ortega, at 1:34 PM.

**II. Roll Call**

Present: Odee Leal (online), Rolando Casas (Proxy for Tom Hushen), Hector Gonzalez, Jesus Ortega, Ricardo Saldana (online), Douglas Williams (proxy for Michael Silva), Ben Martinez (proxy for Jonathan Flores), Virginia Torres (proxy for Uvaldo Zamora), Frank Torres (online).

Absent: Alfredo Alvear, Jim Pigg, Omar Garza, Jeff Johnston, Tony Lopez,

**III. Public Comments**

No public comments.

**IV. Action Items**

a. Consideration and Action to Approve draft minutes from the October 2, 2025, meeting. Motion made by Rolando Casas and seconded by Hector Gonzalez. All in favor, with none opposed, motion carries.

**V. Old or New Business**

a. Department updates:

**1. Final THIRA and SPR submission.**

Mr. Merla provided an update to the committee regarding the final submission of the THIRA and SPR. The THIRA and SPR was hosted at the LRGVDC in October by staff and all other participants both virtual and in person whose input is greatly appreciated to complete this

document which in turn will be used by the local jurisdictions to apply for grants this upcoming grant cycle. Furthermore, these documents are a requirement to submit for the State and Homeland security program on the regular projects and on the law enforcement projects, and the national priority are projects. Mr. Merla recommended that anyone interested in attaining a copy of these documents they could email him personally or at [hls@lrgvdc.org](mailto:hls@lrgvdc.org) and one of the staff members will provide a copy.

## **2. Updates on Current Funding for State Homeland Security Grants.**

Mr. Merla gave an update on the status of the Homeland Security grant funding. Funding for the current Homeland Security grant cycle has not been release, largely due to ongoing litigation affecting multiple states, including Texas. Criminal Justice grants are moving forward, but Homeland Security funds remain on hold. The State is preparing for next year grant cycle, timelines are uncertain. There is a grant application webinar scheduled for December 19 and a second on January. Agencies should continue preparing, but official requirements will not be confirmed until federal updates arrive. Training is planned for January in a hybrid format, and further guidance is expected after upcoming state board meetings. Mr. Merla also announce starting in January of 2026 all radios would have to be all band radios.

b. Open floor:

City of Weslaco will host Santa Dash on December 13, at 5:00pm, and Christmas parade at 6:00pm.

## **VI. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Rolando Casas and seconded by Hector Gonzalez. All in favor; motion carried. Jesus Ortega adjourned the meeting at 1:44 PM

**Next HSAC Meeting January 8, 2026, at 1:30 PM**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_