

MAY 18 2015



**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

Commissioner

The Honorable Joaquin Castro  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4320

Dear Representative Castro:

This letter is in response to your April 14, 2015 letter concerning U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) participation in the Texas Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Operation Strong Safety (OSS).

In May 2014, and at the direction of the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), CBP prioritized its resources to address the influx of families and unaccompanied children coming across the southern border. The following month, Governor Rick Perry announced the commencement of OSS, and made an appeal to President Obama for action and for assistance from the Federal Government. With a full-scale response effort by DHS already underway, CBP declined participation in the operation.

Your letter requests information on apprehensions and seizures made by Federal personnel from June 2014 to February 2015. While CBP does not track apprehensions and seizures made by all Federal personnel, after a discussion with your staff the request was clarified to include those made by the U.S. Border Patrol. To facilitate your review of CBP's response, we have listed each individual item included in your letter separately, and have identified the specific exhibits that provide responsive information to each item. It is important to note that, for all data, the Border Patrol's El Paso Sector encompasses the international border between the State of New Mexico and Mexico in addition to El Paso and the surrounding area.

1. The total number of apprehensions in Texas made exclusively by the U.S. Border Patrol from June 2014 to February 2015.
  - Exhibit 1 of the attachment.
2. The total number of drug-related apprehensions made exclusively by the U.S. Border Patrol from June 2014 to February 2015.
  - Exhibit 2 of the attachment.
3. The total number of drug seizures, including the number of pounds seized by the U.S. Border Patrol and the estimated worth of the seized contraband from June 2014 to February 2015.
  - Exhibits 3 – 7 of the attachment.
  - The dollar figures provided were generated using Border Patrol's unofficial narcotics calculator.

4. Additionally, please provide the total amount of funding requested by the DPS for border security efforts.

- Operation Stonegarden, one of the many grant programs comprising the Homeland Security Grant Program that is administered by FEMA, supports enhanced cooperation and coordination among CBP and tribal, territorial, local, state, and Federal law enforcement agencies. The program funds investments in joint efforts to secure the United States' borders along routes of ingress from international borders, to include travel corridors in states bordering Mexico and Canada as well as states and territories with international water borders.
- In Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, Operation Stonegarden was funded at \$55,000,000 and in that year the Texas Department of Public Safety's State Administrative Agency was awarded \$23,124,196, or more than 46% of the total available amount. The Texas Department of Public Safety's State Administrative Agency dispersed all of the awarded amount to 27 Texas counties and tribes in the form of sub-awards. However, CBP is not able to determine what percentage of the amount awarded to Texas was used in support of OSS.
- At the time of this letter, Operation Stonegarden funding for FY 2015 has yet to be allocated.

If we may offer further assistance, please contact Michael Yeager, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Congressional Affairs, at (202) 344-1760.

Sincerely,



R. Gil Kerlikowske  
Commissioner

Attachment



**Exhibit 1: Total Apprehensions by the U.S. Border Patrol**

	Fiscal Year 2014 (Official Numbers)				Fiscal Year 2015 (Unofficial Numbers)				
BP Sector	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February
Big Bend	414	341	302	200	302	232	336	233	330
Del Rio	2857	1830	1279	1238	1246	985	1051	985	1291
El Paso	1221	939	948	997	903	924	921	874	859
Laredo	3946	3546	2960	2831	3277	2541	2368	2776	2865
Rio Grande Valley	38446	24938	17273	12239	12031	11466	11036	8427	9560
Monthly Total	46884	31594	22762	17505	17759	16148	15712	13295	14905

**Exhibit 2: Apprehensions Associated with a Drug Property**

	Fiscal Year 2014 (Official Numbers)				Fiscal Year 2015 (Unofficial Numbers)				
BP Sector	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February
Big Bend	3	3	3	8	6	6	5	1	1
Del Rio	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	3	0
El Paso	8	7	25	14	8	35	32	62	19
Laredo	2	1	6	8	5	3	1	5	5
Rio Grande Valley	15	10	18	16	22	14	38	13	11
Monthly Total	28	21	53	46	44	58	77	84	36

**Exhibit 3: Pounds of Marijuana Seized by the U.S. Border Patrol**

	Fiscal Year 2014 (Official Numbers)				Fiscal Year 2015 (Unofficial Numbers)				
BP Sector	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February
Big Bend	1705	1651	1836	1643	2413	3776	1538	928	2667
Del Rio	1018	1369	2884	1780	2631	219	1879	2287	1252
El Paso	1982	4947	3142	2780	2038	4529	5416	4511	5859
Laredo	7051	2603	12815	6559	9617	4358	7568	8160	6899
Rio Grande Valley	45711	43480	50776	49108	53796	53383	40004	38947	41584
Monthly Total	57467	54050	71453	61870	70495	66265	56405	54833	58261

\*1 pound of marijuana is approximately \$800.

**Exhibit 4: Pounds of Cocaine Seized by the U.S. Border Patrol**

	Fiscal Year 2014 (Official Numbers)				Fiscal Year 2015 (Unofficial Numbers)				
BP Sector	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February
Big Bend	0.09	13	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.22	33.4
Del Rio	0	0	0.04	0	0	44	0	0	0
El Paso	12.73	20.6	0	23.6	38.48	9.9	0	0.02	0
Laredo	0.04	0.02	53.7	142.64	162.15	5.09	0	5.54	37.36
Rio Grande Valley	0.02	148.27	55.59	223.85	237.29	115.45	111.2	183.5	143.21
Monthly Total	12.88	181.89	109.35	390.11	437.95	174.45	111.22	189.28	213.97

\*1 pound of cocaine is approximately \$32,000.

**Exhibit 5: Pounds of Methamphetamine Seized by the U.S. Border Patrol**

	Fiscal Year 2014 (Official Numbers)				Fiscal Year 2015 (Unofficial Numbers)				
BP Sector	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February
Big Bend	0.51	2.06	0.1	0.45	0.12	0.14	0.11	0.08	0.08
Del Rio	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.02
El Paso	3.71	0.06	21.91	0.18	0.09	0.04	0.02	0.1	0.07
Laredo	1.12	39.7	44.71	13.89	87.87	32.64	43.77	24.15	181.88
Rio Grande Valley	19.94	25.4	24.87	0	59.07	134.83	27.09	21.26	0
Monthly Total	26.78	67.22	91.59	14.52	147.15	167.65	70.99	45.59	182.05

\*1 pound of methamphetamine is approximately \$24,000.

**Exhibit 6: Pounds of Ecstasy Seized by the U.S. Border Patrol**

	Fiscal Year 2014 (Official Numbers)				Fiscal Year 2015 (Unofficial Numbers)				
BP Sector	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February
Big Bend	0.02	0	0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0.01
Del Rio	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
El Paso	0.16	0	0	0	0.07	0	0	0	0
Laredo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rio Grande Valley	0	0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monthly Total	0.18	0.01	0.01	0	0.07	0	0	0	0.01

\*1 pound of ecstasy is approximately \$24,000.

**Exhibit 7: Ounces of Heroin Seized by the U.S. Border Patrol**

	Fiscal Year 2014 (Official Numbers)				Fiscal Year 2015 (Unofficial Numbers)				
BP Sector	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February
Big Bend	0.16	0	0	0	0.16	0.32	0	0.07	0
Del Rio	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
El Paso	0.77	0.49	0	0	0.55	0	0.07	0	0.04
Laredo	0	0	121.13	0.11	6.07	0	158.73	0	0
Rio Grande Valley	0	73.4	0	0	0	0	216.58	0.53	220.81
Monthly Total	0.93	73.89	121.13	0.11	6.78	0.32	375.38	0.6	220.85

\*1 ounce of heroin is approximately \$2,000.