**Descriptive Narrative:**

The City of Bryan’s Geographic Information System was initiated in 2003. The goal of the program was to provide an easily accessible, analytical tool that could be used internally and by the public. The program is results-driven, focusing on the needs of the user. Because of this, GIS has been embraced in the City of Bryan and is now part of daily business operations. In addition, it is considered one of the critical services provided by the city – especially in the event of an emergency.

One of the things that has made the City of Bryan GIS successful in such a short period of time is a focus on “community GIS.” When many cities implement GIS, the extent of the data they maintain and distribute to the citizens ends at their city limits boundary. It is short-sighted to believe that citizens and city staff do not need access to or are not concerned about information on the other side of an arbitrary boundary. This is especially true when it comes to public safety mutual aid agreements.

For this reason, Bryan GIS has forged close ties with other local and regional government entities to maintain and provide spatial information to the public throughout the region through numerous programs. For example, the City of Bryan works closely with the Brazos County Sheriff’s Office to track and distribute to the public via the Internet the location of registered sex offenders in Brazos County.

**Problem assessment, the challenge or need that prompted the local government to develop the program:**

Citizen education is the end result of Bryan’s sex-offender mapping program. This program provides a better quality of life through keeping the public informed of activities in and around their neighborhoods, their property and, most importantly, their families. The enhanced citizen awareness enables them to become a “force multiplier,” assisting public safety officers.

**Program implementation and costs:**

This project was done with near zero cost impact to taxpayers. All servers and applications were already in use for the originally intended purposes. We simply leveraged the existing resources to pull all the information together, which enhanced the workflow of multiple agencies.

**Tangible results or measurable outcomes of the program:**

When dealing with an urgent situation it is important that agency personnel can access the data in an easy, efficient manor, and be confident that not only is everyone viewing the exact same information, but the data is up to date. So far this project has resulted in accomplishing this task with minimal overhead.

**Lessons learned during planning, implementation, and analysis of the program:**

The great accomplishment in this program has been the overwhelming collaboration in sharing data and the ease with which we are now able to interface systems. We have met the goals of visualizing the data spatially to improve public safety personnel’s understanding of their surroundings, and improving citizens’ quality of life by providing as much transparency as possible.