Title: *A GIS Analysis of Small Town Law enforcement Return on Investment*

Keywords: GIS; Small towns; Return on Investment; Law Enforcement.

Abstract: Public welfare, safety, and health are important aspects of life in American cities and constitute a significant component of city budgets and management. To ensure safety for their citizens, many American cities invest heavily in law enforcement. While large cities with big budgets can afford modern law enforcement equipment and personnel, small cities often have to invest in law enforcement at the expense of other competing needs such as education and public works. This study will use a Geographic Information Systems approach to assess the return on investment for law enforcement for small-sized cities in the American southeast. Data for the study is assembled and analyzed in a GIS environment. A regression analysis is used to determine the correlation between investment in law enforcement and crime rate. Preliminary results show that while large investment in law enforcement may lead to greater public safety, the difference is not significant to justify investing in law enforcement at the expense of other important sectors such as education and public works.