For Immediate Release
January 20, 2012

For more information contact:
City of Kyle
Jerry Hendrix 512-262-3921

City of Kyle Web Site Receives Gold Award from Texas Comptroller

Kyle, TX – For the second consecutive year, the City of Kyle has received a GOLD Leadership Circle Award from the Texas Comptroller's office for exceeding government transparency standards set by the state agency.

The Comptroller's office Leadership Circle recognizes local governments that have either taken their first steps toward, made strides to meet, or have exceeded transparency standards. The three award levels are:

- **Gold** – "Gold" highlights those entities that are setting the bar with their transparency efforts.
- **Silver** – "Silver" encourages those who are making progress.
- **Bronze** – "Bronze" inspires those who are just beginning their transparency efforts.

The program was renewed in 2011 and the criteria for the awards have been improved. The main criteria for the awards include having the city's budget, audit, and check register available online. Other minor criteria involve local government and council contact info, public information requests, easy access to documents, and other financial information.

Kyle is one of 70 cities in Texas to receive the Gold Award for 2011. Last year, Kyle was one of only 58 cities to receive the Gold Award.

More information about the program is available by visiting the sites below:

http://www.texastransparency.org/local/cities.php

http://www.texasahead.org/texasrising/tr1002/transparency.html

###

For Immediate Release
January 26, 2012

For more information contact:
City of Kyle
Jeff Barnett, Kyle Chief of Police
512-268-0859

Kyle Police have identified the victim of last week's fatality accident

KYLE, TX - Kyle Police have identified the victim of last week's fatality accident on Interstate 35 as 23 year-old Patricia Castaneda of Río Grande, Zacatecas, Mexico.

Ms. Castaneda was identified when police linked an identification card found on the victim to a recent VISA application made through the Mexican Consulate.

Kyle police are continuing to investigate the circumstances around Ms. Castaneda's death and are asking anyone with information to call the Kyle Police Department at 512-268-3232.

The accident that killed Ms. Castaneda was reported around 10pm on Wednesday, January 18th, in Kyle. The accident occurred near the 214 mile marker on I35 northbound just north of Center Street. The victim had a medium build and had dark brown, medium length hair. She was wearing white Ralph Lauren canvass type shoes, pink striped socks, blue jeans, blue fingernail polish, pink t-shirt, and a blue lightweight jacket.

###

For Immediate Release
February 8, 2012

For more information contact:
City of Kyle
Jerry Hendrix
Director of Communications
512-268-0859

City of Kyle Gets Clean Audit

###

For Immediate Release
February 9, 2012

For more information contact:
City of Kyle
Jerry Hendrix
Director of Communications
512-268-0859

Kyle Mayor Hosts Delegation of Women Leaders from Pakistan

KYLE, TX – Kyle Mayor Lucy Johnson played host to a small delegation for women leaders from Pakistan during an informal meeting in Kyle's City Hall on Tuesday, February 7th.

The delegation of women leaders from Pakistan came to the US through the US Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program which fosters citizen to citizen diplomacy for emerging leaders. Mayor Johnson offers a unique opportunity for these women to meet and ask questions of how a young woman can succeed as a political leader and learn of her passion for politics and local government.

"It is always an honor to meet women from other countries who are making history by creating opportunities for women to become an active part of their country's leadership," said Mayor Johnson. "These women are very brave and I am inspired by their courage and fortitude in advancing their cause under some very difficult circumstances"

The mayor and the members of the delegation discussed various aspects of governance in the one-hour meeting. The women from Pakistan were interested in how Kyle's government is structured and funded. They also had questions about the powers of the Mayor and her background.

(more)

"I was happy to learn that there are more opportunities for women becoming available in Pakistan," said Mayor Johnson. "But I was also made aware that there are still many injustices and biases in their country that makes their struggle a very personal one. I deeply admire these women for their commitment to advancing the role of women in Pakistan and I am also convinced that Pakistan, and the world, will be better off because of their movement."

###

For Immediate Release
February 29, 2012

For more information contact:
City of Kyle
Jerry Hendrix 512-262-3921

Mayor Johnson Proclaims the City of Kyle is a National Success Story in State of the City Address

KYLE, TX – In her annual State of the City address, Kyle Mayor Lucy Johnson referred to her city as an "American Success Story." The mayor addressed a crowd of over 150 Kyle business representatives at the annual event hosted by the Kyle Area Chamber of Commerce. This year's event was held on Tuesday, February 29, at the Hays Consolidated Independent School District's Performing Arts Center in Kyle.

"2011 was one tough year to do business in Texas. We experienced rolling black outs, the worst winter freeze in decades, and then almost the entire summer, 85 days, with highs above 100 degrees," said Johnson. "But still Kyle grew; commercially and residentially, we grew. And the longer I'm in this job, the more I realize that our growth isn't primarily based on our magical location on the I-35 corridor, or our ready availability of cheap land and affordable utilities. Our success comes from the fact that I can't think of any other place where there are so many people who have the ability and the drive to come together in one room, sit down, and make things happen."

Mayor Johnson thanked the Kyle Area Chamber of Commerce for their partnership and leadership that has played a large role in the city's success and congratulated them on their success and growth in 2011.

The City of Kyle's highly successful economic growth was a cornerstone of Mayor Johnson's speech. The Mayor cited the City Council's recently adopted Economic Development Policy Statement as a key to that continued success. The statement outlines that economic development is everyone's responsibility, puts emphasis on redevelopment of Kyle's downtown, promotes tourism, and makes economic development a priority across multiple city departments.

(more)

"In 2010, the US census showed that Kyle had a population of 28,016, but what they didn't show is that within a five-mile radius of the center of Kyle, the population is close to 45,000," said Mayor Johnson. "Our primary trade area, an approximate 12-mile radius, contains 191,000. Our median household income is $76,000, yet the majority of our population is still under 30."

Mayor Johnson also touted the City's improved outreach to the public by recognizing the City's Gold Leadership Circle Award for government transparency, a new and more interactive web site, the Kyle Leadership Academy and the City's new international role in hosting delegations from other countries to learn about our form of government.

"Since last fall, Kyle has also been reaching out and building relationships with a much wider community thanks in part to our new relationship with the US State Department," said Mayor Johnson. "Delegations from Mozambique, Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Yemen, and most recently, Pakistan, have been visiting Kyle to learn about how small cities in Texas function, and the role of female leadership in local government."

Despite a very tough and thin budget in the face of the national recession, The City of Kyle has also been able to grow services and facilities. The City is about to open a new 20,000 square foot library, a new Parks and Recreation Office in the new Lake Kyle Park, hired 11 new police officers, a warrant officer, and will move the police department into a larger facility later this year.

Mayor Johnson also discussed Kyle's water management plans and how the drought has changed how we use and pay for water. In the 2011-2012 budget, the City of Kyle raised water and wastewater rates by 30% and 25% respectively. This was the first time in eleven years that water and waste water rates in Kyle had gone up.

"In Kyle, water use increased dramatically as homeowners and businesses struggled to save our own trees, shrubs and lawns," said Mayor Johnson. "On multiple occasions this summer the city exceeded are maximum daily capacity to produce water, leading the city council to authorize the purchase 2.2 million gallons of water a day from GBRA, instantly increasing our wholesale water costs by nearly 50%."

Mayor Johnson also remarked on new residential development in Kyle and the City's support of mixed-use developments, variable densities and other planning strategies that help reduce the strain on city services.

(more)

"Old ideas, like courtyard homes, zero lot lines in commercial districts, and mixed-use buildings that have been brought back thanks to the appeal of new urbanism and the next generation of developers, are not just trendy, they are far more sustainable then traditional single-family suburbs and help foster a sense of community."

The Mayor also touched on the many road and transportation improvements that are currently underway in Kyle and asked for the community's support in a possible bond referendum being discussed for November.

"This year, the city council is considering holding a bond election in November to pay for the widening and repaving of Burleson, Goforth, Bunton, and Lehman Roads," said Mayor Johnson. "These four roads currently meet almost every standard of awfulness you can come up with: they are too narrow, too bumpy, too dangerous, and we have lived with them for too long. If you feel that we deserve better roads, please join me in support of calling this road bond election."

In closing, Mayor Johnson asked for continued participation from the community and announced that there will be a Community Forum on Saturday, March 24th, to gather input from the citizens of Kyle on what projects are most important and how to pay for them.

"You are so good at supporting the businesses that make this city prosper, now it's time support your city and tell the city council where you want us to take you," said Mayor Johnson.

The entire text of Mayor Johnson's speech and the presentation materials presented by the mayor and city manager are available on the City of Kyle web site.

###

For Immediate Release
February 29, 2012

For more information contact:
City of Kyle
Jerry Hendrix 512-262-3921

Mayor Johnson Proclaims the City of Kyle is a National Success Story in State of the City Address

KYLE, TX – In her annual State of the City address, Kyle Mayor Lucy Johnson referred to her city as an "American Success Story." The mayor addressed a crowd of over 150 Kyle business representatives at the annual event hosted by the Kyle Area Chamber of Commerce. This year's event was held on Tuesday, February 29, at the Hays Consolidated Independent School District's Performing Arts Center in Kyle.

"2011 was one tough year to do business in Texas. We experienced rolling black outs, the worst winter freeze in decades, and then almost the entire summer, 85 days, with highs above 100 degrees," said Johnson. "But still Kyle grew; commercially and residentially, we grew. And the longer I'm in this job, the more I realize that our growth isn't primarily based on our magical location on the I-35 corridor, or our ready availability of cheap land and affordable utilities. Our success comes from the fact that I can't think of any other place where there are so many people who have the ability and the drive to come together in one room, sit down, and make things happen."

Mayor Johnson thanked the Kyle Area Chamber of Commerce for their partnership and leadership that has played a large role in the city's success and congratulated them on their success and growth in 2011.

The City of Kyle's highly successful economic growth was a cornerstone of Mayor Johnson's speech. The Mayor cited the City Council's recently adopted Economic Development Policy Statement as a key to that continued success. The statement outlines that economic development is everyone's responsibility, puts emphasis on redevelopment of Kyle's downtown, promotes tourism, and makes economic development a priority across multiple city departments.

(more)

"In 2010, the US census showed that Kyle had a population of 28,016, but what they didn't show is that within a five-mile radius of the center of Kyle, the population is close to 45,000," said Mayor Johnson. "Our primary trade area, an approximate 12-mile radius, contains 191,000. Our median household income is $76,000, yet the majority of our population is still under 30."

Mayor Johnson also touted the City's improved outreach to the public by recognizing the City's Gold Leadership Circle Award for government transparency, a new and more interactive web site, the Kyle Leadership Academy and the City's new international role in hosting delegations from other countries to learn about our form of government.

"Since last fall, Kyle has also been reaching out and building relationships with a much wider community thanks in part to our new relationship with the US State Department," said Mayor Johnson. "Delegations from Mozambique, Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Yemen, and most recently, Pakistan, have been visiting Kyle to learn about how small cities in Texas function, and the role of female leadership in local government."

Despite a very tough and thin budget in the face of the national recession, The City of Kyle has also been able to grow services and facilities. The City is about to open a new 20,000 square foot library, a new Parks and Recreation Office in the new Lake Kyle Park, hired 11 new police officers, a warrant officer, and will move the police department into a larger facility later this year.

Mayor Johnson also discussed Kyle's water management plans and how the drought has changed how we use and pay for water. In the 2011-2012 budget, the City of Kyle raised water and wastewater rates by 30% and 25% respectively. This was the first time in eleven years that water and waste water rates in Kyle had gone up.

"In Kyle, water use increased dramatically as homeowners and businesses struggled to save our own trees, shrubs and lawns," said Mayor Johnson. "On multiple occasions this summer the city exceeded are maximum daily capacity to produce water, leading the city council to authorize the purchase 2.2 million gallons of water a day from GBRA, instantly increasing our wholesale water costs by nearly 50%."

Mayor Johnson also remarked on new residential development in Kyle and the City's support of mixed-use developments, variable densities and other planning strategies that help reduce the strain on city services.

(more)

"Old ideas, like courtyard homes, zero lot lines in commercial districts, and mixed-use buildings that have been brought back thanks to the appeal of new urbanism and the next generation of developers, are not just trendy, they are far more sustainable then traditional single-family suburbs and help foster a sense of community."

The Mayor also touched on the many road and transportation improvements that are currently underway in Kyle and asked for the community's support in a possible bond referendum being discussed for November.

"This year, the city council is considering holding a bond election in November to pay for the widening and repaving of Burleson, Goforth, Bunton, and Lehman Roads," said Mayor Johnson. "These four roads currently meet almost every standard of awfulness you can come up with: they are too narrow, too bumpy, too dangerous, and we have lived with them for too long. If you feel that we deserve better roads, please join me in support of calling this road bond election."

In closing, Mayor Johnson asked for continued participation from the community and announced that there will be a Community Forum on Saturday, March 24th, to gather input from the citizens of Kyle on what projects are most important and how to pay for them.

"You are so good at supporting the businesses that make this city prosper, now it's time support your city and tell the city council where you want us to take you," said Mayor Johnson.

The entire text of Mayor Johnson's speech and the presentation materials presented by the mayor and city manager are available on the City of Kyle web site.

###

For Immediate Release
March 12, 2012

For more information contact:
City of Kyle
Jerry Hendrix 512-262-3921

City of Kyle Hosting Community Visioning Forum

Officials seeking input from residents and businesses on what projects to tackle next

KYLE, TX – The City of Kyle has continued to grow even during the economic downturn experienced during the last couple of years. The City's population is approaching 30,000 and new businesses are being added at a record rate.

And like any growing organization, the City's "To Do List" is also growing. Roads like Lehman, Burleson, and Goforth are due for upgrades, water and wastewater lines could use some rehabilitation, key areas of town need infrastructure extended to them to spur further development, when do we build a new police station?, and the list could go on and on.

With the list, come questions like: Where do we start? What do we do first? And, how do we pay for it?

City officials would like to ask your help is determining our next steps.

"We recently completed a rewrite of our Comprehensive Plan which outlines how we want to grow into the future," said Kyle Mayor Lucy Johnson. "The Visioning Forum will allow City staff and our elected officials, boards and commissions to hear from our

(more)

citizens about how to prioritize projects that will help us achieve the future as it is outlined in the comprehensive plan."

The public is invited to participate in Kyle's Community Visioning Forum on Saturday, March 24th, from 9am to Noon at the Ernest Kimbro Building on the Kyle Elementary Campus. City officials will be on hand to guide participants in and educational and interactive process designed to identify and prioritize projects that will help us grow responsibly and address many of the pressing needs of our City.

More information is available at CityofKyle.com

###