CITY OF SPRINGFIELD
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION OF Robert R. Schaefer, P.E. DATE October 29, 1976

DEPARTMENT Superintendent of Sanitary Services

Dear Bob,

At about 10:00 A.M., Thursday, October 28, 1976, Surveillance and Enforcement received a report from Joe Buckner, Public Works- Street Maintenance Dispatcher, regarding a report of oil spilled in the 2500 and 2600 blocks of South Catalina.

Our personnel responded and found what they considered to be a highly dangerous situation, in that the road surface of the entire two block area was extremely slick. Gary Pendergrass was the first to arrive in response to the report. He did not recognize the material except as oil, and called the service center for assistance and sawdust. Gene Pabst and Steve Short arrived subsequent to that call and recognized the material as Deck Seal by its characteristic linseed oil odor. They assessed the danger of the situation in the same light as Gary had, and did not cancel the request for sawdust.

I feel that our personnel acted correctly in this situation in that the City could possibly have been held liable in the case of an accident. There are two considerations in regard to the above however, that do disturb me greatly. First, while I cannot say whether the material was applied in excess or not, the result was a dangerously slippery street with no warning signs or barricades. Secondly, the report we received came from a source which should have known exactly what the material was and why it was there. The dispatchers in fact had the daily work schedules showing the Deck Seal applications at their immediate disposal.

I have learned from Street Maintenance that there are two additional areas which require that an application be made on a street surface. I would request that you inform the Director of the above situation so that he might be able to assist Street Maintenance in determining if the application needs to be made in excess, and what safety precautions for traffic control need to be taken.

2500-2600 S. CATALINA

SIGNED Charles H. Criswell, Associate Sanitary Engineer, Water Pollution Control