



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To James L. Sullivan

Date May 8, 1975

From Conrad Fagone

Reference: Catch Basin Cleaning

Subject

One of the many areas of concern in the City of Cambridge has been the maintenance of Catch Basins. The combination of access to basins, lack of manpower and equipment, and a workable program has in the past provided for a poor Catch Basin maintenance program.

This year the PWD has undertaken and developed a workable program to maintain these basins. The City has approximately 3100 catch basins. In 1974 we were able to clean only 1562 of these basins. As one can see this was a totally unacceptable system.

This year we are cleaning the basins on the same routes as the Street Cleaning schedule. This allows the PWD crew to get at the basin while the street is clear of cars, and to work on a set schedule instead of hopping around the City whenever we get a complaint call, or can get at the basins because of the parked cars. While the new system is not entirely effective because of the age (12 yrs.) of the equipment, we feel it a tremendous improvement. We estimate this year with the two machines, we will clean approximately 3400 basins. This will provide a once a year cleaning, which while not the best maintenance program is a better system than we had.

In addition, I have provided in next years budget to add one additional machine. This will allow us to increase the schedule. While this program is not glamorous and visible to the citizens, I feel it should be made known.

These programs are typical of the services that I feel the City should be expanding. This program as I have advocated in the past could better be implemented with minimum impact on the tax rate if unnecessary services such as Barrel Rolling and Garbage Collection were eliminated. These personnel could be effectively used on this work.

The sanitary benefits of successful catch basin cleaning program, through fewer odor complaints, less flooding in streets and basements is impossible to put a cost figure on.

The following is a total of Catch Basins cleaned on a monthly basis in 1974 vs. 1975.

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>
January	16	256
February	24	91
March	93	264
April	140	466
May	155	120 - (5 days)

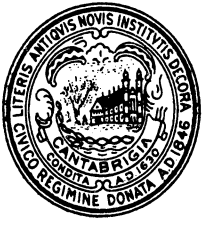
By plotting the location of each basin as it was cleaned on a section map, we were able to discover and record 328 basins not previously recorded on the existing map.

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OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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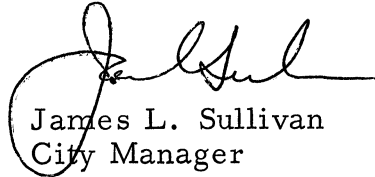
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

May 12, 1975

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I transmit herewith a self-explanatory communication
from Conrad C. Fagone, Commissioner of Public Works, relative
to the maintenance of Catch Basins.

Very truly yours,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf
Enc.

Maintenance of catch basins.

In City Council,

May 12, 1975

Placed on file