TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL
FROM: CITY MANAGER
DATE: April 28, 2008
DEPARTMENT: FIRE
CMR: 225:08
SUBJECT: RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION OF MARCH 18, 2008 CHEMICAL RELEASE FROM COMMUNICATIONS & POWER INDUSTRIES, INC. (CPI), 811 HANSEN WAY

RECOMMENDATION
This is an informational report. No Council action is required.

BACKGROUND
At 9:40 am on March 18, 2008, Communications and Power Industries called 911 to report a chemical spill had occurred at its facility. It reported that the spill was small in quantity, confined to the asphalt in the immediate spill area and that the CPI Emergency Response Team (ERT) could handle it, Fire response was not necessary. Fire Department personnel were dispatched by the on duty Battalion Chief as a precaution. Approximately 10 gallons of 31% hydrochloric acid spilled outside on the asphalt and approximately 60 gallons of a mixture of 31% hydrochloric acid and water spilled into secondary containment inside the building. The CPI Emergency Response Team was in the process of neutralizing and cleaning up the exterior spill when Fire Department units arrived on scene. Fire personnel remained on scene to assist in the neutralization and recovery of materials spilled into the secondary containment inside the building. At no time was there a danger of offsite consequences.

DISCUSSION
Based on the subsequent Fire Department investigation, the Fire Department and the City Attorney’s Office have determined that the release was not due to violation of state or local hazardous materials regulations and that no criminal or administrative enforcement actions are warranted. CPI will be required to provide restitution in the amount of $6,200 for the costs associated with the Fire Department response and subsequent investigation by the Hazardous Materials Inspector. There was no impact to the environment nor was there a danger to the public health and safety. CPI provided emergency notification to the Fire Department as required and quickly contained, neutralized and cleaned up the release to the asphalt. The interior release to secondary containment was contained as designed, neutralized and cleaned up with assistance from Fire. CPI has removed the pipe valving arrangement that caused the release and will review and update its chemical delivery procedures to
prevent future similar incidents.

PREPARED BY: ________________________________
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Fire Marshal

DEPARTMENT HEAD: ___________________________
NICHOLAS MARINARO
Fire Chief

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: _______________________
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