

Public Comments

Karen DeMaria

From: kwtigger <kwtigger@att.net>
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 1:22 PM
To: Karen DeMaria
Subject: Tree 1100 Simonton odd side.

Members of the Key West tree Commission.

Thank you for your time and all you do, but I would like you to take into consideration a tree on the 1100 block of Simonton street that is definitely worth saving. We have lost way too much of our canopy on Simonton Street and this is just another tree with a lot of character that we may lose if you do not take this into a deep consideration for saving this beautiful tree. Sometimes we need to just sit back and reflect on why the tree commission was created in the first place. And that is to save as much character and canopy for this island that we possibly can. Sometimes it gets too easy to approve a tree for removal but it can't even account for all the years it will take for a tree like this to grow back. Thank you very much for your consideration.
Mimi McCoy Grantham.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S®6 active, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Karen DeMaria

From: Eric Mealus <eric.mealus@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 7:19 AM
To: Karen DeMaria
Subject: Support for Tree Removal: Simonton Mahogany Tree

Karen,

Please note my support for removal of the Simonton Mahogany Tree. As a business property owner with trees on the street right-of-way adjacent to my property, I support keeping trees adjacent to the street within their legal limits. I don't want to see a 100 year old tree destroyed, yet the tree must be trimmed or removed to meet city and federal regulations. And from what I see of the tree, if you trim the hazard branch, the entire tree is compromised.

Kind regards,

Eric Mealus

Karen DeMaria

From: Vicky Walker
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 7:56 AM
To: Karen DeMaria; Natalie Hill
Subject: FW: Tree on Simonton

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-----Original Message-----

From: melaniemosher504@yahoo.com [mailto:melaniemosher504@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 7:36 PM
To: Vicky Walker <vwalker@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: Tree on Simonton

Please leave the trees alone . You have murdered enough.

Sent from my iPhone

Karen DeMaria

From: tep33@aol.com
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 8:36 AM
To: Karen DeMaria
Subject: Tree commission letter

Dear Karen,

I will be unable to attend the upcoming tree commission meeting, but was told that I could send you a letter to be read at the meeting.

I am writing to express my strong support for continuing to look for a solution regarding the old mahogany tree on Simonton Street other than cutting it down. Key West street trees are as much a part of our heritage as our historic homes. As you are aware, fewer and fewer of these trees remain every year and no replacement will even approach the size of this tree and the shade it provides in my lifetime. While I understand and appreciate your efforts to date to look at alternatives, surely there must be others that have not been considered. For example, attach a sign to the limb stating "low clearance", reduce the speed limit on the street, or ask The City engineering department to reconsider bumping out the curb, moving the bus stop across the street if necessary.

Citizens here rely on you and the tree commission to do everything possible to preserve trees like this mahogany. There are no private property issues here. The tree is on public property and belongs to everyone who lives here. More and more huge busses and trucks are coming to this ever more crowded island. I imagine there are dozens of street trees that have clearance issues, will they be removed one by one as well? I am hoping and asking that our Tree Commissioners put saving this tree as the number one priority even if it makes driving Semi trucks a bit slower or more inconvenient. This is a small island and while large mainland cities put traffic flow ahead of everything else, we do not have to follow suit. Please do not set a precedent that trucks are more important than the street trees that remain.

I urge the tree commission members to not approve this request for removal and to direct City staff to consider other options.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Steve Tepper
409 Amelia Street

Sent from my iPad

From: Randy Becker <Randy@randolphbecker.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 9:16 AM
To: Karen DeMaria
Subject: Tree Commission File# T17-8271

Dear Commissioners:

I reside at 818 Thomas Street and I write in relation to File # T17-8271, for the removal of a Royal Poinciana at 221 Petronia.

I ask that you deny this request.

I base this request for denial on the following points:

- 1) the tree is the last remaining canopy tree in the 200 block of Petronia; with its loss the streetscape will be a barren, almost hostile expanse of unshaded and unbroken concrete and asphalt.
- 2) the tree is well-enough regarded by the City of Key West that the sidewalk has been intentionally diverted around the tree to preserve it. Why would effort and expense be undertaken to preserve a tree only to remove it?
- 3) any real or potential damage to the building on the site was clearly evident prior to the acquisition of the property by the present owners, and is not a condition which has developed during their ownership.
- 4) any problems with the construction of the stairs leading to the front porch can be easily resolved by redesign of the stairs, a much less intrusive measure than destruction of a living tree.

5) any argument of the placement of a front fence is disingenuous - that a fence is schematically planned and approved to a location on the property is not a reason why the fence cannot be moved or redesigned to accommodate the tree.

Any one of these points should be sufficient to deny the request. As a whole they form a complete and compelling reason for denial.

Thank you

Randolph W.B. Becker
818 Thomas Street
Key West
305-407-7956

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You can make it if you focus on connections, not on differences.



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From: Randy Becker <Randy@randolphbecker.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 9:34 AM
To: Karen DeMaria
Subject: Tree Commission File# T17-8287

Tree Commissioners:

I write in relation to File# T17-8287, a request from the City of Key West to remove a mahogany tree at 1103-1105 Simonton Street.

I ask that you deny this request and protect this magnificent tree.

The only basis for the requested removal is low clearance over Simonton Street for one of the tree's leaders.

While rare in the Keys, the common practice in the rest of the United States where clearance is restricted is to post the low clearance as a restriction on the use of the road beneath the obstruction. This is used especially in relation to structural or situational limitations which predate the enactment of current highway clearance standards (e.g., railway bridges constructed decades ago, long-used tunnels, tree encroachment). This tree surely was there long before current highway standards were enacted.

Such height restrictions can be found on many roads, including roads in the Federal Highway System. In the long expanse of US-1 there are such posted restrictions in numerous places. Simonton Street does not rise to level of a Federal Highway, not even an essential arterial highway: one block west of the location is an alternative route easily used via wide roadways.

That such posted restrictions are used to protect inanimate objects such as bridges from the need for reconstruction or removal should recommend to you that our beloved animate objects, our trees, deserve at least the same protection.

Please do not use administrative excuses to justify the removal of a healthy, beautiful tree which adds to the ambiance of its setting and the whole appearance of the street on which it resides.

Thank you

Randolph W.B. Becker
818 Thomas Street
Key West
305-407-7956

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Karen DeMaria

From: Flkeysmon <flkeysmon@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 11:36 AM
To: Karen DeMaria
Cc: Karen Ludwig-O'Leary
Subject: Mahogany on Simonton

Hi Karen,

I really enjoyed your presentation at the Ambassador class last week. Clearly you are an intelligent woman who truly cares about the trees of Key West.

At the next tree commission meeting [on Feb 14](#) you all will be voting whether to take down the mahogany on Simonton that is too low hanging and is a safety problem for passing trucks. I totally understand the safety concerns, however couldn't a sign be posted at each end of the block warning about the low hanging tree and directing trucks to use an alternate street?

I would really like to see that tree continue to grace the street.

Please read this email at the meeting as I must work and can't attend.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Fran Decker

Key West