

Karen DeMaria

From: Colby Fisher <colbyfisher@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 10:19 AM
To: Karen DeMaria
Subject: 1005-A United Tree Removal Comments

Dear Karen and Members of the Tree Commission,

I would like to address the reasons that I want to remove four trees from the property at 1005-A United Street in Key West.

As you can see from the photos that Karen took during her recent visit, all of the trees are prohibitively close to the building structure. At a minimum, every one of them currently brushes against the house, and one of them has already caused significant physical damage to the roof.

My family has lived in South Florida since the early 1930's, and we have gone through dozens of hurricanes. Three of my family's homes were almost completely destroyed in Hurricane Andrew. One was in Homestead, another just South of Metro Zoo and a third less than a mile away from Country Walk. Two of those homes lost their roofs after similar, supposedly "safe" trees crashed repeatedly against them in the 140+mph winds. In short, we are as close to first-hand experts as one will find when it comes to the dangers of having trees, of any size, within the immediate striking distance of a structure.

Karen mentioned that the trees are probably close to the limit of their height, but annual trimming will most likely only serve to increase the density of growth and add more weight and material higher up and at the exact areas which will cause the most damage. There is no doubt that, if left in place, when a Category Two or greater storm hits Key West, every one of these trees will crash against the building sides and roof. That will certainly cause damage to the home's structural integrity and perhaps lead to catastrophic roof failure and total loss.

The bottom line is that these trees should have never been planted where they are in the first place. It was an action obviously taken by someone who had never before lived in the tropics and without the vision to foresee the current potential for damage.

Best regards,
Colby Fisher

STAFF REPORT

DATE: September 24, 2014

RE: 1005-A United Street (permit application #7093)

FROM: Karen DeMaria, Urban Forestry Manager,
City of Key West

An application was received for the removal of **(3) Pigeon Plum** and **(1) Green Buttonwood** trees. A site inspection was done on September 23, 2014 and documented the following:



Tree #1
Pigeon Plum

Lignum vitae-to remain

View of front yard standing outside of gate.

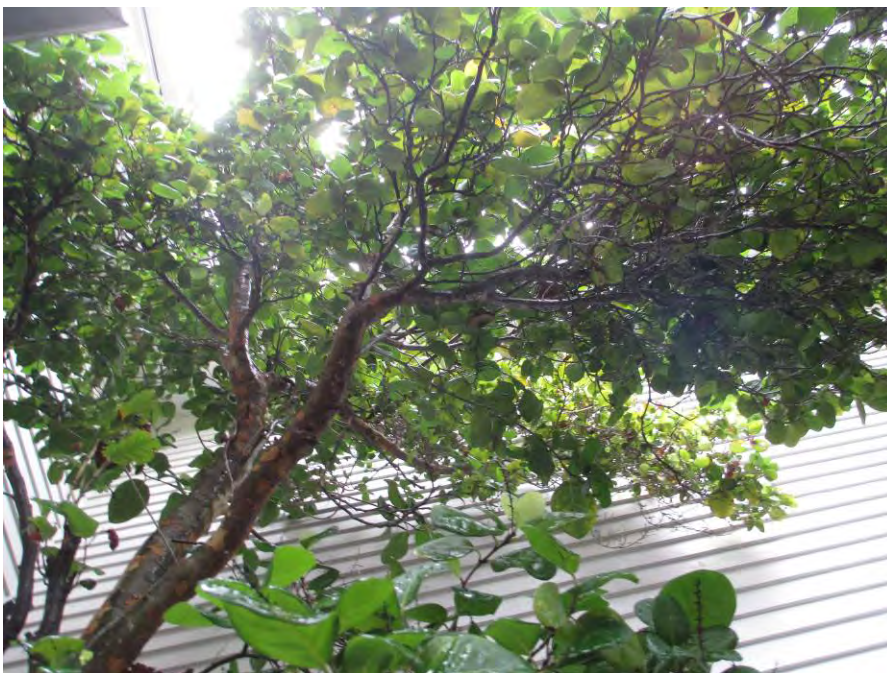
Trees to be removed: 2 pigeon plums and 1 green buttonwood

Palm to remain



View of front yard standing outside of gate.

1. Tree Species: Pigeon Plum (*Coccoloba diversifolia*)





Diameter: 4.4"

Location: 60 % (close to house)

Species: 100% (on protected tree list)

Condition: 70% (fair)

Total Average Value = 76%

Value x Diameter = **3.3 replacement caliper inches**

2. Tree Species: Pigeon Plum (*Coccoloba diversifolia*)



Green
Buttonwood
to be
removed

Diameter: 5.7"

Location: 60%

Species: 100% (on protected tree list)

Condition: 70% (fair)

Total Average Value = 76%

Value x Diameter = **4.3 replacement caliper inches**



3. Tree Species: Pigeon Plum (*Coccoloba diversifolia*)





Diameter: 6.6"
Location: 60% (canopy of tree
very close to roof line)
Species: 100% (on protected tree
list)
Condition: 70% (fair)
Total Average Value = 76%
Value x Diameter = **5**
replacement caliper inches

4. Tree Species: Green Buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*)



Diameter: 6.6"

Location: 60% (canopy of tree very close to roof line)

Species: 100% (on protected tree list)

Condition: 60% (fair)

Total Average Value = 73%

Value x Diameter = **4.8 replacement caliper inches**

NOTE: If all requested trees are removed, the total replacement inches will be 17.4 caliper inches.

The new property owner who will be moving into the house is an older lady (80 yrs old). Her son states that they are requesting removal of the trees because they bang against the house in the wind.

Application

9-19-14
NOCROSS



TC
Oct 2014
KD

7093

Tree Permit Application

Date: 9-12-2014

Please Clearly Print All Information unless indicated otherwise.

Tree Address 1005-A United St.
Cross/Corner Street Watson St.
List Tree Name(s) and Quantity 3 Pigeon Plum 1 Green Buttonwood
Species Type(s) check all that apply () Palm () Flowering () Fruit (X) Shade () Unsure
Reason(s) for Application:

(X) REMOVE () Tree Health () Safety (X) Other/Explain below
() TRANSPLANT () New Location () Same Property () Other/Explain below
() HEAVY MAINTENANCE () Branch Removal () Crown Cleaning/Thinning () Crown Reduction
Other/Explain Owner is renovating and all the trees are too close to the house.
Reason for Request

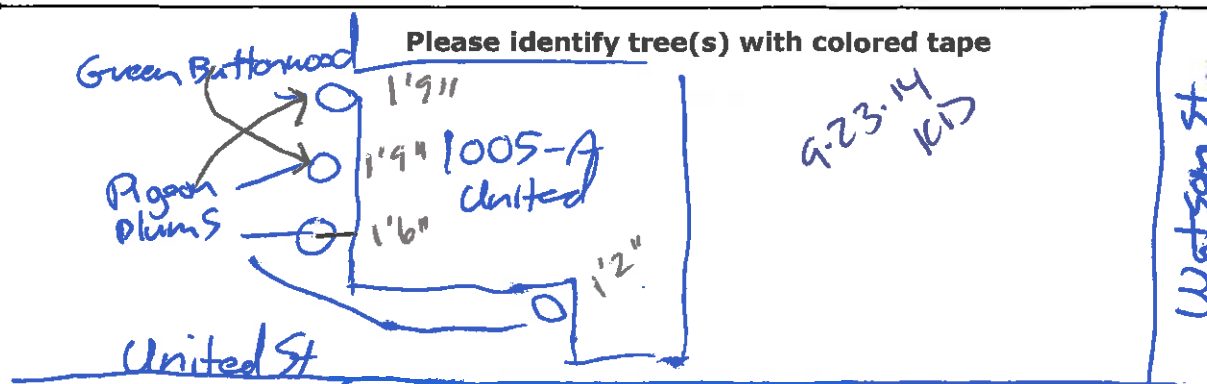
Property Owner Name Verna O. Fisher
Property Owner eMail Address
Property Owner Mailing Address 1005 A United St.
Property Owner Mailing City Key West **State** FL **Zip** 33040
Property Owner Phone Number (305) 432 - 6368
Property Owner Signature

Representative Name Kenneth King
Representative eMail Address
Representative Mailing Address 1602 Leland St.
Representative Mailing City Key West **State** FL **Zip** 33040
Representative Phone Number (305) 296 - 8101

NOTE: A Tree Representation Authorization form must accompany this application if someone other than the owner will be representing the owner at a Tree Commission meeting or picking up an issued Tree Permit.

Tree Representation Authorization form attached ()

<<<<< Sketch location of tree in this area including cross/corner Street >>>>>



If this process requires blocking of a City right-of-way, a separate ROW Permit is required. Please contact 305-809-3740.



Tree Representation Authorization

Date: 9/4/14

Attendance at the Tree Commission meeting on the date when your request will be discussed is necessary in order to expedite the resolution of your application. This Tree Representation Authorization form must accompany the application if the property owner is unable to attend or will have someone else pick up the Tree Permit once issued.

Please Clearly Print All Information unless indicated otherwise.

Tree Address 1005-A United

Property Owner Name

Verna O. Fisher

Property Owner eMail Address

Property Owner Mailing Address

1005-A United

Property Owner Mailing City

Key West State FL Zip 33040

Property Owner Phone Number

(305) 482-6368

Property Owner Signature

Representative Name

Kenneth Khoy

Representative eMail Address

Representative Mailing Address

1602 Laredo St

Representative Mailing City

Key West State FL Zip 33090

Representative Phone Number

(305) 396-8101

I Verna O. Fisher, hereby authorize the above listed agent(s) to represent me in the matter of obtaining a Tree Permit from the City of Key West for my property at the tree address above listed. You may contact me at the telephone listed above if there is any questions or need access to my property.

Property Owner Signature

The forgoing instrument was acknowledged before me on this 4th day September 2014

By (Print name of Affiant) Verna O. Fisher who is personally known to me or has produced Verna O. Fisher as identification and who did take an oath.

NOTARY PUBLIC

Sign Name: Colby Fisher

Notary Public - State of Florida (seal)

Print Name: Colby Fisher

My Commission Expires: 12/5/2015



COLBY FISHER
MY COMMISSION # EE 119608
EXPIRES: December 5, 2015