

# STAFF REPORT

DATE: January 30, 2015

**RE: Closure of Old Permits, 1214-1216 Petronia Street**

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



On January 13, 2015, a site inspection at 1214-1216 Petronia Street documented that a total of 53.5 caliper inches of dicot trees had been planted on the property (silver buttonwoods, Lignum vitae, and pigeon plum trees-see attached map). This inspection closed out the following tree permits; T10-5583 which authorized the removal of 1-Golden Shower/Cassia tree to be replaced with 7.8 caliper inches and T11-5800 which authorized the removal of 1-avocado tree to be replaced with 18 caliper inches of dicot or fruit trees for a total of 25.8 caliper inches. Therefore, an extra 27.7 caliper inches of dicot trees were planted on the property.

The following Tree Commission permits are still open on this property; T11-5789 which authorized the removal of 2 Coconut Palms, T12-6350 which authorized the removal of 1-Coconut Palm, and T13-6569 which authorized the removal of 1-Fiji Palm and 2-Montgomery Anna Palms.

The above open tree permits require the replacement of 6 native palms onto the property. Instead of planting palm trees, the property owners planted dicot trees and are requesting closure of the old palm permits (see attached letter from property owners).

The Tree Ordinance allows for the Tree Commission to approve the request of the replacement changes from palm to dicot trees and visa versa. In evaluating the request, if the homeowner had paid a fee for the palms into the tree fund, they would have had to pay \$1500 (\$250 x 6 palm trees). That amount is equivalent to 10 caliper inches of dicot trees if a fee was paid (\$1500/\$150 per inch). The homeowners planted an extra 27.7 caliper inches of dicot trees onto their property. Therefore, the Urban Forester recommends approval of the closure of tree commission permits T11-5789, T12-6350, and T13-6569.

**Rita A. Linder  
W. Perry Arnold  
1216 Petronia Street  
Key West, FL 330410**

January 13, 2015

The City of Key West  
Tree Commission  
PO Box 1409  
Key West, FL 33041

Re: T11-5789, T12-6350, T13-6569

To whom it may concern:

Kindly consider closing the referenced permits for the following reasons:

The three coconut palms on our property were a hazard. Two were leaning over our front fences onto Petronia Street and had grown so tall it was impossible to harvest the coconuts from a bucket truck. Falling coconuts damaged several parked cars. The third palm also posed a hazard in our back yard and was impossible to access due to its height and location.

The Fiji Fan Palm and two Montgomery Anna Palms were also located in our back yard and had grown to such heights that we were unable to remove dead fronds/berries before they fell. This was dangerous and unsightly and was damaging and staining our deck and pool. They no longer provided shade, canopy or privacy.

We chose not to replant native palms because we felt that canopy trees would provide more visual privacy from our neighbor's two-story house and also because we felt they were more important as wildlife habitat. We planted seven Pigeon Plums, 12 Silver Buttonwoods and 3 Lignum Vitae with a total caliper in excess of 50 inches.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Rita Linder & Perry Arnold





1-13-15

**THE CITY OF KEY WEST  
Tree Commission**

Post Office Box 1409  
Key West, FL 33041-1409  
Telephone: 305-809-3723

In order to finalize the tree permit, the owner/agent must send in this completed form when the approved work has been completed and the replacement(s) has been completed.

In lieu of planting tree(s), you may choose to pay mitigation fees to the City Tree Fund, please make your check payable to "City of Key West" and make reference to number **00100003660100** on your check. Mitigation fees are as follows: \$250 per tree for palm trees, and/or \$150 per required replacement caliper inch for dicot/canopy or fruit trees.

Please send the complete form to the following address:

**City of Key West  
Tree Commission  
P.O. Box 1409  
Key West, FL 33041-1409**

Permit # T11-5800 + T10-5583

( ) Removal      ( ) Heavy maintenance      ( ) Transplant

has been completed on \_\_\_\_\_  
List tree(s)

Located at \_\_\_\_\_  
Location address of tree(s)

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The replacement of 12 Silver Buttonwood / 7 Pigeon Plum / 3 Lignum vitae  
Type of tree(s) or Mitigation funds attached

has been completed at 1216 + 1214 Petronia Street  
Location of tree(s)

Signature W. Perry Arnold Rita Linder

Mailing Address P.O. Box 6568 Key West, FL 33041

Phone Number (407) 305-296-3517 (407) 305-3815 Date 12-13-15

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

Please identify tree(s) with colored tape

over

Key to the Caribbean – average yearly temperature 77 ° Fahrenheit.

\* Replaced over 50 inches of Caliper on property \*



Existing large canopy trees

