



**THE CITY OF KEY WEST  
Tree Commission**

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

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**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING  
BEFORE THE TREE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST**

September 27, 2016

Tree Commission  
City of Key West  
Petitioner,

Vs.

Alan & Celeste Steil  
PO Box 867  
Montauk, NY 11954

and

Gregorz Slowiak  
3635 Seaside Drive Apt 414  
Key West, FL 33040

An administrative hearing before the Tree Commission for the City of Key West will be held on **Monday, November 14, 2016**, at 5:00 p.m., at Old City Hall, 510 Greene St. Key West, Florida.

This hearing will be conducted pursuant to sections 110-288 et. seq. of the Key West City Code. The purpose of this hearing will be to determine if a code violation has been committed by the above named Respondent. Your presence is required at this Tree Commission meeting.

**Date of alleged violation: prior to September 6, 2016 at 610 Griffin Lane**

Alleged code violation:

***Sec. 110-256. Tree abuse.***

*(b) Prohibited acts. A tree shall be considered abused if a person takes an action so that one of the following occurs:*

*(4) Cutting upon a tree which destroys its natural shape.*

***Section 110-321. Permit Required.***

*(a) Unless a tree removal permit approved by the tree commission and issued by the urban forestry manager has been obtained, no person, whether on publicly or privately owned land, shall cause tree abuse or other harm, or major maintenance to, hatracking, transplanting, topping or removal of the following:*

*(1) Any tree listed as "specially protected" in section 110-253;*

**Factual allegation: Several trees on the property including (2) Cinnamon Bark trees, were topped. The work did not receive a permit, was not done properly, and was not done by a certified arborist.**

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



If the Tree Commission for the City of Key West finds that there has been a violation of the above code section, it will elect to enter into a compliance settlement agreement pursuant to section 110-291 of the Key West City Code or recommend a fine and further hearing before the Special Master of The City of Key West pursuant to section 110-294 of the Key West City Code.

Attendees are hereby notified that a complete and accurate record of the proceeding is required under Florida Statute 286.0105 if an appeal is sought. Appellants are responsible for providing transcription services.

I hereby certify that the forgoing notice has been e-mailed to the Respondents representatives, and has been sent regular mail and certified U.S. Mail to the above named Respondent's listed address on this **28<sup>th</sup> day of September 2016.**

If you have any questions, please call the office at (305) 809-3768.

Karen DeMaria  
Urban Forestry Manager  
[kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov](mailto:kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov)



610 Griffin Lane

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.</li> <li>■ Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.</li> <li>■ Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.</li> </ul>	<p>A. Signature  X  <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Agent <input type="checkbox"/> Addressee</span></p> <p>B. Received by (Printed Name) <span style="float: right;">C. Date of Delivery</span></p> <p>D. Is delivery address different from item 1? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  If YES, enter delivery address below: <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>1. Article Addressed to:</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <p><b>Alan &amp; Celeste Steel</b>  <b>PO Box 867</b>  <b>Montauk, NY 11954</b></p> </div>	<p>3. Service Type  <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail  <input type="checkbox"/> Registered <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise  <input type="checkbox"/> Insured Mail <input type="checkbox"/> C.O.D.</p> <p>4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</span></p>
<p>2. Article Number  (Transfer from service label) <span style="font-family: monospace; font-size: 1.2em;">7007 3020 0000 5347 6620</span></p>	
<p>PS Form 3811, February 2004 <span style="float: right;">Domestic Return Receipt 102595-02-M-1540</span></p>	

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## Karen DeMaria

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**From:** Alan Steil <damonjolly@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2016 7:21 PM  
**To:** Karen DeMaria  
**Subject:** RE: 610 Griffin Lane/ Steil residence

P.s. That cut in the tree is hideous , not something that we would agree to doing!!!!  
Alan

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail  
Get the new AOL app: mail.mobile.aol.com

On Thursday, September 15, 2016, Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov> wrote:

Alan:

See attached photos.

An administrative hearing will be scheduled in front of the Tree Commission for Nov 14, 2016. As the property owner, you will be asked to attend the hearing.

John Cole-an arborist with Shade Tree, is in the process of re-cutting the two cuts of the large cinnamon bark tree to proper cuts. This tree never should have been cut at all. John is trying to correct the poor cuts that were made so that the tree can hopefully recover and grow properly and healthy.

Sincerely,

Karen

---Original Message-----

From: Alan Steil [mailto:damonjolly@aol.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 12:14 PM  
To: Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>  
Subject: Re: 610 Griffin Lane/ Steil residence

Re: trees 610 Griffin

Well , topping was certainly not part of our instructions and understanding of the work he was to do in an effort to keep our property presentable in our absence ! Our Key West home is a considerable investment and our intention is to maintain it as so!

I'm sure pictures will show us the damage done and again , was not our intention to take away the value of the trees or our home.

Please call me if there are any questions.

We will be in Key West by October 17 th.

Thank you

Alan

## Karen DeMaria

---

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**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2016 7:20 PM  
**To:** Karen DeMaria  
**Subject:** RE: 610 Griffin Lane/ Steil residence

Hi Karen

We will be there in November . Hopefully the tree will be OK as was never our intention to hurt the tree. We live in a wooded acre of land on Eastern Long Island and have been very careful and caring of what nature has given us! We have been on this property for 40 years.

Again , we are concerned and will work with you to correct this problem .

See you soon

Alan

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail  
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Alan

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On Tuesday, September 13, 2016, Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov> wrote:

The City phone and Internet systems are down today. I am replying to you on my phone. The trimming work Greg did was not to Key West or arborist standards. What he has done is called topping and it was done to several of the trees.

Of great issue is the removal of the entire top of the tall cinnamon bark tree, an endangered species (state listed). The cuts to the tree were also not proper clean cuts. This is called tree abuse in our code.

Once I have access to my computer I can send you additional information including photos.

Sincerely,

Karen

Sent from my iPhone

>

On Sep 13, 2016, at 9:52 AM, Alan Steil <damonjolly@aol.com> wrote:

>

>

> Good morning Karen

> Got a call from our grounds keeper Greg , he is very upset about how he trimmed a tree as explained to him by you.

> He was left with instructions to keep things neat and clean , and as per your direction , carefully trimmed by Key West standards. We are still trying to find out where things went wrong and he seems to be very upset and we can't get enough info from him.

> I called you yesterday and left a message , hopefully this will get to you .

> You left us with good instructions which we passed on , so until I have more information we are still in the dark as to what is going on.

>

> I can be reached almost anytime at 631-903-1283 Or 516-901-5915 Thank

> you Alan Steil

>

> Sent from my iPad