

STAFF REPORT

DATE: July 27, 2017

RE: Administrative Hearing, 2303 Linda Avenue

On June 17, 2017, I received an e-mail from Gerald Leggett, City of Key West Code Enforcement Officer, regarding the cutting of trees at 2303 Linda Avenue without benefit of permits. On June 19, 2017, a site inspection was conducted which documented (8) Silver Buttonwood trees had been topped and all of the canopy branches from (2) Gumbo Limbos and (1) Mahogany tree had been removed. Mr. Vildostegui, neighbor, spoke to me during the site inspection and indicated that he was supervising the work on the property, the crew, and that the owner was out of town.











Gumbo Limbo #1

Mahogany

Gumbo Limbo #2





Gumbo Limbo #1 and Mahogany







Gumbo Limbo #2



06/19/2017

The (8) Silver Buttonwood trees were topped. This type of trimming with this species of tree is done when people want to turn buttonwood trees into hedges. These trees are a protected species and this type of trimming would be called heavy maintenance trimming-permit required.

It appears that the goal of the trimming on the (2) Gumbo Limbos and the (1) Mahogany was to remove the trees. Gumbo Limbo and Mahogany trees are protected tree species and a permit is required to remove these trees.

The removal of all the canopy branches of the Gumbo Limbos and the Mahogany tree does not qualify for a heavy maintenance trimming permit as the work is not considered proper trimming. A heavy maintenance trimming permit requires that the work be done by a certified arborist.

Gumbo Limbo #1: 11.4" diameter

Mahogany: 7.6" diameter

Gumbo Limbo #2: 15.2" diameter

The damage to the Gumbo Limbo and the Mahogany trees is irreparable.