

## Karen DeMaria

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**From:** Samuel Kaufman  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 05, 2018 5:55 PM  
**To:** Karen DeMaria; djacksonkw@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Lissette Carey; Larry.Schmiegel@KeysSchools.com  
**Subject:** RE: Most Beautiful Tree in KW Award

Karen:

This is fantastic! Perhaps this is an opportunity for the school children at Poinciana Elementary School as well. Maybe they could help to identify or judge the trees to be awarded most beautiful or in other categories. The children took such a keen interest in the selection process of the official tree of the city. I have copied Principal Larry Schmiegel to help the conversation along if there is interest. I know that my children would very much enjoy participating.

Thanks for your consideration and please keep us informed as this moves forward!

***Samuel J. Kaufman***

*Commissioner, District 2*  
*City of Key West, Florida*

**From:** Karen DeMaria  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 5, 2018 5:18 PM  
**To:** Samuel Kaufman <skaufman@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; djacksonkw@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Lissette Carey <lcarey@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Most Beautiful Tree in KW Award

Commissioner Kaufman:

I think this is something the Tree Commission can discuss at our meeting Monday night. It might be a good item to include as part of the Heritage Tree program we are creating. I have attached a copy of the proposed program. I think having special tree awards or designations could easily be part of this program. I am hoping to start the application process in January with discussion and decisions made in the Summer/Fall. The discussions and final procedures are still being discussed but I hope to have a small group of volunteers that will review the applications and make recommendations to the Tree Commission for a vote. It will be important to have volunteers who are open minded and people I and the board can trust. Chuck Banks has been a leading supporter of this program and the first person I would ask to be a part of the review group.

I am also aware that the Merili McCoy Gardens at Truman Waterfront Park is in the process of being planted right now. I would check with engineering as to what kind of signage or plaque they might have for that area and if they are planting any sort of dedication. With that coming soon, a special tree award as part of the Heritage Tree program might work out perfect for initiating next year.

David do you have anything to add?

Sincerely,

Karen

**From:** Samuel Kaufman

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 04, 2018 11:19 AM

**To:** [djacksonkw@gmail.com](mailto:djacksonkw@gmail.com)

**Cc:** Karen DeMaria <[kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov](mailto:kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov)>; Lissette Carey <[lcarey@cityofkeywest-fl.gov](mailto:lcarey@cityofkeywest-fl.gov)>

**Subject:** Most Beautiful Tree in KW Award

Mr. Jackson,

Can you please let me know whether you and the Tree Commission might support the creation of the most beautiful tree on the island award?

Such an award could encourage more attention to maintaining trees on the island and foster greater awareness of the different species and importance of our trees. I do not know whether such an award has ever been considered, but with the amount of interest there is on our island concerning trees, it seems like this might be a worthwhile effort.

I would like to know also whether you would support naming the award in honor of Merili McCoy. I have reached out to her daughter Mimi via e-mail and would want to know whether the family would support this as well and possibly participate.

Please let me know your thoughts and whether the Tree Commission is interested in doing this.

Thank you,

***Samuel J. Kaufman***

Commissioner, District 2

**City of Key West, Florida**