

STAFF REPORT

DATE: July 5, 2019

RE: **Administrative Hearing for 922 Thomas Street**

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

On May 16, 2019 while doing a close out inspection of a neighboring property, it was documented that a large structural root had been cut from a protected tree, without benefit of a tree trimming-root pruning permit. It appeared the root had been cut to install pavers.



Photo of tree
view 1

Location of cut
roots



Photo of tree, view 2.



Close up photo of cut root view 1.



Close up
photo of
cut root
view 2



Close up
photo of
cut root
view 3



Photo of tree canopy 5-16-19



Root areas

Photo showing installation of pavers complete



Photo of tree canopy June 20, 2019.



Older photos of
tree taken from
916 Thomas.





Older photos
of tree taken
from 916
Thomas.

On June 18, 2019, I was informed that Florida Fancy Landscaping may have been involved with the root pruning. Further discussion will commence with them regarding the unauthorized work.

At the time of the inspection that documented the unauthorized root pruning, the installation of pavers had not been reviewed under the building permit simultaneous review. That review would have alerted the property owner and contractor of the conflict and no pavers would have been authorized to be placed in that area. As of June 20, 2019, pavers have been installed.

There have been a lot of construction activity near this tree on 916 and 922 Thomas Street. A year ago, this tree was surrounded by vegetation and it was next to a large deck. That deck has been removed and most of the vegetation has also been removed.

It is recommended that in one year the tree be evaluated by a certified arborist and properly trimmed, if needed. Trimming of the tree will require approval from the owner of the tree (tree located at 914/916 Thomas Street). A fine is also recommended.