

# STAFF REPORT

DATE: July 31, 2019

RE: **413 Emma Street A (permit application # T2019-0302)**

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

An application was received requesting the removal of **(2) Pongam trees**. A site inspection was done and documented that the removal of tree #1 would qualify for an emergency tree removal permit due to the documented presence of live subterranean termites. No evidence of subterranean termites were observed in tree #2.

NOTE: There are at least two types of termites in Key West. One primarily eats decaying wood in the tree trunks and canopies. The other, subterranean termites, eat the root systems of the trees. Once mud trails are observed going up the trunks of trees, the roots system has been compromised.

**Tree Species: Pongam (Milletia/Pongamia pinnata)**



Tree  
#2

Tree #1

Photo of yard area showing trees.



Full photo of tree #2



Photo of tree canopy view 1.

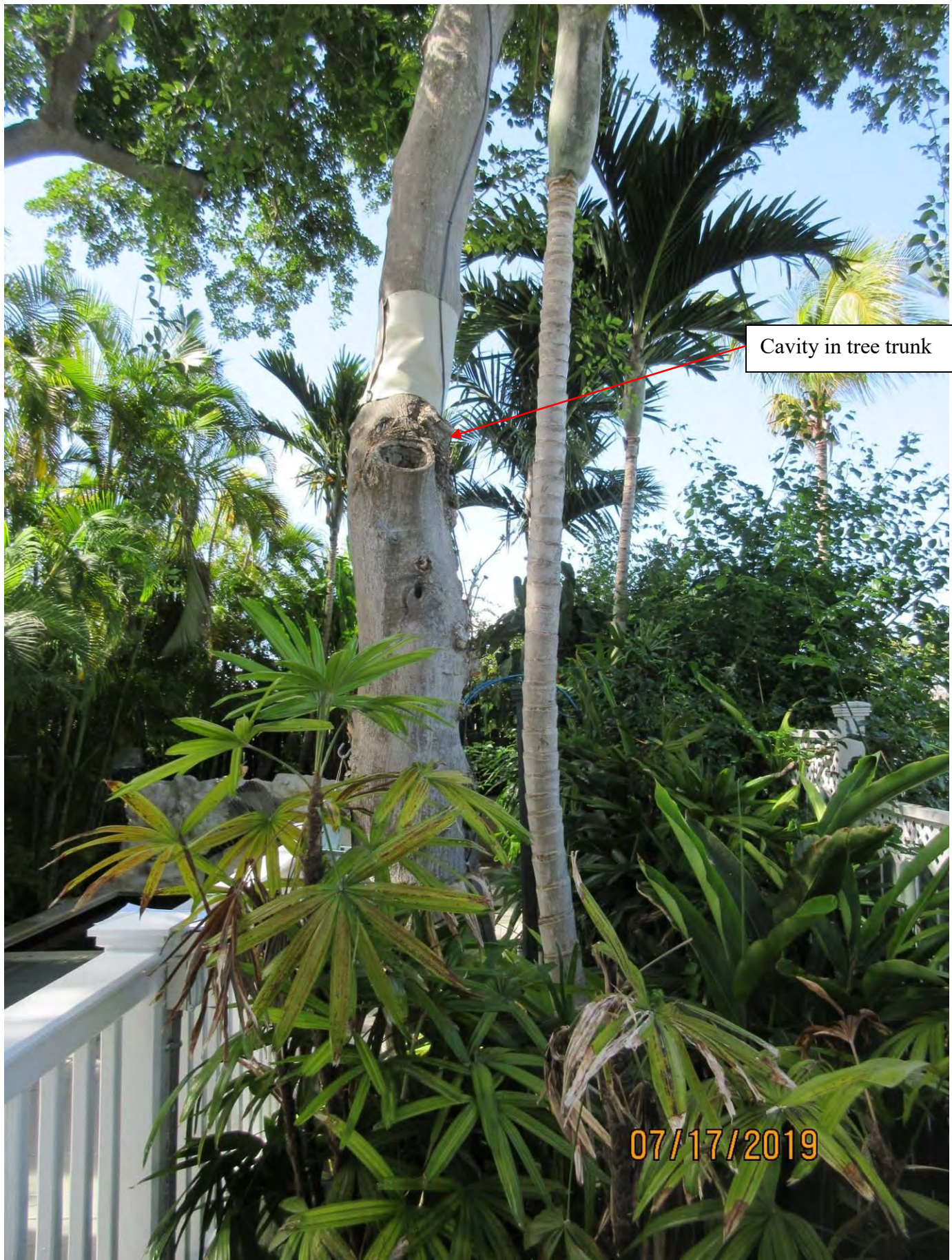


Photo of tree trunk, view 1.



Photo of tree canopy view 2.



Photo of base  
of tree view 1.



Photo of base  
of tree view 2  
with decay  
hole.



Photo of base of  
tree decay hole  
view 2.



Photo of base of  
tree decay hole  
view 3.



Close up  
photo of decay  
hole at base of  
tree.



Tree #2

Tree #1

Photo of entrance to yard area.

Diameter: 19.1"

Location: 80%

Species: 50% (not on protected or not protected tree list)

Condition: 40% (poor, decay areas in tree trunk, elongated tree trunk canopy structure with no primary branch structure lower than roof level. Anecdotal information submitted stating termites in tree trunk).

Total Average Value = 56%

Value x Diameter = 10.6 replacement caliper inches

Tree #1 photos:



Photo showing tree #1 canopy.



Two photos showing issues in canopy-weeping “sap” insect frass.



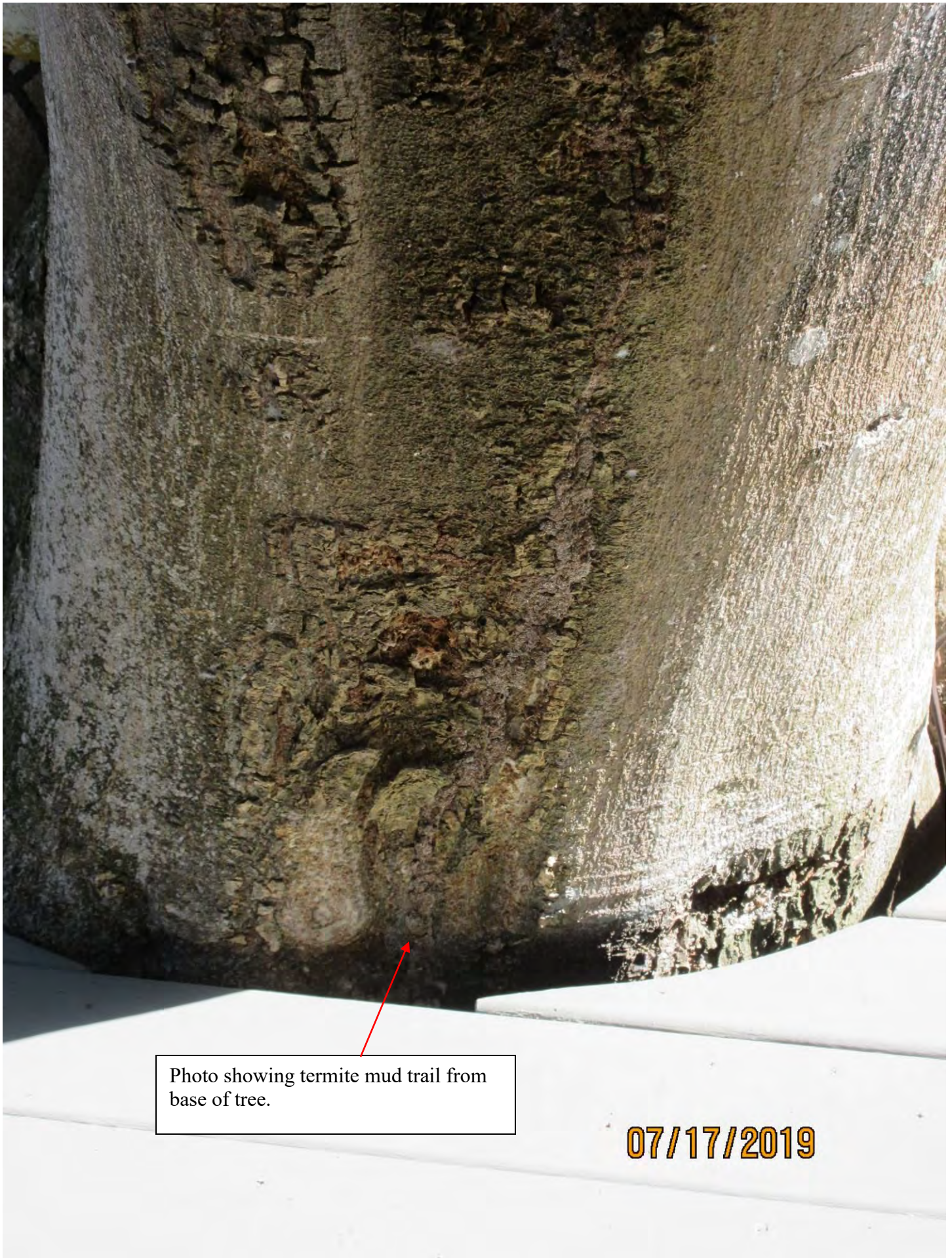


Photo showing termite mud trail from  
base of tree.

07/17/2019



Photo showing termite larvae in mud trail.

07/17/2019

# Additional Information

## Karen DeMaria

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**From:** Tim <tdressing@excite.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 2:55 PM  
**To:** Karen DeMaria  
**Cc:** tlizzy999@mac.com  
**Subject:** 413A Emma St.

Hi Karen, my name is Tim Dressing and I work for the homeowner of 413A Emma st. I would like to confirm that I have seen termites coming out of the two trees in the back yard. I work for the home owner in Key Largo and have made many trips to Key West to help Tracy @ 413A.

My ph# 305-522-3982. I live in Tavernier and have worked for the homeowner for 19 years. If you have any question please feel free to call. Thank you, Tim

## Karen DeMaria

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**From:** Ben Ford <tlizzy999@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 6:46 PM  
**To:** Karen DeMaria  
**Cc:** Tim  
**Subject:** Re: 413A Emma St.

Hi Karen, this is Ben Ford, the owner of 413A Emma Street, this spring I was staying at the condo from mid March to May 10, I saw hundreds of termites coming out of the hole near the ground of the big tree in the back yard of the condo, also there is another tree like the big one located just down the back steps on the water side that had termites pouring out of that one too. This mostly happened around dusk and made a mess of the backyard and when I barbecued at different dinners, would fall all over the table and food.

This is not the only year this has happened, it seems for the last 5 years I've had a problem with them. I asked Tracey to let you know about it and I would like to have those trees removed. I'm willing to pay for the removal of the trees, but I have to have the association or the city do it.

The iguanas will be unhappy, but I would be grateful.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. You can go through Tracey or Susan his wife.

Thank you for your time,

Best, Ben Ford

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 17, 2019, at 2:57 PM, Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov> wrote:

>

> Received, thank you.

>

> Sincerely,

>

> Karen

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Tim <tdressing@excite.com>

> Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 2:55 PM

> To: Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

> Cc: tlizzy999@mac.com

> Subject: 413A Emma St.

>

> Hi Karen, my name is Tim Dressing and I work for the homeowner of 413A Emma st. I would like to confirm that I have seen termites coming out of the two trees in the back yard. I work for the home owner in Key Largo and have made many trips to Key West to help Tracy @ 413A.

> My ph# 305-522-3982. I live in Tavernier and have worked for the homeowner for 19 years. If you have any question please feel free to call. Thank you, Tim

## Karen DeMaria

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**From:** Karen DeMaria  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 25, 2019 10:49 AM  
**To:** Dot Palm, Inc.  
**Subject:** RE: 413 Emma

I have evaluated the two pongam trees at 413 Emma St A.

Tree #1: This is the large double trunked tree located in the actual deck next to the house. This tree prior to July 1, 2019 would have qualified for an emergency permit review due to the presence and documentation of subterranean termites on the main trunk along with the "liquid" oozing from several old cuts in the canopy. The presence of active termite mud trails from the base of the tree up the trunk indicates compromised roots and a potentially dangerous situation to people or property. Therefore, the removal of this tree does not require a permit due to the new State Law (HB1159).

Tree #2: This is the single trunked tree next to the outdoor shower area. Removal of this tree will have to be heard at the Tree Commission meeting. No evidence of external termite trails were observed at the base of the tree therefore, no emergency or immediate danger was observed. The requested removal of this tree will be placed on the August 13 Tree Commission meeting.

Sincerely,

Karen

**From:** Dot Palm, Inc. <dotpalm@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2019 10:34 AM  
**To:** Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>  
**Subject:** 413 Emma

Good Morning Karen,

The caretaker for 413 Emma (Ford Property) called and said there is a green ribbon on the trees. What does that mean? Did you take a look and if so, what do you think?

Thanks,

Gigi

## Karen DeMaria

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**From:** johnharrison0770@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 30, 2019 6:53 AM  
**To:** Karen DeMaria  
**Subject:** Tree removal pongam

This tree at 413 A Emma st is the single trunk tree I went and took pictures of the cavity this appears to be hollow from top hole to bottom hole as the client stated when the pets control company came out to treat for termites they sprayed in the top hole and the spray ran out of bottom hole , and the leader in upper canopy is bleeding , and client is seeing termite activity on the truck just FYI

Thanks Karen John Dotpalm



Photo of tree Canopy.



Photo of cavity near base of tree.



Photo of cavity in tree trunk.



photo of tree trunk.

Sent from my iPhone

# Application



canopy  
removal

T2019-0302

## Tree Permit Application

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Clearly Print All Information unless indicated otherwise.

**Tree Address** 413 Emma St A  
**Cross/Corner Street** \_\_\_\_\_  
**List Tree Name(s) and Quantity** 2 Pongam in back yard  
**Species Type(s) check all that apply** ( ) Palm ( ) Flowering ( ) Fruit ( ) Shade ( ) Unsure  
**Reason(s) for Application:**

( ☒ ) REMOVE ( ☒ ) Tree Health ( ☒ ) Safety ( ) Other/Explain below  
( ) TRANSPLANT ( ) New Location ( ) Same Property ( ) Other/Explain below  
( ) HEAVY MAINTENANCE ( ) Branch Removal ( ) Crown Cleaning/Thinning ( ) Crown Reduction

**Additional Information and Explanation** Truly Nolan Pest Control documented signs of subterranean termite damage from the areas where limbs had been removed going inside to the core.

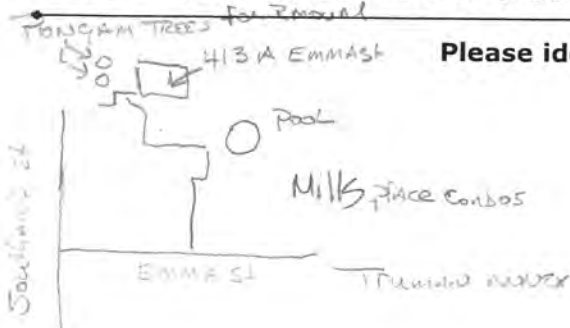
**Property Owner Name** Brush Street Trust 2/9/1998  
**Property Owner eMail Address** E793Z52Y@bellsouth.net  
**Property Owner Mailing Address** 2000 Brush St STE 440  
**Property Owner Mailing City** Detroit **State** MI **Zip** 48226  
**Property Owner Phone Number** (305) 304-1134 Tracy  
**Property Owner Signature** [Signature]

**Representative Name** John Harrison / Dot Palm  
**Representative eMail Address** dotpalm@comcast.net  
**Representative Mailing Address** 5200 Overseas Hwy  
**Representative Mailing City** Marathon **State** FL **Zip** 33050  
**Representative Phone Number** (305) 481-3803

NOTE: A Tree Representation Authorization form must accompany this application if someone other than the owner will be representing the owner at a Tree Commission meeting or picking up an issued Tree Permit.

Tree Representation Authorization form attached ( )

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



Please identify tree(s) with colored tape

If this process requires blocking of a City right-of-way, a separate ROW Permit is required. Please contact 305-809-3740.



T2019-0302

## Tree Representation Authorization

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendance at the Tree Commission meeting on the date when your request will be discussed is necessary in order to expedite the resolution of your application. This Tree Representation Authorization form must accompany the application if the property owner is unable to attend or will have someone else pick up the Tree Permit once issued.

Please Clearly Print All Information unless indicated otherwise.

Tree Address 413 Emma St. A

Property Owner Name Brush Street Trust 2/9/1998

Property Owner eMail Address E793Z52Y@bellsouth.net

Property Owner Mailing Address 2000 Brush St STE 440

Property Owner Mailing City Detroit State MI Zip 48226

Property Owner Phone Number (305) 304-1134 Tracy

Property Owner Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Name John Harrison / Dot Palm

Representative eMail Address dotpalm@comcast.net

Representative Mailing Address 5200 Overseas Hwy

Representative Mailing City Marathon State FL Zip 33050

Representative Phone Number (305) 481-0959

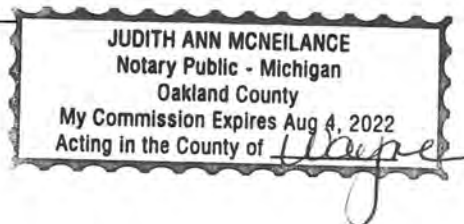
I THOMAS J MITSCHALL, hereby authorize the above listed agent(s) to represent me in the matter of obtaining a Tree Permit from the City of Key West for my property at the tree address above listed. You may contact me at the telephone listed above if there is any questions or need access to my property.

Property Owner Signature

The forgoing instrument was acknowledged before me on this 18<sup>th</sup> day June, 2019

By (Print name of Affiant) Thomas Mitschall who is personally known to me or has produced \_\_\_\_\_ as identification and who did take an oath.

### NOTARY PUBLIC

Sign Name: Judith Ann McNeilance Notary Public - State of Florida (seal)Print Name: Judith Ann McNeilanceMy Commission Expires: 8-4-2022

**Dot Palm, Inc.**

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**From:** SUSAN HOWANITZ <e793z52y@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 04, 2019 5:55 PM  
**To:** Inc. Dot Palm  
**Subject:** Fwd: Trees at 413 Emma St.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [cody.mccain@trulymail.net](mailto:cody.mccain@trulymail.net)  
**Date:** June 4, 2019 at 8:44:28 AM EDT  
**To:** [e793z52y@bellsouth.net](mailto:e793z52y@bellsouth.net)  
**Subject:** Trees at 413 Emma St.

During my inspection of 413 Emma St I found that the two large trees on the property exhibited signs of subterranean termite damage from the areas where limbs had been removed going inside to the core of them.

Truly Nolen Pest Control sales inspector  
Cody McCain.

Sent from my iPad

**Karen DeMaria**

7-16-19  
called + left  
message

**From:** Dot Palm, Inc. <dotpalm@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2019 10:59 AM  
**To:** Karen DeMaria  
**Subject:** RE: 413 Emma Street A

10:30  
7-17-19

Karen,

If you call Mr. Howanitz, the property caretaker, at 305-304-1134, he can let you in to look at the trees. Our Arborist will be tied up for the next little bit.

Please, let me know your observations.

Thank you so much,

Gigi Harrison  
Dot Palm Landscaping Inc.  
305-743-3090

**From:** Karen DeMaria [mailto:kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 08, 2019 10:18 AM  
**To:** 'Dot Palm, Inc.'  
**Subject:** 413 Emma Street A

I was trying to look at the trees at 413 Emma St A but could not get access to them-gate was locked. I was able to look at the canopy and part of the main trunk from outside the gate.

You might want to have your arborist look at these trees. I see that Truly Nolan is saying the trees have termites, subterranean. What does the base area of the trees look like? That is where the subterraneans do the most damage to trees. Is the tree a danger to people and property? If so, and if your certified arborist provides documentation to me saying so, I will void the application and issue a No Permit Required statement for the removal (HB 1159). If the base looks ok and your arborist does not want to provide documentation, then we will proceed as normal. I will need access to the trees then.

Sincerely,

Karen

*Karen DeMaria*  
Urban Forestry Manager  
Certified Arborist FL# 6585A  
City of Key West Planning Department  
1300 White Street, Key West, FL 33040  
305-809-3768

7-17-19

5' circ

5'6" 6'