

# STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 30, 2019

RE: 1116 Varela Street (permit application # T2019-0483)

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

An application was received requesting the removal of (1) Strangler Fig. A site inspection was done and documented the following:

Tree Species: Strangler Fig (*Ficus aurea*)



Photo showing tree location.



Location of recent broken branch area



Photo showing tree trunk and canopy, view 1.





Photo showing tree trunk and canopy, view 2.





Photo showing tree trunk growing against fence, view 1.





Photo of tree trunk and canopy, view 3.





Photo of  
tree canopy,  
view 1.



Photo of tree  
canopy, view 2.





Photo looking upward at tree trunk.





Photo showing tree trunk growing against fence, view 2.





Photo looking over fence at neighbor's pump system, view 1.



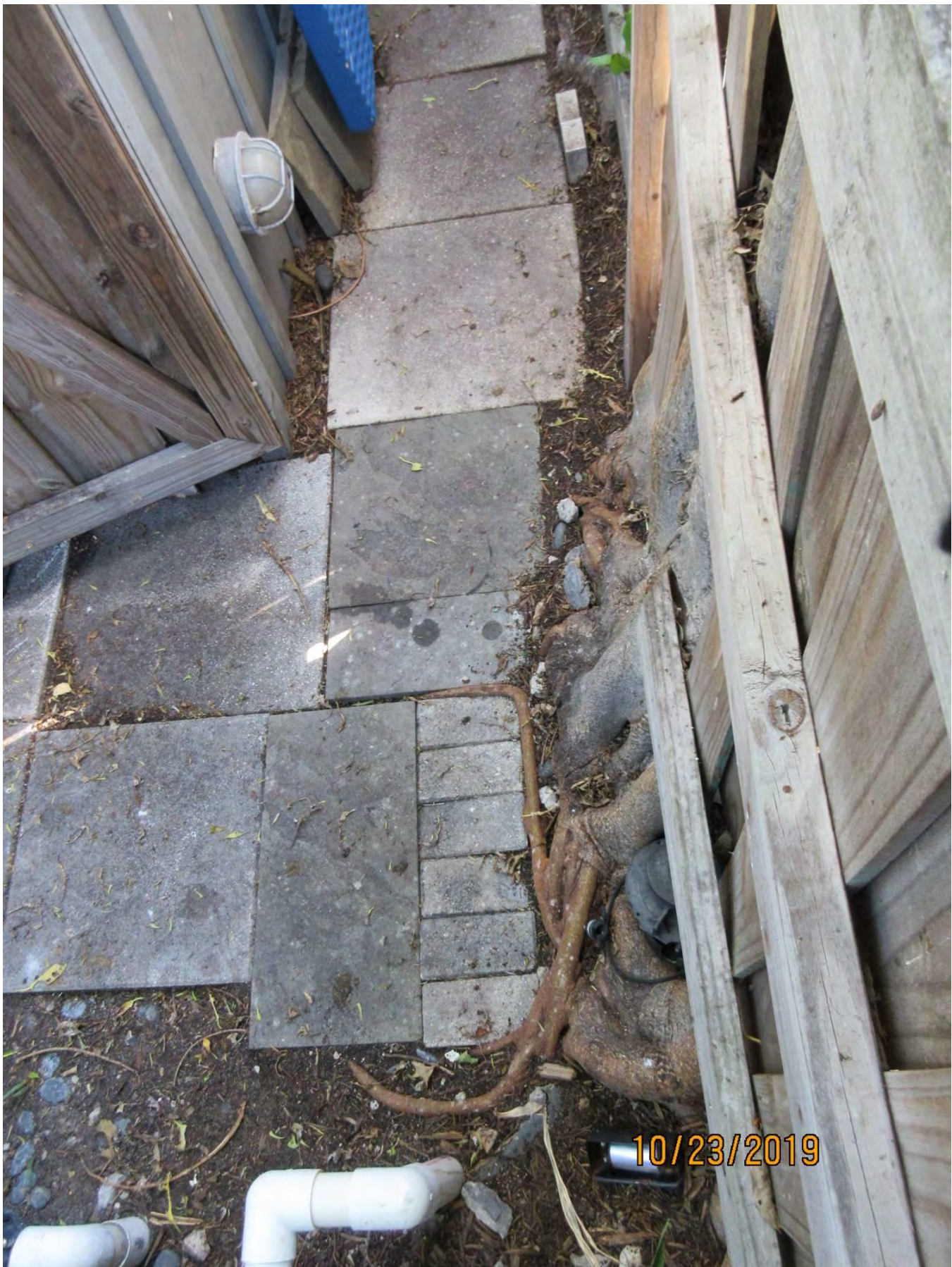


Photo looking over fence at neighbor's pump system, view 2.



Diameter: 31.5

Location: 40% (trunk up against fence, roots impacting neighbors pump system).

Species: 100% (on protected tree list)

Condition: 60% (overall tree is in fair health, does appear that insects are in canopy eating foliage, no obvious evidence of disease or major decay from ground level)

Total Average Value = 66%

Value x Diameter = 20.7 replacement caliper inches

In 2017, the property was remodeled. In May 2017, a tree removal permit was denied by the Tree Commission for the removal of this strangler fig tree. In April 2018, an application was submitted to remove the tree but this application was withdrawn in December 2018 due to lack of representation at the Tree Commission meetings and lack of communication. The information submitted with that application, T18-8953, has been included with this file.



# Additional Information



## Karen DeMaria

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**From:** Shawn Harman <shawn@bahiamarina.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 11, 2019 4:04 PM  
**To:** Karen DeMaria  
**Subject:** Fwd: tree root damage

Karen, here is all the info I have from my neighbor about his costs regarding the tree.  
Thank you for your consideration  
Thanks Shawn

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ronald Gilbert <[ron@growthhm.com](mailto:ron@growthhm.com)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: tree root damage  
**Date:** November 11, 2019 at 3:56:58 PM EST  
**To:** "[donna@bahiamarina.com](mailto:donna@bahiamarina.com)" <[donna@bahiamarina.com](mailto:donna@bahiamarina.com)>, "[shawn@bahiamarina.com](mailto:shawn@bahiamarina.com)" <[shawn@bahiamarina.com](mailto:shawn@bahiamarina.com)>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ronald Gilbert <[ron@growthhm.com](mailto:ron@growthhm.com)>  
**Date:** November 11, 2019 at 1:38:52 PM EST  
**To:** Shawn Harman <[shawn@bahiamarina.com](mailto:shawn@bahiamarina.com)>  
**Subject:** tree root damage

Shawn, yes we have had to cut the roots two times as in both cases they raised up the pavers which wouldn't allow us to open the gate to our pool equipment nor my back cottage door to get to the hot water heater. As of kast week and as it still currently is I cannot open and c;ose out gate again.

The first time I paid \$ 440.00 and the second time I paid \$ 310. There is no material , just time/labor

Ronald C Gilbert, CHA  
*President*  
Growth Hospitality Management  
1295 George Terrace, Southampton, PA 18966  
Tel: 866.930.0555 Fax:215.364.3528



# STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 25, 2018

RE: 1116 Varela Street (permit application # T18-8953)

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

An application was received requesting the removal of (1) Strangler Fig tree. A site inspection was done on April 20, 2018 and documented the following:

Tree Species: Strangler Fig (*Ficus aurea*)



1116

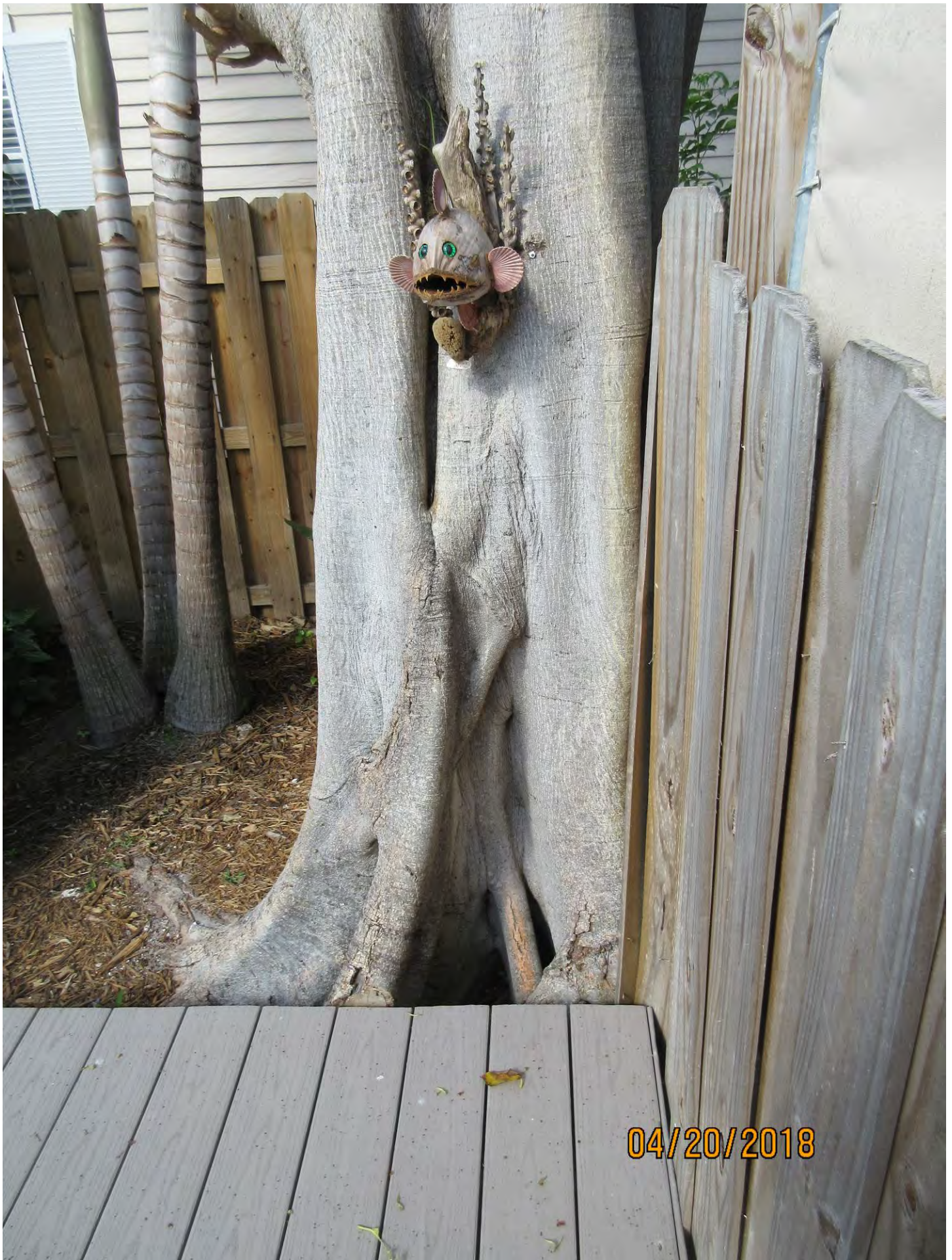
1114





04/20/2018









Root cut







Looking over the fence on the 1114 Varela side.





Looking over the fence on the 1114 Varela side.





Looking over the fence on the 1114 Varela side.





Diameter: 30.5"

Location: 50% (tree growing in rear corner against property line and fence. Neighbor complaints regarding roots and plumbing issues)

Species: 100% (on protected tree list)

Condition: 70% (fair, tree overall in good shape considering hurricane and previous pruning)

Total Average Value = 73%

Value x Diameter = 22.2 replacement caliper inches

Additional documentation needed regarding impacts to neighbor's plumbing. Can the pool/plumbing equipment be moved?

During reconstruction/remodeling of the property, a request was made to remove this ficus tree which was denied by the Tree Commission (June 2017). Pool and deck were built with full knowledge of tree.



## Karen DeMaria

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**From:** Shawn Harman <shawn@bahiamarina.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 25, 2018 6:28 PM  
**To:** Karen DeMaria  
**Subject:** Re: Ficus tree removal application 116 Varela St

Thanks for your time with this, I will contact neighbors for requested info and I would like state that we have tried to do everything within the code from our end and would like to apologize in advance if anything was done in correctly. We will forward any other info ASAP.  
Thank You Again. Shawn

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 25, 2018, at 5:56 PM, Karen DeMaria <[kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov](mailto:kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov)> wrote:

All:

The application to remove the strangler fig tree at 1116 Varela Street is on the agenda for the May 8 Tree Commission meeting. In order for this application to be properly processed, we need documentation that shows damage to Mr. Gilbert's property/plumbing (plumbing receipts, photos of the actual break). What about the neighbors behind you? Do they have any issues that are documented? I am also sure the commission will want to know why roots of the tree were cut without authorization. Not only were some roots cut by Mr. Gilbert, but one large buttress was cut when the deck was built on 1116.

Removal of this tree was denied a year ago primarily because there was no documentation regarding any issues to neighboring structures or utilities. The tree basically looks the same now as a year ago so it is important to submit the requested documentation. Any potential issues to the new pool are not as important of a reason to remove the tree as the pool probably should not have built that close to the tree a year ago therefore, any issues there are caused by poor planning.

Sincerely,

Karen

Karen DeMaria  
Urban Forestry Manager/Tree Commission  
Certified Arborist  
305-809-3768



# STAFF REPORT

DATE: June 1, 2017

RE: 1116 Varela Street (permit application # T17-8502)

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

An application was received requesting the removal of (1) Strangler Fig and (1) Gumbo Limbo tree. A site inspection was done on May 24, 2017 and documented the following:













Diameter: 28.6"

Location: 60% (rear corner of property at fence line, new pool installed nearby-property recently redeveloped)

Species: 100% (on protected tree list)

Condition: 70% (fair to good, tree has been overlifted but no obvious signs of decay or health issues)

Total Average Value = 76%

Value x Diameter = 21.7 replacement caliper inches

Tree Species: Gumbo Limbo (*Bursera simaruba*)





# Application





2019-0483

# Tree Permit Application

Date: 10/16/19

Please Clearly Print All Information unless Indicated otherwise.

Tree Address 1116 Varela St  
Cross/Corner Street Catherine of Virginia  
List Tree Name(s) and Quantity Strangling fig  
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 Branch has broken from wind damage and tree is diseased

Property Owner Name Shawn & Donna HARMAN  
Property Owner Email Address Shawn@bahiamarina.com  
Property Owner Mailing Address 10257 GOLF course Rd  
Property Owner Mailing City Ocean City State MD Zip 21842  
Property Owner Phone Number (443) 497-0986  
Property Owner Signature [Signature]

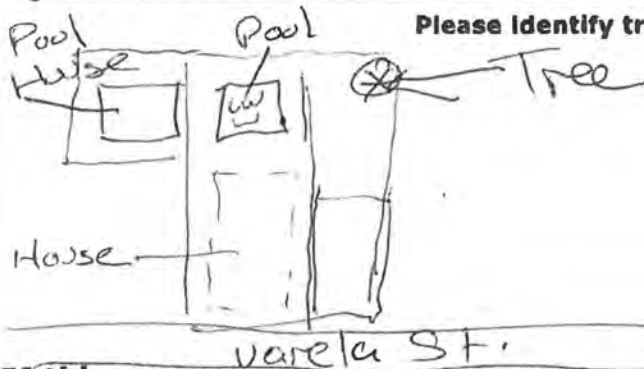
Representative Name Donna HARMAN (owner)  
Representative Email Address Donna@bahiamarina.com  
Representative Mailing Address 10257 GOLF course Rd  
Representative Mailing City Ocean City State MD Zip 21842  
Representative Phone Number (443) 497-0986

NOTE: A Tree Representation Authorization form must accompany this application if someone other than 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



8'3" w  
31.5" dbh

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

Updated: 02/22/2014

( old permit applications )  
T17-8502 denied  
T18-8953 withdrawn





## Tree Representation Authorization

Date: 10/16/19

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 1116 Varela St  
Property Owner Name SHAWN & DONNA HARMAN  
Property Owner eMail Address shawn@bahiamarina.com  
Property Owner Mailing Address 10257 Golf Course Rd  
Property Owner Mailing City Ocean City State MD Zip 21842  
Property Owner Phone Number (443) 497-0986  
Property Owner Signature [Signature]  
Representative Name Donna Harman  
Representative eMail Address Donna@bahiamarina.com  
Representative Mailing Address 10257 Golf Course Rd  
Representative Mailing City Ocean City State MD Zip 21842  
Representative Phone Number (443) 497-0985

I SHAWN HARMAN, 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 is there is any questions or need access to my property.

Property Owner Signature [Signature]

The forgoing instrument was acknowledged before me on this 16<sup>th</sup> day October 2019

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

### NOTARY PUBLIC

Sign Name: Susan M. Barnard

Print Name: Susan M. Barnard

My Commission Expires: 2/16/2022

Notary Public - State of Florida (seal)

Updated: 02/22/2014





Shawn Harman  
10257 Golf Course Road  
Ocean City, Maryland 21842  
410-213-7493

Karen DeMaria  
Urban Forestry Manager  
Planning Department  
1300 White Street  
Key West, Florida 33040

Dear Ms. DeMaria,

The attached Tree Permit Application and Tree Representation Authorization is being submitted so that it can be put on the agenda for the next upcoming Tree Commission Meeting on November 12, 2019. This is for the removal of the Strangling Fig Tree on my property at 1116 Varela, Key West, FL.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [shawn@bahiamarina.com](mailto:shawn@bahiamarina.com) or by phone at 410-213-7493.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Harman', written in a cursive style.

Shawn Harman



## Karen DeMaria

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**From:** Susan Barnard <susan@bahiamarina.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 17, 2019 4:46 PM  
**To:** Karen DeMaria  
**Cc:** ron@growthhm.com; 'Shawn Harman'  
**Subject:** Tree Application and Tree Representation  
**Attachments:** 2061\_001.pdf

Dear Ms. DeMaria,

I apologize for not sending the cover letter and finishing the forms. If we have missed anything or need to provide you with further information, please do not hesitate to contact Shawn or me. Thanks you for your time and attention to this matter.

Susan Barnard  
Assistant to Mr. Shawn Harman  
Human Resources Manager  
Fish Tales Bar & Grill  
410-289-0990, ext. 115  
443-822-3088

**From:** Fishtales [mailto:copy@bahiamarina.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 17, 2019 5:46 PM  
**To:** Susan <susan@bahiamarina.com>  
**Subject:** Attached Image