

STAFF REPORT

DATE: January 2, 2020

RE: 1407 6th Street (permit application # T2019-0559)

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

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

Tree Species: Mahogany (Swietenia mahagoni)



Aerial photo showing tree location.



Standing in front of the house, two photos showing canopy of tree, view 1.





Standing in front of the house, two additional photos of the tree canopy, view 2.





Standing in front of the house, one additional photo of the tree canopy, view 3.



Standing in front yard, photo showing tree roots growing from under house, view 1.



Standing in front yard, photo showing where tree roots are growing from under house, view 2.



Standing on the left side of the house, photos shows roots from mahogany tree.



Standing in kitchen area, photos looking at base of tree and trunk.



Photo showing
base of tree next
to sliding glass
doors/house wall.



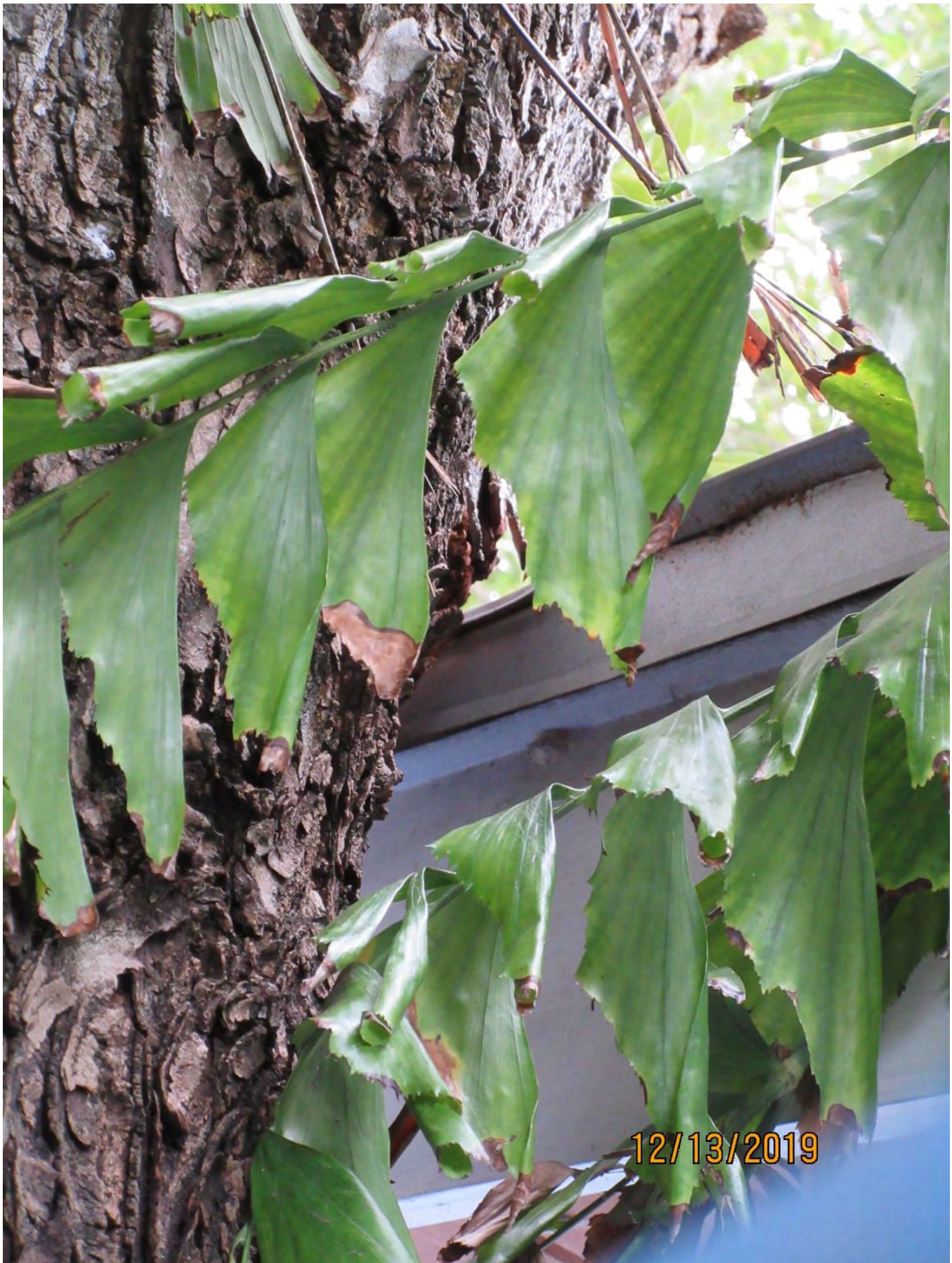
Photo showing
tree trunk and
location related
to wall of house.



Photo of base of tree and trunk, view 2.



Photo of tree trunk and main branches.



Close up photo of tree trunk and roof eave damage area, view 1.



Photo of tree trunk and roof eve damage area, view 1.



Photo showing distance between tree trunk and house wall.



Photo showing distance between base of tree and house wall.



Photo of tree trunk and roof eve damage area, view 2.



Close up photo of tree trunk and roof eve damage area, view 2.



Photos of tree canopy from rear deck area.





Photo of base of tree under deck boards showing tree roots, view 1.



Photo of base of tree under deck boards showing tree roots, view 2.

Diameter: 27.3"

Location: 20% (tree roots are lifting floor joists of house, trunk too close to exterior house wall and hitting roof)

Species: 100% (on protected tree list)

Condition: 80 (good health)

Total Average Value = 66%

Value x Diameter = 18 replacement caliper inches

NOTE: On November 20, 2019, a meeting with the property owner, John Cole, and I documented that two large roots were lifting the floor joists. The possibility of root pruning those two roots was discussed as an option. After that meeting, further investigation of the floor joists determined that numerous other large roots were also lifting the floor joists therefore, root pruning was not an option as there would be a strong possibility of destabilizing the tree and creating a potential future safety issue.

The portion of the structure that is being significantly impacted by the tree was built in 1998.

Application



12:30 PM
12-13-19
51# visit

T2019-0559

Tree Permit Application

Please Clearly Print All Information unless indicated otherwise. Date: 11/23/19

Tree Address 1407 6th Street
Cross/Corner Street Staples Ave
List Tree Name(s) and Quantity 1 Mahogany
Species Type(s) check all that apply () Palm () Flowering () Fruit () Shade () Unsure
Reason(s) for Application:
(X) Remove () Tree Health (X) Safety () Other/Explain below
() Transplant () New Location () Same Property () Other/Explain below
() Heavy Maintenance Trim () Branch Removal () Crown Cleaning/Thinning () Crown Reduction

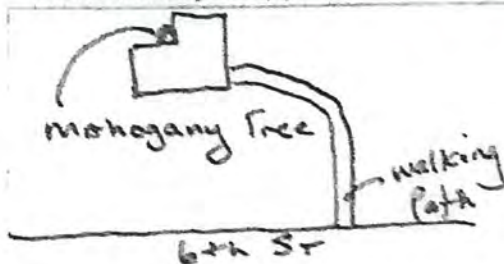
Additional Information and Explanation Mahogany is causing Structural Damage to Floor & Walls

Property Owner Name ALFRED H. STROLLE
Property Owner email Address fstrolle@comcast.net
Property Owner Mailing Address 1407 6th STREET KEY WEST FL 33040
Property Owner Phone Number 610.299.9821
Property Owner Signature [Signature]

Representative Name John Cole Shade Tree Inc
Representative email Address shadetreeservices@yahoo.com
Representative Mailing Address Po Box 1341
Representative Phone Number 305-340-8094

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



7'2" / 27.3" dbh

If this process requires blocking of a City right-of-way, a separate ROW Permit is required. Please contact 305-509-3740.

A. H. Strolle – Mahogany Tree Remediation Concerns

We are currently facing a dangerous situation threatening the home and possible lives of three neighboring homes as well as our own property.

Current situation and problem. An addition built in 1996 at 1407 6th Street in Key West naively was constructed dangerously close to a mahogany tree. Over the years the tree has continued growing and is now approximately 14 inches from our house. Its roots are now growing under our home, lifting it and causing structural damage to our floor and walls. In addition, the tree is now adjacent to our roof and will begin causing damage to the roof and soffits within a year. At the present time the roots and tree growth have rendered our hurricane shutters as well as a sliding glass door exit near the tree useless and inoperable.

Suggested remedies. At first we considered notching one root, but upon investigation as many as three roots are involved. Notching these roots will create instability and a weakened tree structure, endangering ourselves and neighbors in a storm. In addition, the roots under the house will continue to grow causing future issues. We will also have to redo the notching in a few years.

The other considered option is cutting the roots, killing them and severely impacting the stability of the tree. This will essentially remove half of the support of the tree making it statistically highly probable it will fall into parts of our home and the neighbors in a storm, with the uprooted roots destroying most of our home.

Requested Solution. The tree flexed during Irma hitting the house. We now know the tree will move in storms. The most viable solution that will be most safe to our home and our neighbors is the removal of the tree. All other options leave my property and that of our neighbors threatened. Should the tree flex and fall in an upcoming storm we now know it will cause extensive damage to our home and threaten the lives of our neighbors, including a child.

Should our request to remove this tree and replace it elsewhere in Key West be refused by the committee, we will go on record that the legal responsibility for any loss of lives or property damage will reside with those who ignored this dangerous situation.

Alfred Strolle
1407 6th Street
Key West, FL 33040
610.299.9821

Karen DeMaria

From: ALFRED STROLLE <fstrolle@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, December 27, 2019 4:32 PM
To: Karen DeMaria
Cc: shadetreeservices@yahoo.com
Subject: Fwd: Re: Mahogany Tree Issue

Karen, this note is from Sarah Goodwin, who lives behind us. Her home is under the branches and if a storm blew over the tree due to the absence of roots on one side it would come down on her and her home.

Best,
Fred Strolle
610.299.9821

----- Original Message -----

From: goodwinsarah966 <goodwinsarah966@gmail.com>
To: ALFRED STROLLE <fstrolle@comcast.net>
Date: December 27, 2019 at 4:10 PM
Subject: Re: Mahogany Tree Issue

Fred, thank you for letting me know of your mahogany tree problem and the suggestion that the roots on one side of the tree get cut to save your home. I am concerned for my personal safety and my home that the tree will now be blown over in a storm. My home is under the branches. I support cutting down the tree and authorizing the city to replace it with another tree in an area where locals can safely enjoy it.

Regards,
Sarah Goodwin

Karen DeMaria

From: ALFRED STROLLE <fstrolle@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, December 28, 2019 10:27 AM
To: Karen DeMaria
Cc: shadetreeservices@yahoo.com
Subject: Fwd: Mahogany tree issue - 2nd email from concerned neighbor

Karen, this is from our neighbor who lives beside us. She has expressed concern in the past, even asking a tree surgeon to look at cutting some of the branches over her house. You took a photo of roots growing under our fence in the direction of her home. If the tree toppled over she and her daughter would be jeopardized as well as her home. She is under the canopy of the tree and lives quite close to us.

Best,
Fred Strolle
610.299.9821

----- Original Message -----

From: Carol Dochow <keywcarol@yahoo.com>
To: ALFRED STROLLE <fstrolle@comcast.net>
Date: December 27, 2019 at 5:13 PM
Subject: Mahogany tree issue

Fred, I am concerned about your mahogany tree problem and making the tree unstable by cutting the roots on one side of the tree to save your home. I am concerned for my personal safety, my daughter's personal safety, and my home. I'm worried that tree will now be blown over in a storm. As you know, my home is also under the branches. I support cutting down the tree. I understand the city will replace it with another tree in another area in Key West.

Regards,
Carol Dochow