

STAFF REPORT

DATE: January 23, 2024

RE: 1823 Harris Avenue Alley (permit application # T2024-0014)

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

An application is being processed requesting the removal of (1) Gumbo Limbo tree. A site inspection was done and documented the following:

Tree Species: Gumbo Limbo (*Burera simaruba*)

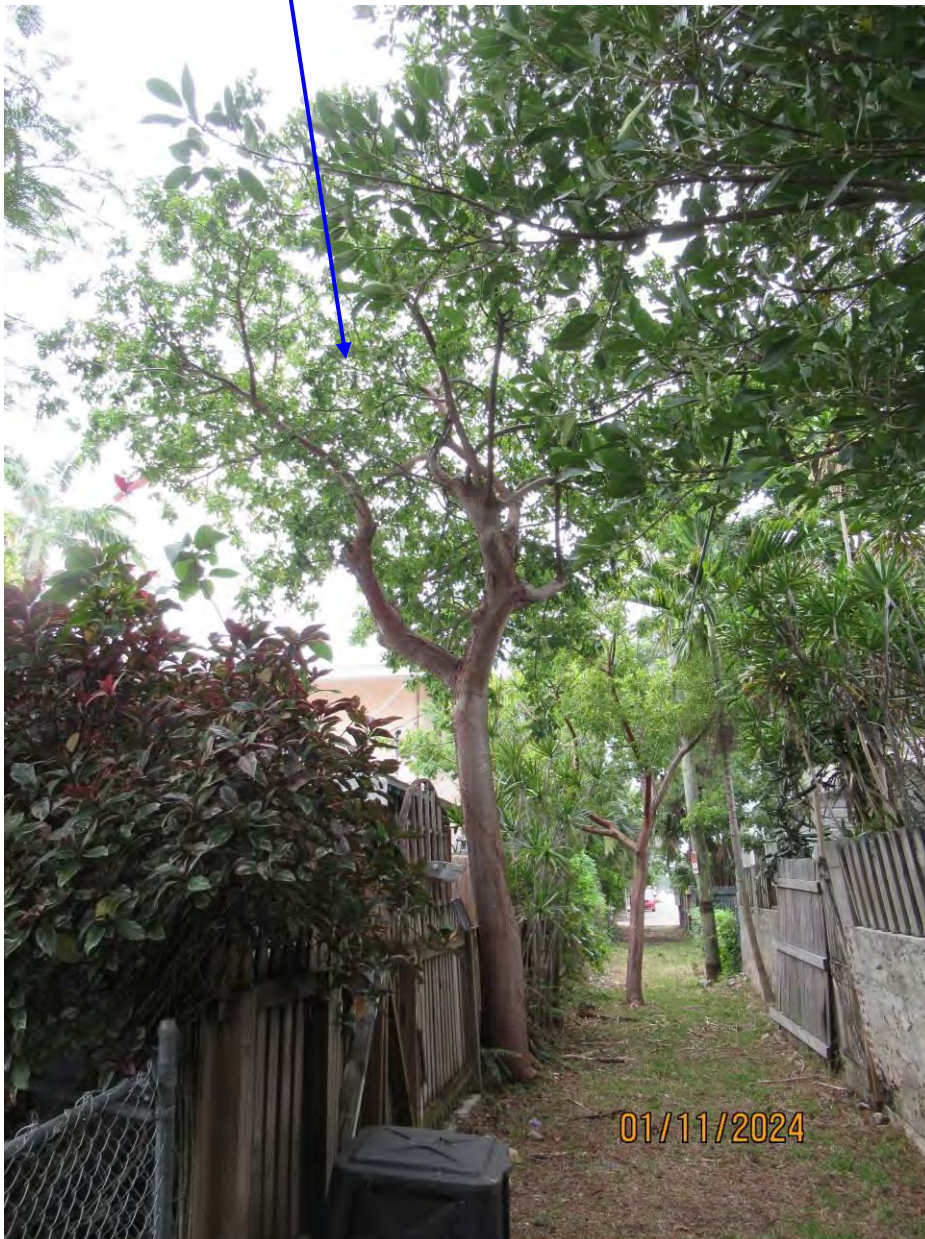


Photo of whole tree, showing location, view 1.



Photo of tree trunk and canopy, view 1.



Photo of trunk and base of tree, view 1.



Photo of tree trunk and canopy, view 2.



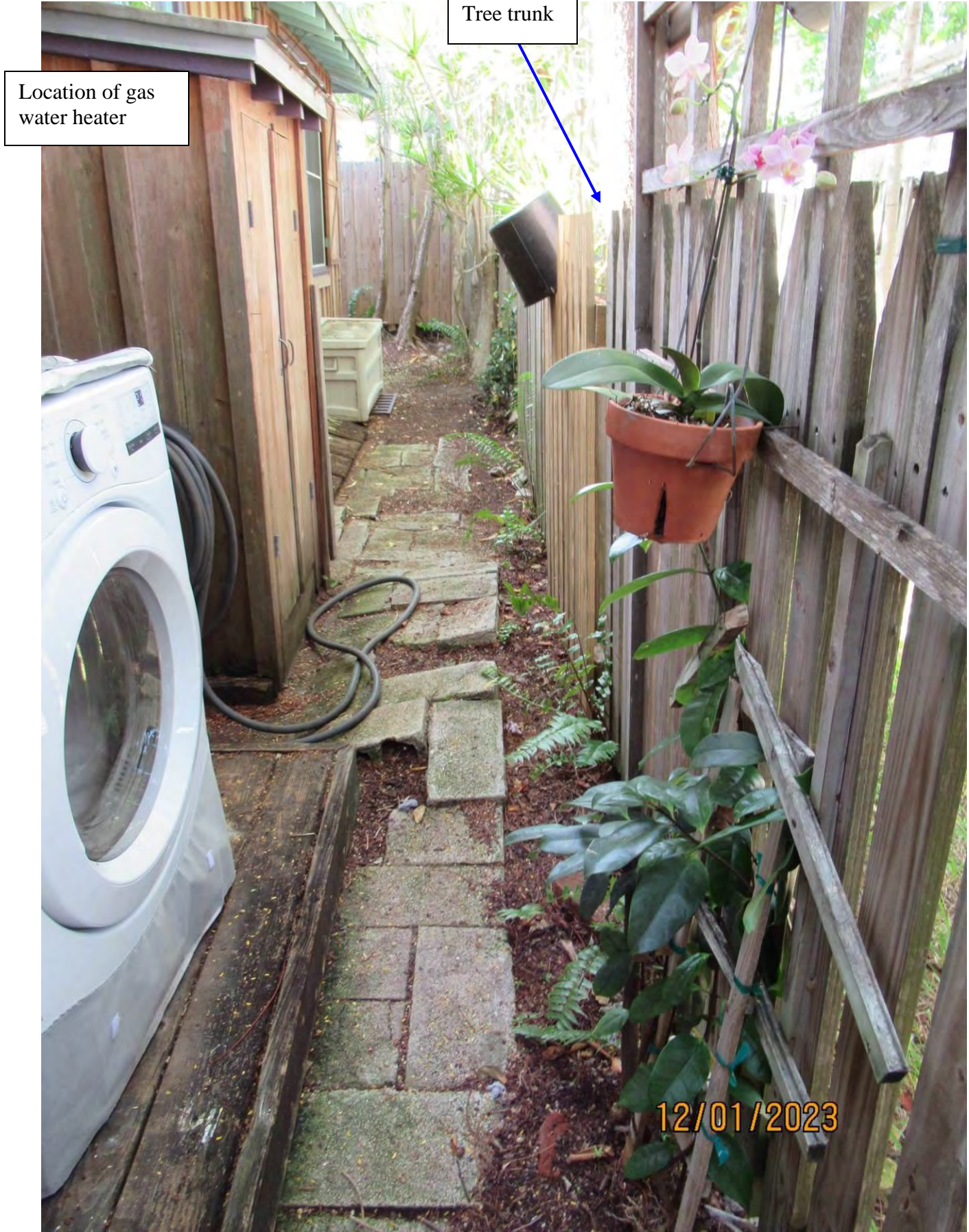
Photo of trunk and base of tree, view 2.



Photo of trunk and base of tree, view 3.



Photo of base of tree, view 1.



Tree trunk

Location of gas water heater

12/01/2023

Photo showing property issues and location of tree.



Photo showing base of tree and property line fence.

Photo showing tree trunk, property line fence, and gas water heater cabinet.





Photo of whole tree, showing location, view 2.

Diameter: 13.6"

Location: 50% (growing in City owned alley area against private property fence. Property owner has already repaired fence. Pavers in the area are uplifted and property owner is concerned about roots going into area where gas lines and water heater are located.)

Species: 100% (on protected tree list)

Condition: 60% (overall condition is good, tree is a young, healthy tree. Base of tree has a girdled root issue.)

Total Average Value = 70%

Value x Diameter = 9.5 replacement caliper inches

Additional Information

Karen DeMaria

From: Don Bartolone <donatob@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 3:46 PM
To: Karen DeMaria
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] 1823 Harris Ave

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Ms. Di Maria. Thank you so much for visiting our property at 1823 Harris Avenue last Friday. My apologies for the rush that we were in to get to the airport but we do appreciate your generosity of information and direction regarding our concerns of the gumbo limbo tree Right outside the fence of our property in the lane behind our house. You mentioned several steps to initiate the process to research this issue further and of course will need a refresher on that. Please. Can you tell me what the next step is to address the situation as I am very concerned that the roots of that tree are going to affect, the foundation of our house as its at this point just a couple of feet away of becoming a bigger problem in the near future.

I look forward to receiving your information as to initial steps in proceeding through the process to get to a hearing regarding my concerns.

Again, thank you so much for your time and concern. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone

Donato Bartolone

> On Nov 27, 2023, at 3:24 PM, Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov> wrote:

>

> I have received your email. The next time I am in the field I will check out the area and then respond to your concern.

>

> Sincerely,

>

> Karen

>

>

> Karen DeMaria

> Urban Forestry Manager

> Certified Arborist FL-6585A

> City of Key West

> 305-809-3768

>

>

>

>

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

> From: Don Bartolone <donatob@comcast.net>

> Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 12:22 PM

> To: Tree EXT EMAIL <tree@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

> Subject: [EXTERNAL] 1823 Harris Ave

>

> CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Karen DeMaria

From: Don Bartolone <donatob@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 5:00 PM
To: Karen DeMaria
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 1823 Harris Ave Gumbo Limbo Tree

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Tree commission

Ms DiMaria. Thank you for response and direction to proceed to next steps. I am including here pictures with description showing the issue with encroachment of the Gumbo Limbo tree to my property and the subsequent concerns. It is located in the lane behind my property. Existing impacts include the following:

View from the lane outside the property line.



note that the fence has already required repair as the tree has pushed on the fence. This accommodation was to prevent the fence from being knocked over entirely. Given that the tree continues to expand in diameter, this is only a temporary fix.

View from inside the property:



Note in the following pictures, the lifting of the ground beneath the pavers has already approached the base of the housing for the hot water heater and gas lines to the heater.



Note that the pavers also have created a hazardous walkway through the back of the property given the disruption of the ground from the tree roots.

Included below is a copy of the map of the property.

Note at the very top of the map is the location of the tree and fence. (circle with an X in it) Please let me know if this is sufficient, or I can deliver personally a hardcopy to your office if required.

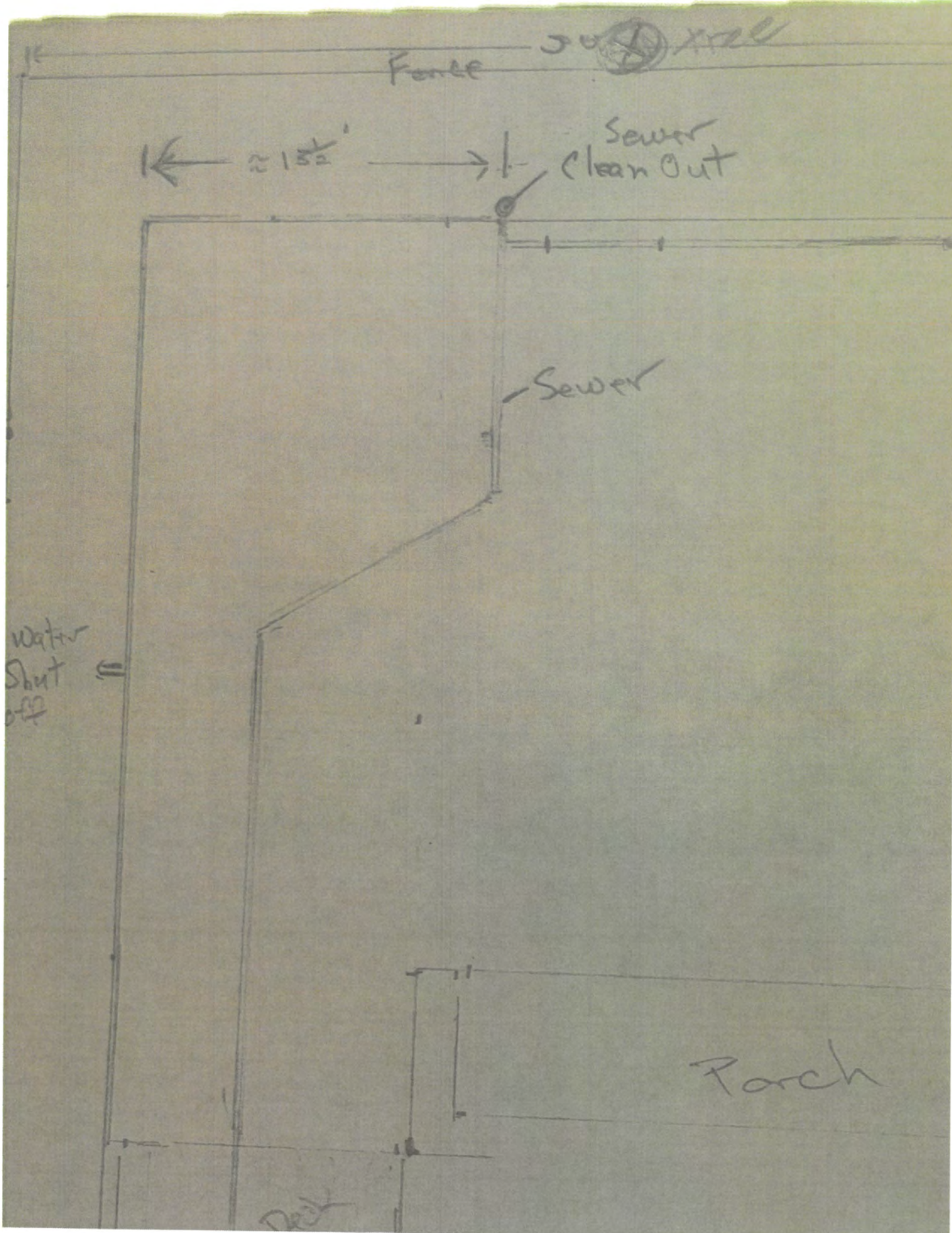
Thank you again for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely

Don Bartolone

Sent from my iPhone

Donato Bartolone











Rinnai
EXPERIENCE OUR INNOVATION



Karen DeMaria

From: Don Bartolone <donatob@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:26 PM
To: Karen DeMaria
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 1823 Harris Ave
Attachments: X7PwOd8zQmT5ytk1DyZCKG7Qm1hu4fBfLpZCMEA==.heic

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I am including here pictures with description showing the issue with encroachment of the Gumbo Limbo tree to my property and the subsequent concerns. It is located in the lane behind my property. Existing impacts include the following:

View from the lane outside the property line.



note that the fence has already required repair as the tree has pushed on the fence. This accommodation was to prevent the fence from being knocked over entirely. Given that the tree continues to expand in diameter, this is only a temporary fix.

This is the first of five pictures that I am resending you. Please let me know if you have received all five. I'm going to send them separately to make sure they are not lost.

Sent from my iPhone
Donato Bartolone



Karen DeMaria

From: Don Bartolone <donatob@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:32 PM
To: Karen DeMaria
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 1823 Harris Ave
Attachments: CcA=.heic

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note that the fence has already required repair as the tree has pushed on the fence. This accommodation was to prevent the fence from being knocked over entirely. Given that the tree continues to expand in diameter, this is only a temporary fix.

View from inside defense
Sent

from my iPhone
Donato Bartolone

Application



T2024-0014
CL00452

Tree Permit Application

Please Clearly Print All Information unless indicated otherwise. Date: _____

Tree Address 1823 Harris Avenue Alley
Cross/Corner Street George Street
List Tree Name(s) and Quantity 1- Guemba Limbo

Reason(s) for Application:

- Remove () Tree Health () 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

tree growing on City Alley right of way against fence. Roots upifting, powers. Property owner concerned about impacts to property (see attached emails + photos.)

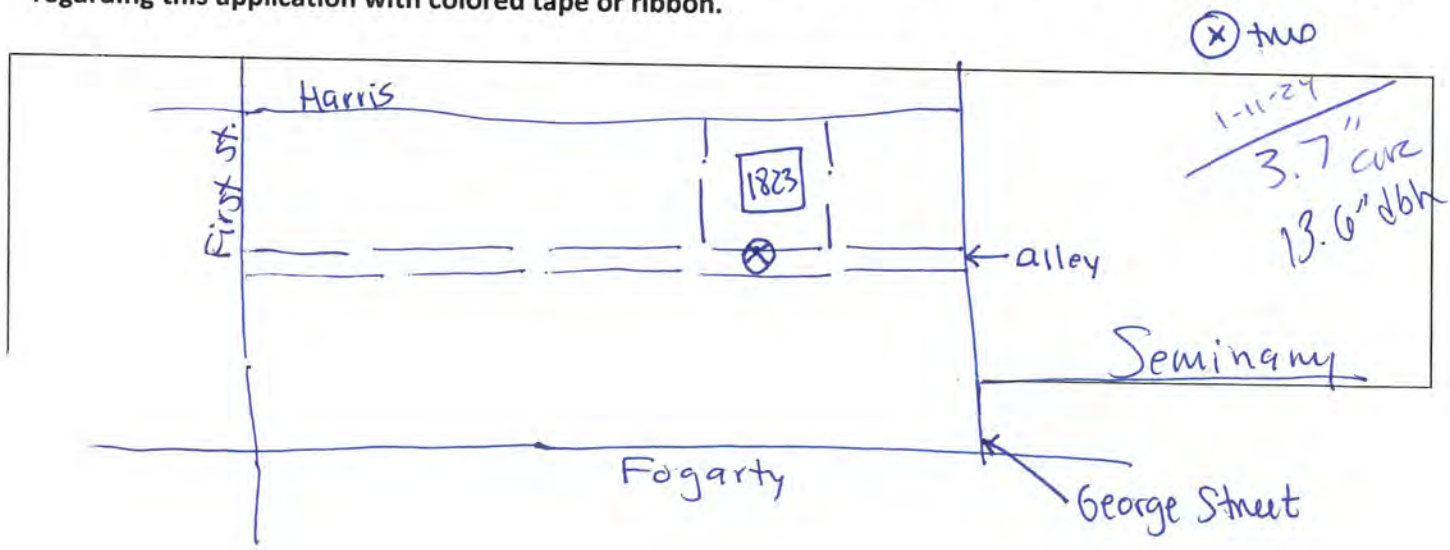
Property Owner Name City of Key West
Property Owner email Address PO Box 1409 Key West FL 33041
Property Owner Mailing Address _____
Property Owner Phone Number _____
Property Owner Signature [Signature] 1-12-23, Ken

*Representative Name Property owner request: Don Bartolone
Representative email Address 1823 Harris Ave Key 33046
Representative Mailing Address donatob@comcast.net
Representative Phone Number 508-259-6732

*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. Application submitted by: Karen DeLuca, Urban Forestry Manager

As of August 1, 2022, application fees are required. See back of application for fee amounts.


Sketch location of tree (aerial view) including cross/corner street. Please identify tree(s) on the property regarding this application with colored tape or ribbon.



Untitled Map

Write a description for your map.

Legend

 1823 Harris Ave



Untitled Map

Write a description for your map.

Legend
📍 1823 Harris Ave.





12/01/2023

Karen DeMaria

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Ms DiMaria.

My name is Don Bartolone, and I'm calling regarding a tree outside of our property in the lane behind our house, which is lifting up the earth and walkway on my property. I am requesting that someone survey the area to determine if this situation can be remedied. Please feel free to respond by email or text at 508-259-6732. I greatly appreciate your response.

Sent from my iPhone

Donato Bartolone

Karen DeMaria

From: Karen DeMaria
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2023 2:49 PM
To: Don Bartolone
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] 1823 Harris Ave

Thank you for the email,

The first step is a letter or email from you stating a request to the City to remove the tree and why. With this email you have basically made that request. I do need some additional information before I can proceed further; are there any existing impacts besides the pavers, that have occurred? You mentioned a propane tank in the area, can you send me a map of the property that shows the impact areas, tree location, and your concerns.

I will need to take whatever documentation I can gather and submit an application request for tree removal to the City Manager. If the City Manager signs the application then it will have to go to the Tree Commission for review and possible approval. Only the Tree Commission can approve the removal of a protected tree. Therefore, any information/documentation that you can give me will be helpful.

Sincerely,

Karen

Karen DeMaria
Urban Forestry Manager
Certified Arborist FL-6585A
City of Key West
305-809-3768

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