

**TREE COMMISSION TREE REMOVAL REPORT
CITY of KEY WEST**

PROPERTY: 729 Truman Ave

APPLICATION NUMBER: T2026-0102

REQUEST: The applicant is requesting removal of (1) Gumbo Limbo & (1) Poinciana tree.

TREE ASSESSMENT and PHOTOS











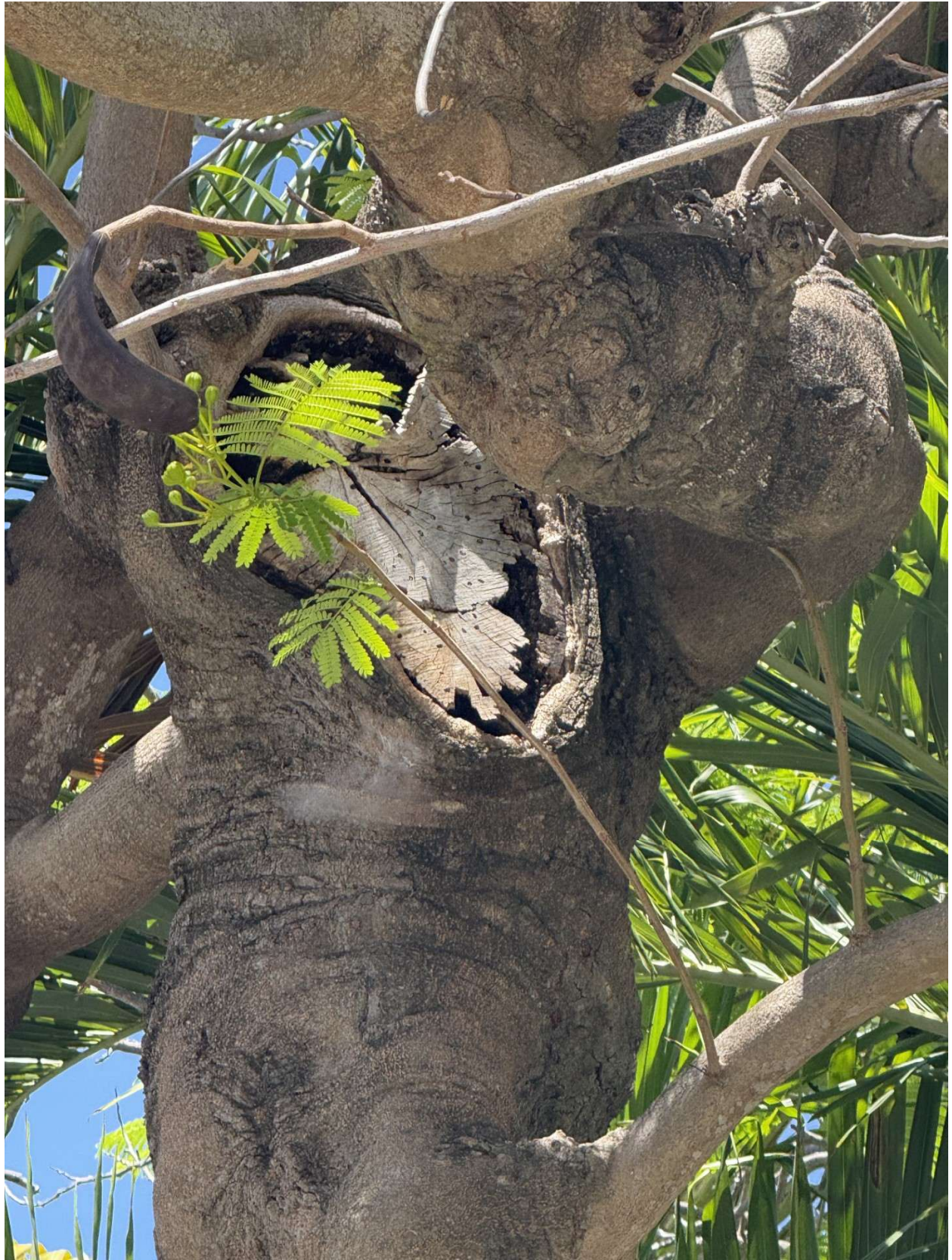














Poinciana has very little canopy especially for a 28" trunk.



Gumbo Limbo broken branch













Broken branch. I am told it fell into neighboring property and was tossed back over the property line.





TREE 1 Gumbo Limbo

Diameter: 15"

Location: 50%

Species: 100%

Condition: 40%

Value: 63.3%

Recommended Mitigation: 9.5 Caliper Inches

TREE 2 Poinciana

Diameter: 28"

Location: 30%

Species: 100%

Condition: 40%

Value: 56.6%

Recommended Mitigation: 15.8 Caliper Inches

The subject tree #1 is a 15-inch DBH Gumbo Limbo tree located on a transient lodging property, growing in close proximity to other mature canopy trees, including another mature Gumbo Limbo less than two feet away. The tree exhibits significant structural and physiological deficiencies which adversely affect both its condition and long-term viability. A pronounced split is present near the base of the trunk, creating openings that are likely facilitating internal infestation and decay. Evidence of chronic stress and internal dysfunction is further

demonstrated by the presence of dark and white exudates emerging from the crack, indicative of bacterial activity, decay organisms, or other pathological issues within the trunk structure.

The canopy exhibits sparse foliage and poor architectural form, lacking the density and vigor expected of a healthy specimen. Numerous large branches have previously failed or been improperly pruned, leaving behind substantial exposed heartwood and open wounds that have not compartmentalized effectively. These areas now display advanced decay and are likely contributing to continued structural degradation and potential insect infestation. The overall structure of the tree is compromised, and in its current condition, the specimen is approaching the threshold at which emergency mitigation or removal could become necessary.

Based upon the observed defects, poor canopy vitality, structural instability, and evidence of ongoing decay, the condition rating of this tree is estimated at no greater than 40%. Given the extent of the defects present and the elevated likelihood of future failure, removal of the tree is worthy of serious consideration by the Tree Commission.

The subject tree #2 is a 28-inch DBH Royal Poinciana growing immediately adjacent to a permitted covered deck structure. The base of the trunk is in direct proximity to the deck, nearly contacting the structure, while the main stem at approximately eight feet in height is actively growing into and against the roof system. This ongoing conflict is not only causing physical damage to the roof structure, but is also resulting in abrasion and compression against the tree itself, with the structure beginning to intrude into the bark and cambial layer of the stem. The location of the tree relative to the structure is highly constrained and incompatible with the mature size and growth habit of the species.

The tree exhibits numerous large historical pruning wounds throughout the canopy and scaffold structure. Nearly all observed pruning cuts display varying degrees of hollowing, decay, and likely infestation. In the local environment of Key West, Royal Poinciana trees commonly demonstrate poor compartmentalization of large pruning wounds, even when cuts are performed in accordance with accepted arboricultural standards and best management practices. As a result, large pruning wounds frequently become long-term points of structural weakness and decay development. The subject tree presently exhibits poor canopy architecture, compromised structure, and overall diminished vitality.

Based upon the structural conflicts with the permitted structure, the extensive decay associated with prior pruning wounds, and the poor overall form and canopy condition, the condition rating of this Royal Poinciana is estimated at no greater than 50%. Given the current defects and ongoing structural impacts to both the tree and adjacent improvements, removal of the tree is worthy of consideration by the Tree Commission.

PREPARED BY:

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&

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