

**From:** kalena schoen <kalenaschoen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2026 3:06 PM  
**To:** City Clerk External E-Mail <clerk@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 1123 Olivia St—Public Comment

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Hello,

I live across the street from this project at 900 White Street, #3. I respect the property owner's rights regarding the redevelopment of the property at 1123 Olivia Street, but I do have concerns about the loss of this Royal Poinciana tree, along with the removal of many more trees in the City of Key West, as well as concerns about the process of approving demolition before approving the removal of the tree.

The Royal Poinciana in question is currently in full bloom, and its presence promotes the beauty and special nature of Key West. I have read the Urban Forestry Manager's report and understand its findings. The Royal Poinciana is the official tree of Key West and is classified as a protected tree in Key West. The new house plans should consider accommodating the tree.

Regarding the process and sequence of approving the demolition and the removal of the tree, I think that because the demolition was approved by HARC before the Tree Commission considers tree removal, the Tree Commission is forced to approve removal, not just in this instance, but in all other similar instances. I feel that trees such as these should be considered *before* the demolition permit is approved. Otherwise, the removal is a foregone conclusion. What would be the result if a healthy protected tree was presented to the Commission for removal when the demolition permit was already issued?

Furthermore, I would like to propose to the Tree Commission a special policy as it pertains to the Royal Poinciana, since it is the City's official tree, for removal permits to be

suspended during the blooming season (May–July), when applicable. If we are creating meaning by claiming a tree as a symbol of the City then creating thoughtful procedures such as this proposal of limiting removals during bloom demonstrates that the City's assets take precedence.

I understand the realities of redevelopment and the restrictions of state law in regard to localities regulating tree removal. I understand that some trees will need to be removed. However, I find it disheartening just how many canopy trees the City is losing and how the process seems to favor removal of trees regardless of the critical nature of tree cover in the City.

Thank you for your time.



Kalena Petro

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