

# STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 2, 2024

RE: **Administrative Hearing for 1015 Fleming Street-Eden House (TC2024-00005**

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

In October 2023, while driving in the area, I noticed a lot of earthwork and tree/palm removal occurring at the Eden House then a lot of coconut palms being replanted. Reviewing the various application files in TRAKIT, I noticed there were no permits or applications in the building, planning, or tree department files. I then stopped by the property.

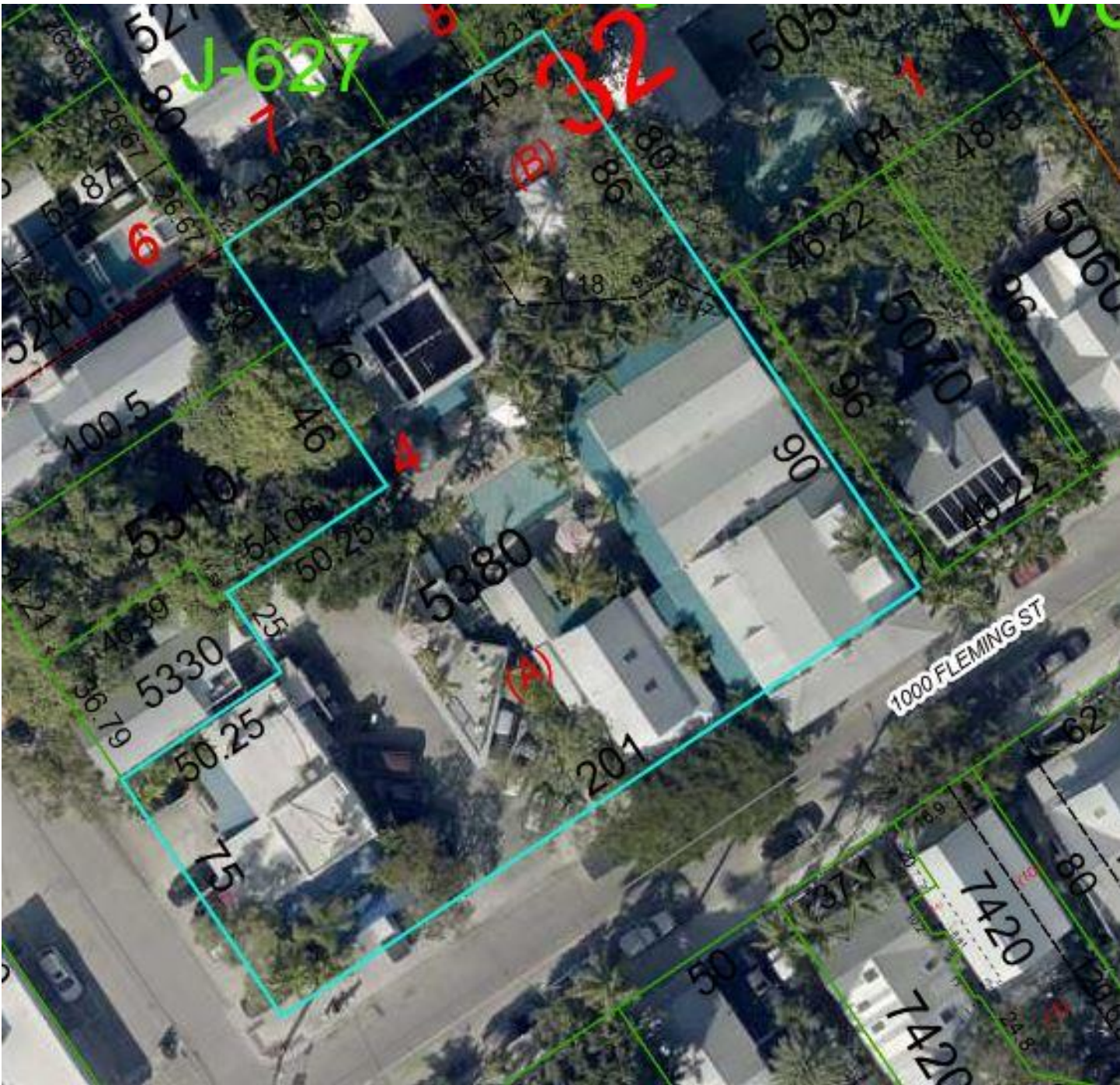
During my site visits I had asked the manager of the property to contact my office so that we could sit down and determine the extent of the unauthorized removals. That property manager never contacted the urban forestry department for a follow up. In February 2024, I contacted management of the hotel and the new property manager and the ownership were very receptive to resolving the issue.

At the time of the inspections, all the regulated trees and palms had been removed. Based on Google aerial photos, website photos of the property, and old file photos, it was documented that three dicot trees had been removed, 2-Gumbo limbo trees and one non-native, regulated tree, all 12-20 inches diameter. A total of 15 tall palms had also been removed, 1-Coconut Palm and 14-miscellaneous regulated palms (Christmas, Alexander, Queen, and Montgomery). A lot of other palms had also been removed but they appeared to have been in pots and therefore, were not regulated.

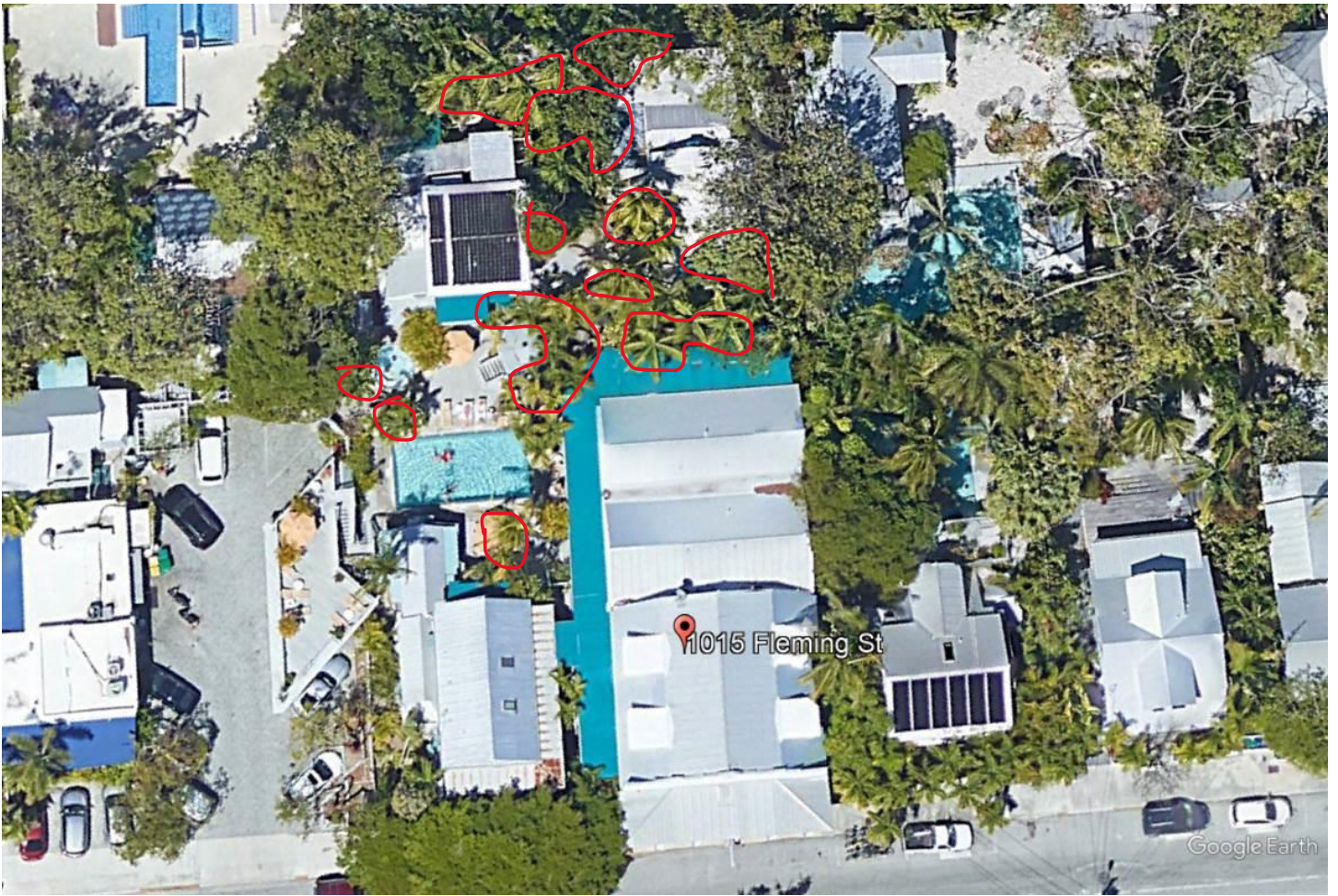
A site inspection in February documented that a lot of new, young coconut palms had been replanted around the property. No new dicot trees had been planted. The new manager and ownership was asked to submit an as built landscape plan, for the file. This has not been received yet.

It was also noted that one large limb from a Spanish Lime tree had also been cut without benefit of a heavy maintenance permit. The cut was a clean cut.

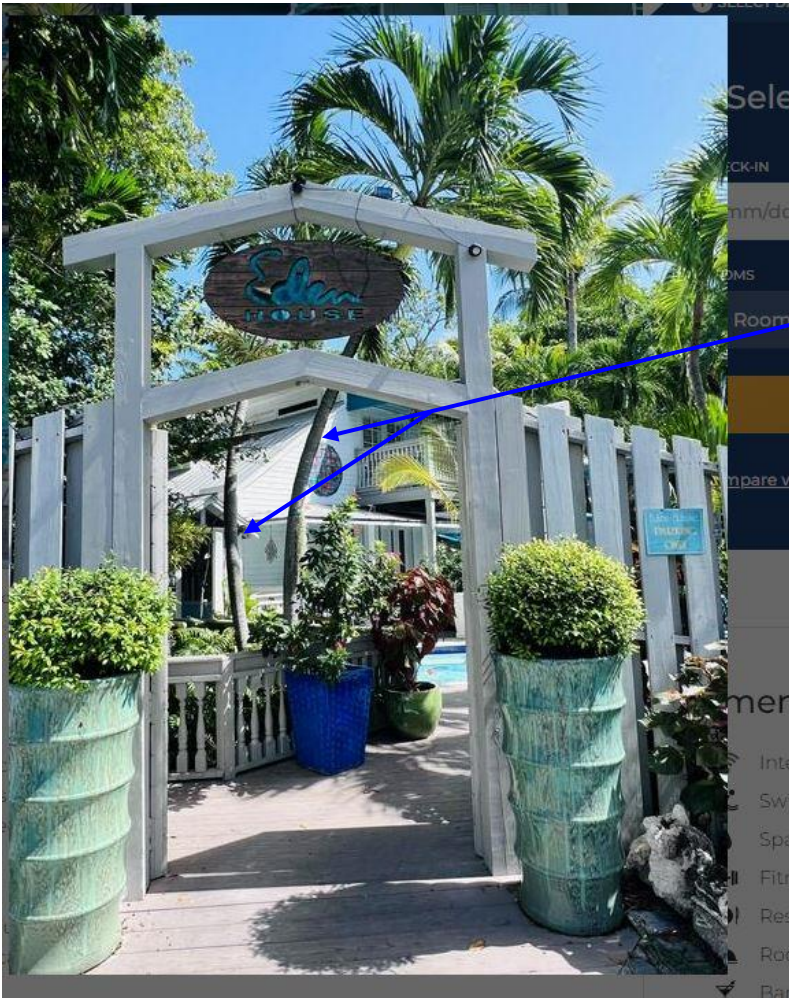
The company that was on site during the removal and planting was Blue Scapes Corp.



2023 Aerial photo from Monroe County Property Appraiser website

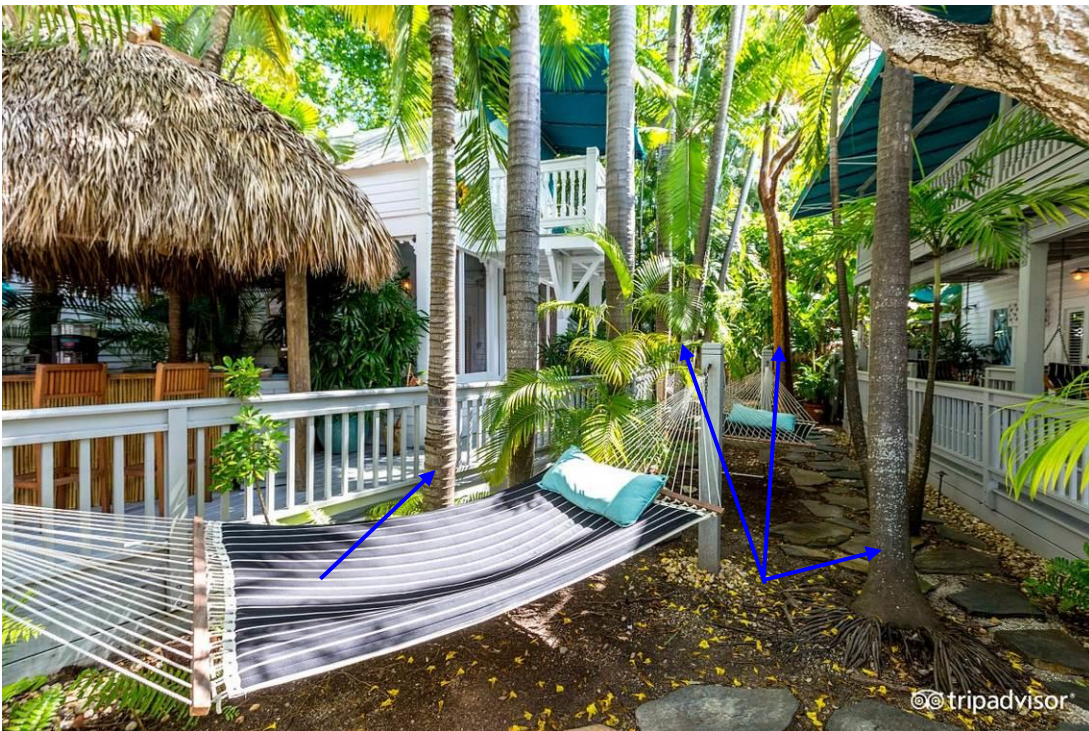
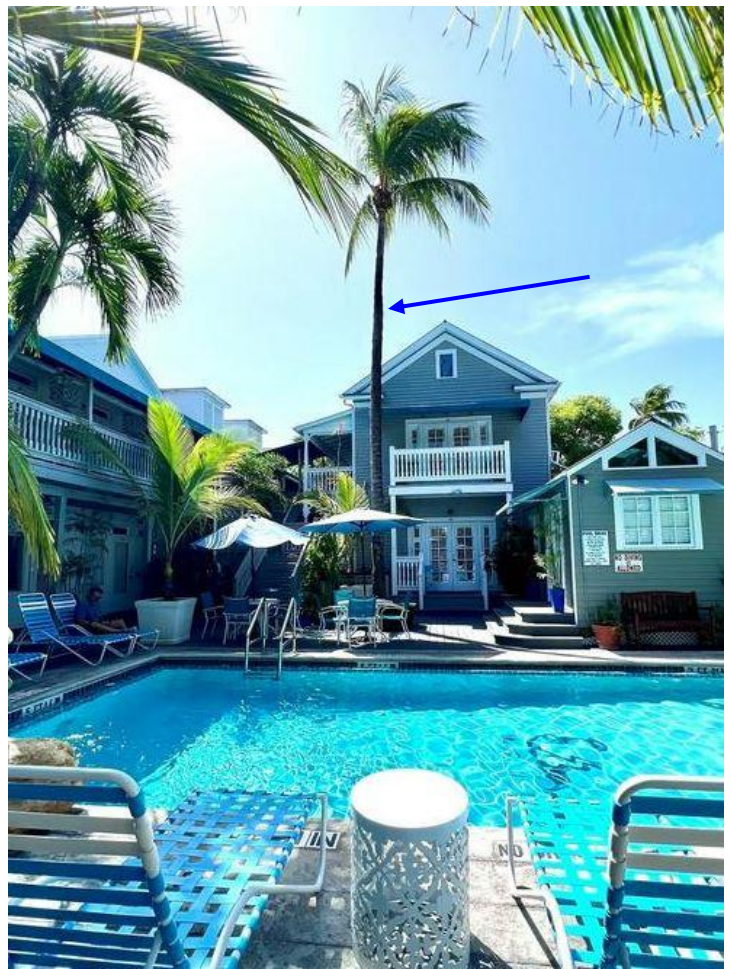


Denotes area of tree/palm removals.



Photos are from the Eden House website. The blue arrows represent unauthorized removals.





Photos are from the Eden House website. The blue arrows represent unauthorized removals.



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Photos taken of the property during October 2023 inspection.





Photo of Spanish Lime tree that had been trimmed.



Photo of company doing work the property at the time of inspection-irrigation, planting vegetation.





Photos of the property with work completed.



Photo showing typical buffer landscaping around property line.

Photos of the property with work completed.

