

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

**PROPERTY: 3720 Duck Ave.**

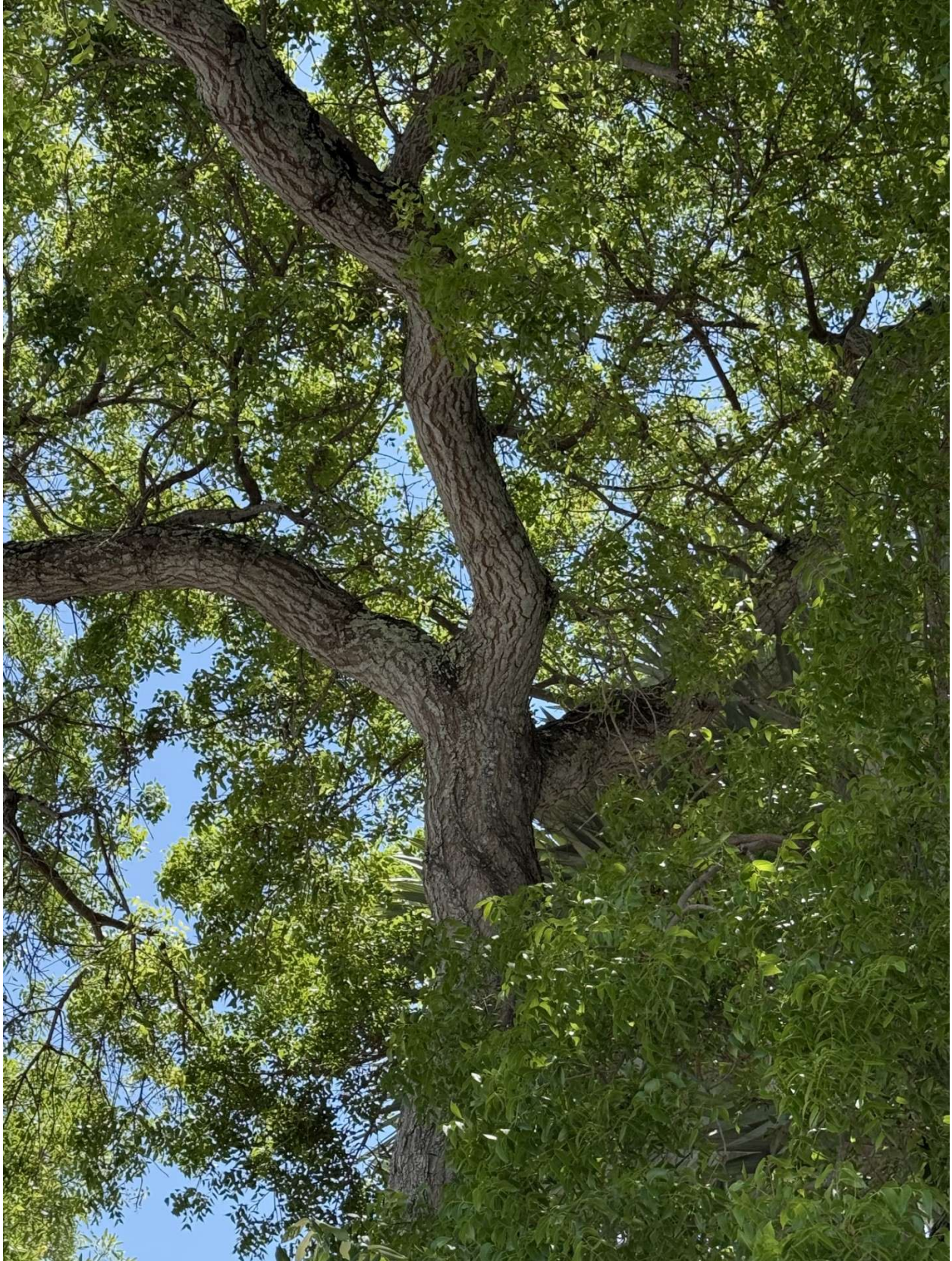
**APPLICATION NUMBER: T2026-0091**

**REQUEST: The applicant is requesting removal of (1) Mahogany tree.**

**TREE ASSESSMENT and PHOTOS**









**Tree appears to have a lean. It does not appear to be from phototropic growth which means the tree likely lacks reaction wood associated with phototropic growth.**









**Poor pruning and resulting exposed heartwood and decay.**





**Diameter: 26"**

**Location: 100%**

**Species: 100%**

**Condition: 60%**

**Value: 86.6%**

**Recommended Mitigation: 22.5 Caliper Inches**

**The subject tree is a mature Cuban mahogany (*Swietenia mahagoni*) with an approximate diameter at breast height (DBH) of 26 inches, located within the front yard of a residential property. The overall condition of the tree is assessed at approximately 60%; however, several structural and physiological defects are present which warrant consideration. A previously removed large leader was improperly cut, leaving behind an approximate 1.5-foot stub. This remaining stub exhibits signs consistent with bacterial wetwood, visible insect-related holes, and apparent internal wood decay. Additionally, the tree's two primary remaining leaders originate approximately two feet above the root flare and contain included bark at their union, resulting in a structurally weak attachment point.**

**The overall canopy architecture is considered suboptimal. When viewed from certain angles, the tree exhibits a pronounced lean that does not appear attributable to phototropic growth, as there are no nearby competing canopy trees influencing directional light growth. The lean is therefore more consistent with displacement associated with a previous wind event. Supporting this assessment is the observation of a major exposed structural root on the side opposite the direction of lean appearing partially lifted from the soil surface, indicating possible root plate disturbance or movement.**

**Furthermore, documentation submitted from an Orkin pest control inspection reports evidence of Formosan termite activity within the tree. Considering the combination of decay, weak structural unions, apparent root disturbance, termite presence, and compromised canopy structure, the tree demonstrates multiple indicators of elevated structural concern. These cumulative defects should be carefully considered in evaluating the long-term viability and risk associated with retaining the tree.**

**PREPARED BY:**

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**&**

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