

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 10, 2011

RE: Trimming of Large Royal Poinciana Tree at the corner of Southard and Grinnell

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

On October 31, 2011, on my way to count palm trees at a property on Southard Street for the Tree Commission, I saw Tarzan Tree Service trimming a Royal Poinciana Tree at the corner of Southard and Grinnell Street, across from Five Brothers. Lindsay Ballard (City of Key West-Tree Commission) and I stopped and spoke to the foreman on the job for Tarzan and he said he was just trimming the branches and that they were done. We did notice piles of tree branches all over the sidewalk and road area.

Upon our return to the office, we received several e-mails and phone calls regarding the trimming work. I then researched the Tree Ordinance, Google Earth and ANSI A-300 trimming standards and determined that the trimming would have required a permit, especially regarding the reduction of the crown. On November 10, 2011, I revisited the site and took photos.



Intersection of Southard and Grinnell. Tree is on the northwest corner of the intersection and clearly goes out into the bike lane of Southard St. and half way across Grinnell St.



Close up view of Royal Poinciana Tree.



View looking west down Southard St. at Royal Poinciana Tree. Photo taken in December 2010.

FACTS:

Royal Poinciana is on the Protected Tree List (Sec 110-253) of the Tree Ordinance

Sec 110-321 (a) states that a tree permit is required for the maintenance trimming of any tree listed as “specially protected” in Section 110-253.

The Royal Poinciana tree had over 35% of its crown removed and several large diameter branches were cut, therefore, the trimming would be classified as heavy maintenance and a permit is required for the heavy maintenance trimming of any tree. Major Maintenance is defined as the actions reducing the length of a tree or the breath of its crown spread by one third or more during any 365 day period (sec 110-252)



Tarzan Tree Service did the trimming.

The tree is located at 534 Grinnell St and is a vacant corner lot. Monroe County property records indicate the property is owned by Elizabeth Humes.