

# **Staff Report**

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

DATE: October 29, 2013 updated January 24, 2014

**RE: 1120 Stump Lane (permit application # 6582)**

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

An application was received for the removal of **(1) Royal Poinciana tree**. A site inspection was done on October 28, 2013 and documented the following:

Tree Species: Royal Poinciana (*Delonix regia*)



Diameter: 21"

Location: 20% (Hazard-safety issues to homes, base of trunk and roots also impacting deck of house)

Species: 100% (on protected tree list)

Condition: 20% (diseased, has no top-large top branch broke off a year ago with no regrowth, canopy is one sided with one large branch off to the top/side)

Total Average Value = 46%

Value x Diameter = **9.6 replacement caliper (dbh) inches**





Note: On July 16, 2013 I met with the neighbor at 1121 Southard St . He was concerned about the Royal Poinciana tree as a large branch from the tree had already fallen off and damaged his home. The tree was now lopsided and he was concerned that the other large branch would fall causing additional damage to his home. Below is a photo of the tree from 2011 taken from Southard St.



**Recommendations: Recommend approval of the removal of (1) Royal Poinciana tree located at 1120 Stump Lane.**

**Under normal procedures, this removal would require a replacement of 9.6 caliper inches. The representative has requested a reduced requirement for the replacement because the owner must remove the tree for safety and liability reasons and not because he wants to, and because of the lack of planting space on this property. An alternative replacement of (1) 8 ft FL#1 native dicot tree, a minimum of 1” diameter is suggested.**

# Application

11-12-13  
application  
withdrawn.



6582

City of Key West Tree Commission

Tree Permit Application

10-28-13  
TC  
Nov 2013  
removal

PO Box 1409  
Key West, FL 33040  
Phone: 305-809-3764  
Fax: 305-809-3978

RE#: \_\_\_\_\_

Alt Key: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Property Owner: RICHARD P GRIFFITH Date: 10-24-13

Mailing Address: 717 FLEMING ST. KEY WEST

Owner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Owner Ph#: 305 294-0144

Represented by: GOLDEN BOUGH KEN KING Rep. Ph#: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Represented by mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendance at the Tree Commission meeting on the date when your request will be discussed is necessary in order to expedite the resolution of your application.**

A letter of representation from the owner must accompany this application if the owner is unable to attend.

Letter of Representation

Tree(s) Address: 1120 STUMP LANE Cross/Corner Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Common Name(s): ROYAL PONCIANA Scientific Name(s): ?

Species Type(s) {check all that apply}: ( ) Palm ( ) Flowering ( ) Fruit ( ) Shade

Reason(s) for Application {check all that apply}:  
 REMOVE ( ) TRANSPLANT  HEAVY MAINTENANCE  
 Tree Health ( ) New Location  Branch Removal  
 Safety ( ) Same Property ( ) Crown Cleaning/Thinning  
 Other / Explain ( ) Other / Explain ( ) Crown Reduction

10-28-13  
KCD  
received  
removal

Reason(s) for request:  
PLEASE SEE LETTER FROM NEIGHBORS ON  
SOUTHARD STREET

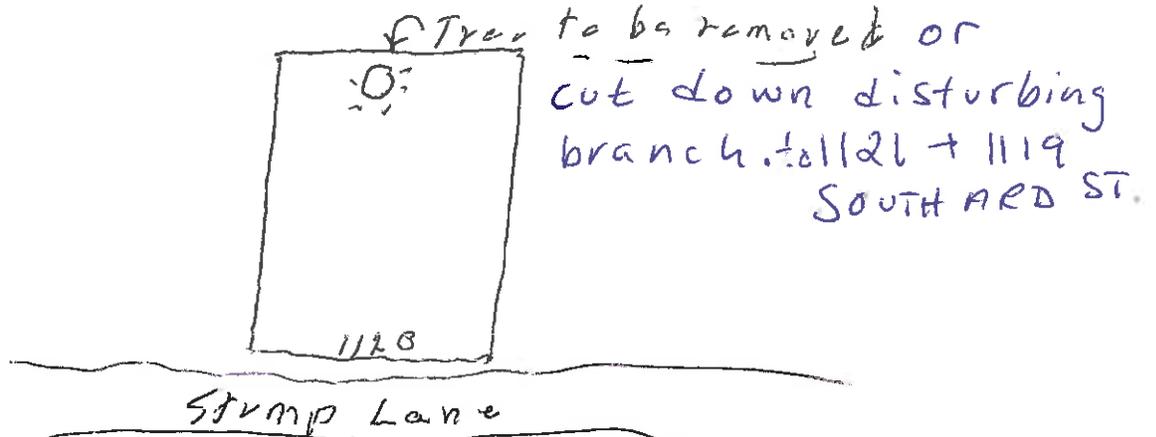
Replacement plant material must be Florida Grade #1. Replacement of a palm with a native palm is required. Replacement of a canopy tree with a native canopy tree is required. If you need assistance with replacements, please call the Landscape Department at 305-809-3723. If this process requires blocking of a city right-of-way, a separate ROW Permit is required. Please contact Diane Nicklaus 305-809-3951.

<<<< Sketch location of tree in this area including cross/corner Street >>>>

Provide access for viewing tree(s) prior to meeting  
Identify tree(s) with colored tape

AGENDA ITEM #

IN THE BACKYARD OF 1120 STUMP LANE



PLEASE DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE - FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Tree Species Royal Poincianna

Circumference 69" ÷ 3.14 = diameter 21" dbh

Location 20 % Species 100 % Condition 20 % Total Average Value 46 %

Avg. value 46 X 21" Diameter = 9.6"  
Replacement Inches

LOCATION: OLD CITY HALL, 510 GREENE STREET, 5:00 p.m.

FOR TREE COMMISSION USE ONLY.

( ) TABLED ( ) APPROVED ( ) DENIED ( ) FURTHER ACTION

COMMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10-28-13 : tree is one sided with one large branch.  
Top of tree is gone with no regrowth. Cutting  
large branch off tree would be the same as  
cutting down the tree. HAZARD.

10-28-13  
140

**AUTHORIZATION LETTER**

717 FLEMING ST.  
(owner address)  
KEY WEST, FL  
33040

Dear Tree Commissioners:

This letter is authorization and confirmation that I, RICHARD GRIFFITH, have  
(owner name)  
retained KEN KING to represent me in the matter of obtaining a  
(representative name)  
permit from the City of Key West for my property at 1120 STUMP LANE  
(tree address)  
You may contact me at 305 294 0144. Thank you.  
(telephone number)

R.P. Griffith  
Signature

City of Key West Tree Commission  
McCoy Indigenous Park  
1801 White Street  
Key West, FL 33040

*Harvey M S Fraser  
1075 Duval Street  
C21, PMB 156  
Key West, FL 33040  
312.423.6641  
312.513.5550 (Cell)*

*Delivered by Registered Mail*

July 22, 2013

Mr. Richard P Griffith & Ms. Kerstin E. Roos  
717 Fleming Street  
Key West, FL  
33040

Dear Mr. Griffith & Ms. Roos,

I reside along with my partner, Christina von Seggern at 1121 Southard Street which is immediately behind your Stump Lane properties. I am writing with regard to the *Royal Poinciana* which is situated in the extreme south-east corner of the backyard of the 1120 Stump Lane property.

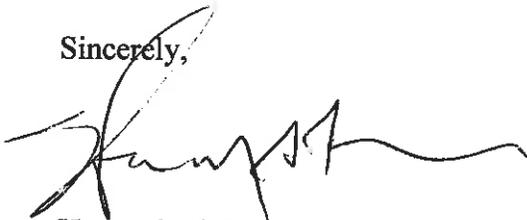
As you know, a major section of this tree came down during *Tropical Storm Isaac* in late August last year and caused considerable damage to our property and the property of our neighbor immediately to the west at 1119 Southard. In particular, one of the limbs damaged the northwest corner of our residence and just missed damaging the second floor master bedroom by a few feet. Specifically, the limb broke part of the roof, fascia and gutters, damaged several shutters, a window frame, two gates, and demolished a large portion of the privacy fence on the west side of our property, which we bore the cost of repair for. The property at 1119 Southard had their driveway structure completely crushed by a fallen portion of the tree.

I do not purport to be a tree expert but a causal review of public information on this species of tree indicates that a normal healthy tree has a balanced umbrella-shaped crown. However, even healthy *Royal Poinciana*'s are unfortunately more prone to suffer storm damage and are susceptible to wood rot. As a result of last year's storm, a large portion of the tree is now missing leaving an unbalanced tree consisting of one large branch which hangs almost entirely over our property. Furthermore, the trunk of the tree is now leaning towards the rear of our property. In addition, there was tree rot observed on the section which came down last year and there is evidence of probable tree rot in the portion which remains – this probable rot was observed and confirmed by a visit last week by the city of Key West Urban Forestry Manager, Karen DeMaria. Should you wish to speak to her directly, she can be reached at 305-809-3768.

We have understandable concerns about this tree and the potential for significant damage to the fence, deck, pool and pool equipment. Moreover, given its size and extension across our entire backyard (to the north-east corner of the house), it portends destruction to the rear half of our residence and harm to the people inside. Although I have not entered either of your Stump Lane properties, I would suggest one or both of your properties on Stump Lane are also at risk. Since storm season is upon us, we are asking you to remove this tree immediately to eliminate the risk to our property and to us.

We have never had the pleasure of meeting either of you and since it appears that you do not reside in the Stump Lane property, the only effective way to start a conversation was by mail. Normally, I would prefer this be done by an over-the-fence conversation with a neighbor. Please feel free to e-mail me at [harvefraser@yahoo.com](mailto:harvefraser@yahoo.com), call me at 312-513-5550 or correspond to the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harvey M S Fraser', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Harvey M S Fraser