

# STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 28, 2014

**RE: 1405 2<sup>nd</sup> St ROW (permit application #6884)**

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

An application was received for the removal of **(1) Non-native Ficus tree**. A site inspection was done on May 7, 2014 and documented the following:

Tree Species: Non-Native Fig Tree (Ficus sp.)



Diameter:  $53.5'' - 24'' = 29.5''$

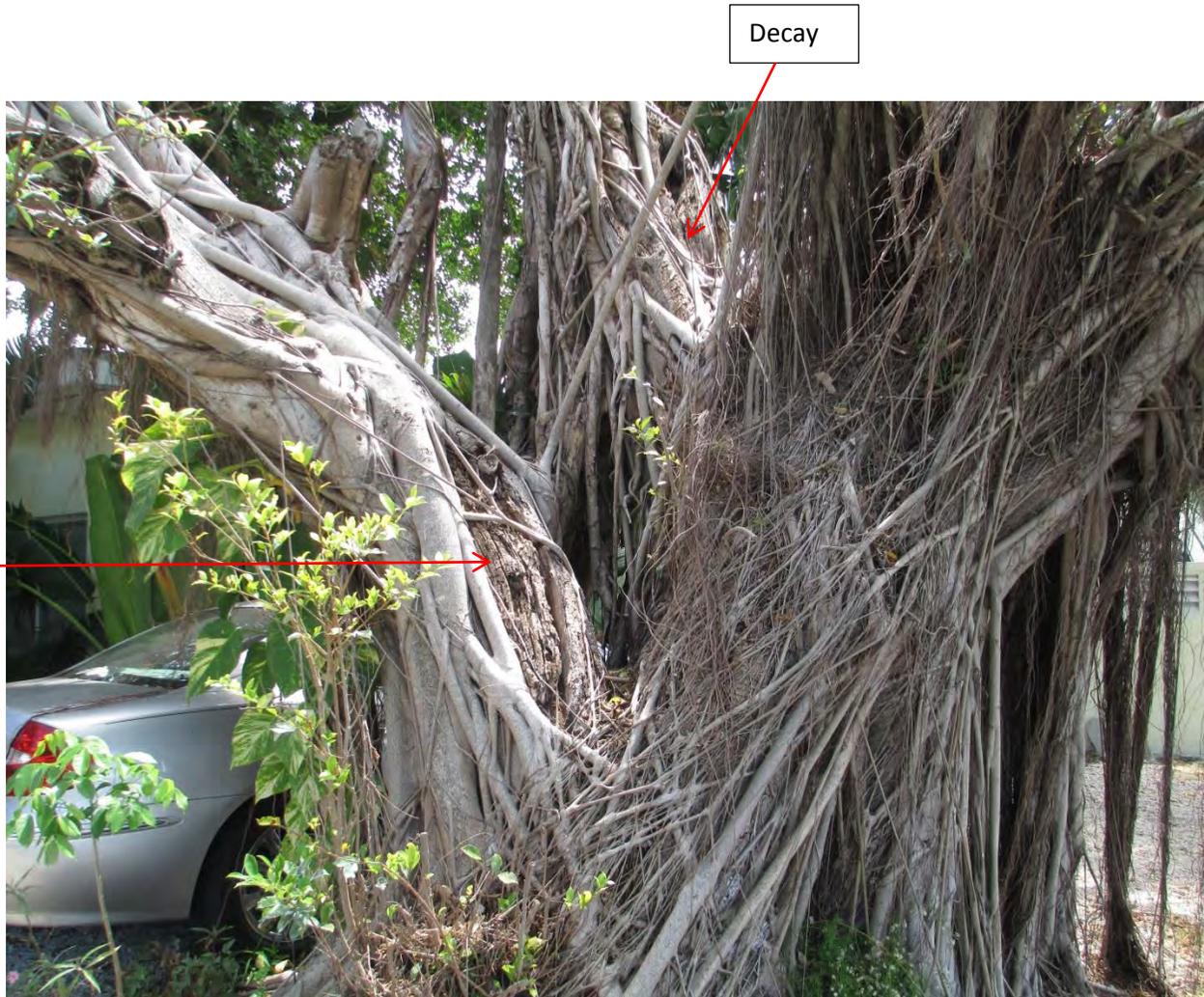
Location: 50% (impact on private property house, utility lines through canopy)

Species: 0% (not on protected or not protected tree list)

Condition: 20% (lots of decay in main trunks, tree is mainly roots)

Total Average Value = 23%

Value x Diameter = **6.8 replacement caliper inches**







NOTE: The new property owner at 1405 2<sup>nd</sup> St, John McCormick, submitted information from Greg Wellet (Key King Enterprises) and Larrie Busloff (Leaping Lizards) both stating that the tree should be removed, or at the very least, the large branches over the house be removed due to the decay. The decay in the tree is extensive and leaving a portion of the tree, the portion over the road, remaining is not recommended due to safety issues.

**Recommendations: Recommend approval of the removal of (1) non-native Ficus tree located in the right of way in front of 1405 2<sup>nd</sup> St, to be replaced in the neighborhood on City property, with 6.8 caliper inches of FL#1 native dicot or fruit trees.**

# Application



June 2014 TC #

6884

# Tree Permit Application

Date: 5-7-14

Please Clearly Print All Information unless indicated otherwise.

Tree Address 1405 2nd St ROW  
Cross/Corner Street \_\_\_\_\_

List Tree Name(s) and Quantity 1- non-native Fig tree  
Species Type(s) check all that apply ( ) Palm ( ) Flowering ( ) Fruit ( ) Shade ( ) Unsure

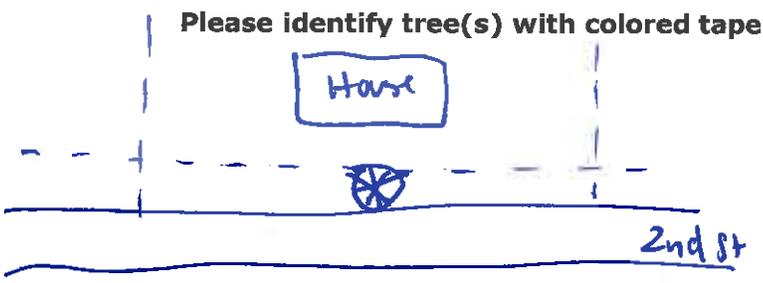
Reason(s) for Application:  
 REMOVE  Tree Health ( ) Safety ( ) Other/Explain below  
( ) TRANSPLANT ( ) New Location ( ) Same Property ( ) Other/Explain below  
( ) HEAVY MAINTENANCE ( ) Branch Removal ( ) Crown Cleaning/Thinning ( ) Crown Reduction  
Other/Explain lots of decay in large branches - branches  
growing over house - however wanted branches trimmed.  
Reason for Request Recommend removal due to amount of decay

Property Owner Name City of Key West  
Property Owner eMail Address EDJ  
Property Owner Mailing Address 10 Box 1409  
Property Owner Mailing City Key West State FL Zip 33041  
Property Owner Phone Number ( 305 ) 809 - 3879  
Property Owner Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Name Karen Seltania  
Representative eMail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Mailing City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Phone Number ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: A Tree Representation Authorization form must accompany this application if someone other than the owner will be representing the owner at a Tree Commission meeting or picking up an issued Tree Permit.  
Tree Representation Authorization form attached ( )

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



If this process requires blocking of a City right-of-way, a separate ROW Permit is required. Please contact 305-809-3740.



decay



decay



aerials roots have grown  
around old trunks that  
have decayed.



Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@keywestcity.com>

tree trimming or removal

5 messages

Dina Schoneck <dsrealty@aol.com>
To: kdemaria@keywestcity.com

Mon, Apr 28, 2014 at 1:35 PM

Hello,

There is a tree at 1405 2nd Street that appears to be on city property and is hanging over the roof of the home. What is the process for getting permission to have the tree trimmed away from the home or completely removed. The center has already been trimmed out of it due to the electric lines and trimming only one side of it will leave it off balance. Leaping Lizard has already passed by and inspected it, what is the next step the prospective new owner must take to verify the cost (to him) of trimming or removing the tree entirely. Please advise.

Thanks so much.

Sincerely,

Dina Schoneck, Realtor
Prudential Knight & Gardner Realty
336 Duval Street
Key West, FL 3304030
(305)747-3462

Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@keywestcity.com>
To: Karen Olson <kolson@keywestcity.com>
Cc: Diane Nicklaus <dnicklau@keywestcity.com>

Mon, Apr 28, 2014 at 2:13 PM

Is this tree really on City property?

Diane-is this the property you mentioned earlier today that had an easement? If so, how does that effect the tree trimming status requirement.

Sincerely,

Karen
[Quoted text hidden]
Karen DeMaria
Urban Forestry Manager
Certified Arborist
City of Key West
305-809-3768

Handwritten notes: S = 0%, L = 50%, C = 20%, 23%, 53.5"-24" = 29.5" = 6.8" replacement. Includes notes like 'nota strangler or Shortleaf Fig', 'has utility lines', 'approx 14 ft cir (mainly roots)', 'lots of decay in main trunks. 53.5" dbh', and 'not replantable non-native'.

Diane Nicklaus <dnicklau@keywestcity.com>
To: Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@keywestcity.com>

Mon, Apr 28, 2014 at 4:52 PM

I would say it's 1/2 and 1/2. I'll look at it tomorrow because they have an easement for the CBS fence on that side as well as decking and a portion of their pool.

Diane

[Quoted text hidden]

—  
Diane Nicklaus

Executive Assistant, Engineering

809-3951

dnicklau@keywestcity.com

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**Karen Olson** <kolson@keywestcity.com>

Tue, Apr 29, 2014 at 11:42 AM

To: Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@keywestcity.com>

Cc: Diane Nicklaus <dnicklau@keywestcity.com>

Yes, I would say 90% + of the trunk is on City right-of-way.

On Mon, Apr 28, 2014 at 2:13 PM, Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@keywestcity.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

—  
**Karen M Olson**

Special Projects Designer

City of Key West

Engineering Services

305-809-3963 (t)

305-809-3739 (f)

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**Karen DeMaria** <kdemaria@keywestcity.com>

Fri, May 2, 2014 at 4:53 PM

To: Dina Schoneck <dsrealty@aol.com>

Dina:

After having engineering clarify if the tree is a City tree or not and the location of the ROW line, I did an inspection of the tree. Any work that is to be done to the tree will be done by the City as it is our tree.

After inspecting the tree, I think the best course of action will be to have the tree removed. There are many large areas of decay and to trim just certain branches off the tree will cause the tree to be unbalanced. I will prepare an application to be processed by the Tree Commission but I first have to get approval from the City manager's office. If I get approval from the City Manager's office, then the tree will be heard at the June 10 Tree Commission meeting. The Tree Commission will make the final decision as to the fate of the tree. Therefore, we will not know if the tree can be removed until June 10.

Sincerely,

Karen

[Quoted text hidden]

—  
**Karen DeMaria**

Urban Forestry Manager

Certified Arborist

City of Key West

305-809-3768



Karen DeMaria &lt;kdemaria@keywestcity.com&gt;

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**1405 Second Street Tree**

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John McCormick <jmccormick@keysnews.com>  
Reply-To: jmccormick@keysnews.com  
To: Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@keywestcity.com>

Mon, May 5, 2014 at 11:54 AM

Dina sent your e-mail to me an hour ago. I had sent you a letter late Friday not knowing that you and Dina had spoken and that you sent her the e-mail.

I am buying the house with closing set for June 7<sup>th</sup>. Dina is my agent and friend. The tree was a major concern in my purchase decision. Please let me know if there is anything further that I need to do. Thank You, John

**John McCormick***Chief Technology Officer**Cooke Communications, LLC*

jmccormick@keysnews.com

john@keywest.com

Phone: 305-292-7777 Ext 207

Fax: 305-295-8007

Cell: 305-360-3121

ePhone: 305-848-1304

Citizen Web Cam: <http://floridakeyswebcams.tv/citizencam.htm>

www.keysnews.com

## John McCormick

1801 Venetia Street Key West, Florida 33040 (305) 360-3121 [john@keywest.com](mailto:john@keywest.com)



Friday, May 02, 2014

Karen DeMaria  
Urban Forestry Manager  
510 Greene Street  
Key West, Florida 33040

Dear Ms. DeMaria:

I am in the process of purchasing the property at 1405 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Key West with closing set on or before June 7, 2014.

There is a large ficus tree at the front of the property that has been v-cut for overhead wires, very top heavy, and splitting near the base of the major limbs that extend over the house. Pictures are attached.

The property was inspected by Greg Wellet, Key King Enterprises, on May 1, 2014. Mr. Welett recommended removal as a safety issue (appropriate pages of the inspection are also attached). In addition, Larry from Leaping Lizard inspected the tree and likewise recommends removal, or at a minimum, removal of the major limbs that threaten the house.

Both Mr. Wellet and Larry at Leaping Lizard believe that the tree is on City property and suggested I contact you to determine how to proceed with this matter.

Please let me know how I should proceed to remedy this significant issue with my purchase of the property. Thank You.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John McCormick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

John McCormick







**Key King Enterprises Inc.**  
Property Inspection Report



**KEY KING ENTERPRISES INC.**



1405 2nd Street , Key West Florida, 33040  
Inspection prepared for: John McCormick  
Agent: Dina Schoneck - Prudential Knight & Gardner Real Estate

Inspection Date: 5/1/2014 Time: 10:00 am  
Age: 1949 Size: 1,880 sq. ft.  
Weather: Mild  
Single Family Residence with Cottage and Pool

Inspector: Gregory J. Wellet  
License #CGC 1521908 & HI 1508  
PO BOX 2116, Key West, FL 33045  
Phone: 305-766-3430  
Email: KEYKINGKW@AOL.COM

The information contained in the report is an objective observation of the items inspected. We observe what is accessible and do not remove any parts of any item to investigate why something does not function. We have general knowledge in all aspects of construction and make observations and reports facts of findings. We look for evidence of mold and wood destroying insect activity. We suggest that interested parties engage a specialty tradesman for further investigation and analysis of particular areas of concern. Zoning and use compliance are not confirmed or guaranteed.

# Grounds & Grading

## 1. Grounds & Grading

### Observations:

- Tree growing too close to roof; should be trimmed back before it causes damage.
- Personal items were stored on side of cottage restricting access to inspector.
- Tree roots caused wall to crack; recommend removing.
- Tree growing too close to wall; roots causing significant damage.
- Ficus tree was heavily trimmed around wires; recommend removing.
- Ficus top heavy and roots are intrusive; recommend removal.



Tree growing too close to wall; roots causing significant damage.



Personal items were stored on side of cottage restricting access to inspector.



Ficus tree was heavily trimmed around wires; recommend removing.



Ficus top heavy and roots are intrusive; recommend removal.