



## THE CITY OF KEY WEST

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MEMORANDUM

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**TO:** Jim Scholl, City Manager  
Greg Veliz, Assistant City Manager

**FROM:** Karen DeMaria, Urban Forestry Manager

**DATE:** August 20, 2019

**RE:** **Approval of an agreement between Monroe County and the City of Key West regarding the maintenance of select trees to be planted on Flagler Avenue.**

**ACTION STATEMENT:**

This resolution will approve a maintenance agreement between Monroe County and the City of Key West for the watering and future trimming of select trees to be planted on Flagler Avenue by a contractor.

**BACKGROUND:**

In November 2018, a Settlement Agreement was signed between the City of Key West Tree Commission and 1301 Truman LLC for the unauthorized removal of two Royal Poinciana trees. The agreement requires the replanting of 71 caliper inches of approved trees and included discussions regarding working with the Urban Forester to find offsite planting locations.

The public has commented numerous times regarding the planting of trees in the Flagler Avenue median. Discussions between the urban forestry manager and the representative for 1301 Truman LLC, Jodell Roberts of The Smith Law Firm, determined that the planting of 5 Royal Poinciana trees in the Flagler Avenue median would resolve the Settlement Agreement and provide a public benefit.

The Flagler Avenue median is owned by Monroe County. Ms. Roberts submitted a right of way application to the County to have the five Royal Poinciana trees planted by Shade Tree Inc. The City Community Services department has agreed to water the trees and provide any future tree trimming for these five trees. The right of way application and maintenance agreement is on the August 21, 2019 Monroe County Board of County Commissioners meeting for approval.

*Key to the Caribbean – Average yearly temperature 77° F.*

**PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION:**

The purpose of the agreement is to provide watering and future maintenance of five newly planted trees to help beautify a prominent street median and to close out a Tree Commission Settlement Agreement. The public has asked for improvements to the Flagler Avenue median and for additional plantings of Royal Poinciana trees, the official City tree.

This maintenance agreement is needed as this portion of Flagler Avenue is owned by Monroe County. This agreement is hopefully a start to future improvements in this area.

**OPTIONS / ADVANTAGES / DISADVANTAGES:**

1. The City Commission can approve the request as submitted. This will allow five new Royal Poinciana trees to be planted with a plan for future maintenance thus helping to ensure survivability of the trees.
2. The City Commission can decide to not approve the agreement. With this option, the trees will not be planted as future maintenance could be a burden.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The maintenance of the five trees will be done by existing Community Services crews as part of their normal schedule of watering and trimming of trees.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Commission select Option 1, approving the agreement with Monroe County for the maintenance of five newly planted Royal Poinciana trees in the Flagler median.