



THE CITY OF KEY WEST
Urban Forestry
1300 White Street
Key West, FL 33040

Tree Removal Report

PROPERTY: 615 Southard St.

APPLICATION NUMBER: T2026-0129

REQUEST: The applicant is requesting removal of (1) Cuban Mahogany Tree .

TREE ASSESSMENT and PHOTOS



Key to the Caribbean – average yearly temperature 77 ° Fahrenheit.



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Diameter: 12"

Location: 10%

Species: 100%

Condition: 70%

Value: 60%

Recommended Mitigation: 7.2 Caliper Inches

The subject tree is a 12-inch DBH Cuban mahogany growing in an extremely confined planting location between a single-family residence and a white picket property line fence. The available planting width between the structure and fence is approximately two feet. An adjacent single-family residence is located approximately eight feet from the tree. Based on its location, the tree appears to be a volunteer specimen rather than an intentionally planted landscape tree.

Structural Condition

The tree exhibits codominant stems originating less than one foot above the root flare. The stem union contains included bark, creating a structurally weak attachment that is expected to become increasingly susceptible to failure as the tree matures.

The canopy is generally healthy with good foliage density; however, its architecture has become distorted due to the extremely restricted growing space between the two residences. The tree has developed an asymmetrical form as it competes for available light and growing space.

Site Conflicts

The primary stem is in direct contact with the residence, extending into the roof, soffit, and fascia. The metal roofing has already breached the bark and is creating continuous mechanical injury to the trunk. This damage is likely interfering with the tree's vascular system and will continue to compromise both the health of the tree and the integrity of the structure.

From one viewing angle, the trunk appears to be beginning to envelop portions of the roof assembly as secondary growth occurs. Continued radial expansion of the trunk will almost certainly increase structural conflict with the building over time.

Although no obvious foundation damage is currently evident, the tree has not yet reached maturity. Given the mature size, vigorous growth habit, and extensive root system characteristic of Cuban mahogany, continued development within such a confined space creates an increasing likelihood of future conflicts with adjacent structures and infrastructure.

Assessment

This planting location is fundamentally incompatible with the mature size and growth characteristics of *Swietenia mahagoni*. The site provides insufficient space for normal trunk expansion, canopy development, and root growth. As a result, the tree is experiencing ongoing structural interference with the residence while simultaneously being subjected to chronic injury from the structure itself.

The combination of codominant stems with included bark, direct trunk contact with the roof assembly, ongoing bark and vascular injury, extremely restricted planting space, immediate proximity to multiple residences, and predictable future structural and root conflicts indicates that this tree is poorly suited for long-term retention at this location.

PREPARED BY:

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