

# **Additional Information**

## Karen DeMaria

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**From:** John Calleja <jfckwf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 8:16 PM  
**To:** Karen DeMaria  
**Cc:** John Hartman  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Tree removal request-1404 Petronia

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Karen,

Thank you for your email. You are correct that this particular gumbo limbo has been a source of repeated structural impingement on my home.

The incident you site from a few years ago was the same as the current situation. The gumbo limbo roots had lifted the corner of the house an inch above the supporting column on that corner. At the time I was able to resolve the problem by having the roots that were lifting that corner of the house dug out from that corner of the house. That allowed the house to resettle completely onto the column over the next couple of weeks.

That event was less than three years ago. The same thing has again occurred, as the roots have regrown, again lifting that corner of the house. This makes the house uneven and impairs the opening and closing of the windows and doors near that corner of the building.

I've taken photos which I'll send each as an individual email (doing this on my phone rather than a computer, don't know how to combine them all into this one email).

The gumbo limbo trees are certainly deserving of their special status among our Key West trees. However, my home also has special status, protected by ORIF, built before 1910. I have five other gumbo limbo trees on my property which have not compromised the integrity of the house, so I'm perfectly happy to let them remain on my property to provide their welcome shade. However, the "renegade tree" has repeatedly caused damage to my home. I feel a one-of-a-kind historic home should have some privilege over a very misbehaving tree!

The following three emails demonstrate the current damage being done.

Thank you.

John Calleja

On 2 Mar 2022, at 12:06, Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov> wrote:

Mr. Calleja:

I am reviewing your application to remove the Gumbo Limbo tree. On the application it states that the tree is lifting the house. Do you have photos or documentation of structure damage to the columns or parts of the house? If so, can you email them to me so I can include them in the file. I do remember

several years ago that there was a large crack in the concrete footer closest to the tree. Was that crack repaired and was it directly related to the tree roots?

Sincerely,

Karen

*Karen DeMaria*

Karen DeMaria  
Urban Forestry Manager  
Certified Arborist FL-6585A  
City of Key West  
305-809-3768



## Karen DeMaria

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**From:** John Calleja <jfckwf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 8:19 PM  
**To:** Karen DeMaria  
**Cc:** John Hartman  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Gumbo Limbo 1404 Petronia St, A

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This shows the degree of lifting of the house off its support column. You can note the light coming through from the far side of the column, indicating that it has been lifted completely off the column, essentially floating on air.

At present, it is raised 3/4 inch, and progressing.

**Date:** 3 March 2022 at 14:13:17 GMT-5  
**Subject:** A



## Karen DeMaria

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**From:** John Calleja <jfckwf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 8:22 PM  
**To:** Karen DeMaria  
**Cc:** John Hartman  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 1404 Petronia St B

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Another view showing the degree to which the house is raised.

**Date:** 3 March 2022 at 14:13:30 GMT-5  
**Subject:** B



## Karen DeMaria

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**From:** John Calleja <jfckwf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 8:28 PM  
**To:** Karen DeMaria  
**Cc:** John Hartman  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 1404 Petronia St C

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This double gate is just to the right of the raised corner. The left door is now jammed against the frame and cannot be opened. Over the years, I have repeatedly had to shave the door or reposition the hinges to maintain function, but the degree to which the house is raised now would require a significant reconstruction of the gate panels to correct the problem.

**Date:** 3 March 2022 at 14:14:02 GMT-5

**Subject:** C



