

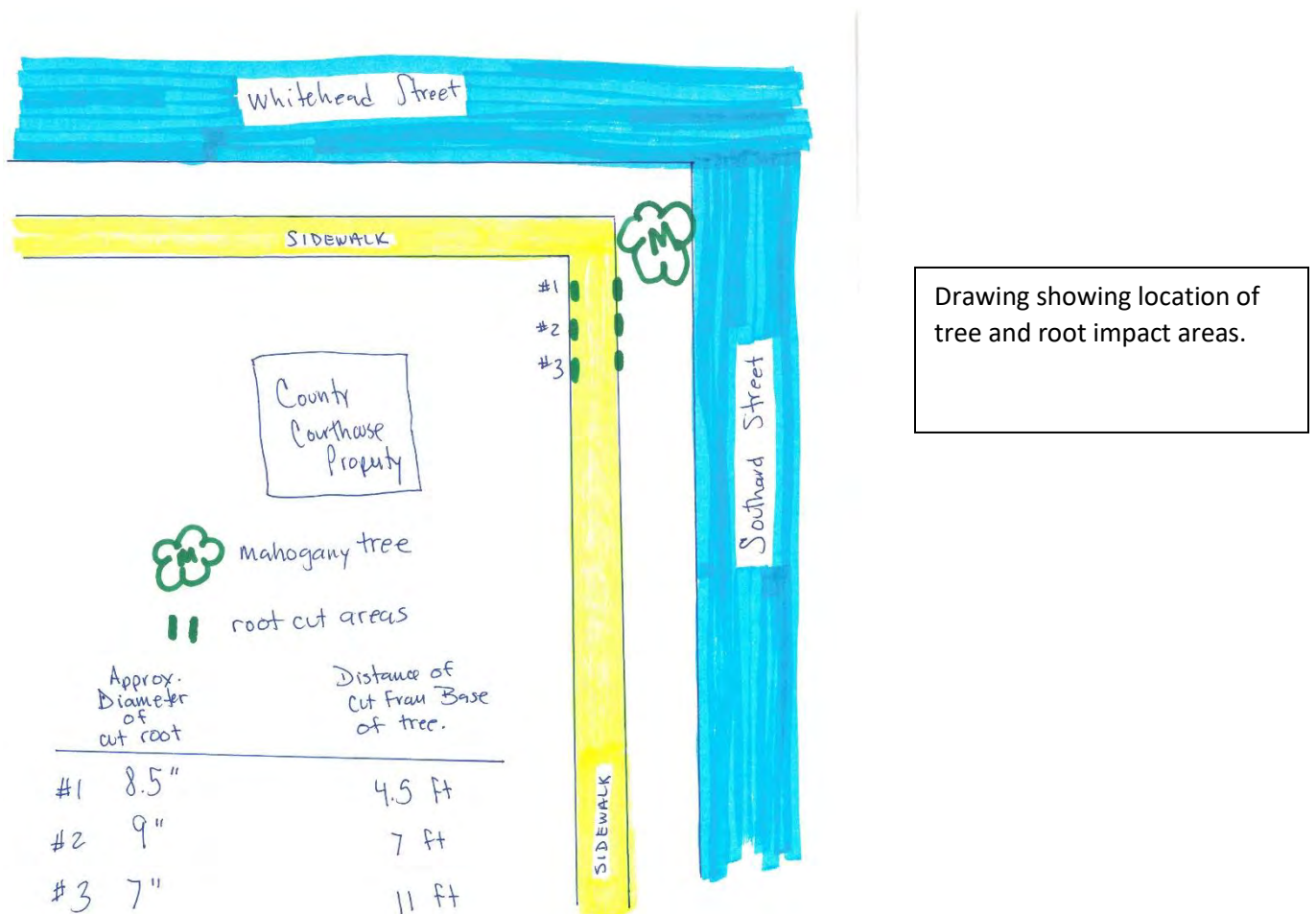
STAFF REPORT

DATE: September 6, 2022

RE: Administrative Hearing for Southard & Whitehead Streets (TC2022-00007)

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

On August 1, 2022, I received an email regarding the cutting of roots from a mahogany tree at the corner of Southard and Whitehead Streets. The photo attached to the email showed a few large roots close to the base of the tree that were growing under the sidewalk area, had been cut during trenching/installation work. A subsequent site inspection and evacuation of the area documented that three primary roots had been cut. Also during the site visit, damage to surface roots on adjacent trees was also documented.



This mahogany tree has been in declining health for years and was not included in the heritage tree program list of WPA heritage mahogany trees due to its condition. Because of the tree health issue, representatives from Hotwire were asked to hire an arborist to submit a Tree Risk Assessment document as per ISA Standards, regarding the tree (report from New Leaf Environmental dated August 15, 2022 is attached). The representatives were also asked to place some soil and mulch over the damaged surface roots of the adjacent trees and to water them to help them heal.

Since the tree area is owned by FDOT, communication has been sent to their representatives asking for their input regarding the matter.



Site Map of Area showing location of issues.



Photo above shows the tree impact areas. Area 1, 3, & 4 are surface root impacts.

Location photo of Mahogany tree whose roots were cut (tree #2)



Photo showing location of root cut #1.



Close up photo of root cut area #1.



Close up
photo of
root cut area
#2 and #3.



Looking at the
whole tree area,
photo showing
the approximate
location of the
root cuts.



Two photos
of tree area
#1-surface
root damage.





Two photos of tree area #3- surface root damage.





Two photos
of tree area
#4-surface
root
damage.

Tree Area #2



Photos showing whole tree and sidewalk work area near root system of the Mahogany tree (Tree Area #2 on map).



08/02/2022

Two photos showing the constrictive root growth area of the mahogany tree and the existing, visual root structure.



08/02/2022



Photo showing tree trunk with old decay area.



Photo showing tree structure, view 1.



Photo showing old decay area in main trunk.



Close up photo of old trunk decay area.



Two photos showing main trunks.



Two photos showing
another main decay area in
canopy trunks.





Photos showing decay in main trunk.