TREE COMMISSION TREE REMOVAL REPORT
CITY of KEY WEST

PROPERTY: 701 Palm Ave

APPLICATION NUMBER: T2025-0144

REQUEST: Property owner is seeking removal of approx. 32 linear feet/240 square feet of mangroves behind city public restroom along seawall that parallels Palm Ave

APPLICATION SUMMARY: An application was submitted for removal of mangroves which lie within the City of Key West Garrison Bight property.

TREE ASSESSMENT and PHOTOS.

Photo shows mangrove view from Spencer's Boatyard facing East. The brach on the top left portion appears to be dead but closer inspection shows tiny micro sized leaves.

Close up of mangrove on top. View from sidewalk looking East.

Large portion of cluster on the North edge of the mangroves appears to be stressed or shocked. Note the dwarf or micro sized leaves growing on what appear from far to be dead branches.

Mangroves views from the West.

The most disturbing and truly unfortunate aspect of this situation is when you look down. This patch of mangroves is used as a trash bin. Some of this is captured naturally from tidal flow and wind, However I common sense tells me that due to the traffic that passes by these mangroves are simply being abused with litter. I can find no other explanation for this amount and type of trash.

There is also a smell in this area that may be due to the trash, but I’m not sure.

Top Photo: Close up of mangroves view from the East.
Bottom photo: View of interior looking Northeast.

Diameter: Approx. 240 Sq/ft or 54” diameter
Condition: 40% (the tree is in poor health; part of it appears healthy but the overall assessment is a liability to the surrounding waters)
Location: 80% (The tree is growing along a seawall that has a traffic pattern that lends itself to being viewed as a trash can.)
Species: 100% Protected
Tree Value: 73%
Required Mitigation: 39 Caliper inches. (Property owner is willing to mitigate through a combination of planting native trees on his adjacent property and by donating to an organization that plants mangroves in the Florida Keys.)

RECOMMENDATION/NOTES: Normally mangroves help improve water quality and support our diverse ecosystem. Given the shocking amount of garbage held on this mangrove cluster one can logically imagine that this situation is contributing to poor water quality and harming the surrounding ecosystem. I’m not sure if the pros outweigh the cons in this circumstance.

PREPARED BY:

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