Cynthia's Blue Palms

City of Key West Tree Commission February 22, 2017

Purpose: Following are my findings of evaluation concerning 1 Sapodilla trees, 2 Royal Poinciana trees, 2 Washingtonia palms and 2 Mahogany trees located at 3717 Eagle Avenue, Key West, Florida. I have been retained by owner Peter Batty, Jr. This application is being submitted as this is a new home purchase for Mr. Batty to include reconstruction and extensive landscaping. Trees can be seen from Eagle Avenue (photo 1).

**Royal Poinciana,** *Delonix regia*, tree number **1**, located directly behind and abutting concrete wall at the southeast side yard (photos 2,2b). The tree is approximately 25.5" diameter measured at approximately 5' above grade. Canopy spread is approximately 18'x20'. Condition is very poor and failure likely. Photographs depict main codominance at approximately 3.5' above grade with severely included bark (photos 2c,3,4,5). Southside base of tree has an area of decay with wound wood evident hence, suspect continual internal decay (photo 6). Branching from codominate stems further depicts included bark with decay (photos 7,8,9,). Scaffolding criss-crossing branches are also evident throughout the canopy (photos 9,10,11). The next three photos show a small tree codominance failure (photos 12,13,14). Since failure of this tree is likely, I recommend removal.

**Sapodilla** *Manilkara zapota,* tree number **2***,* located adjacent to tree number 1 at the south side of rear yard. The tree is approximately 28" diameter measured at approximately 5' above grade. Canopy spread is approximately 45'x25' (photos 15,16,17). Condition is very poor. Photographs also depict large and small branch failures as well as numerous dead branches remaining throughout canopy. At the north side and base of tree conks are evident at various stages (photos 18,19,20). This tree is infected with Ganoderma or Butt Rot, a wood decaying disease. The canopy is continuing to thin with branch failures as decay at root system and base of tree progresses. Repair is not possible by restoration pruning or by chemical

infusion. Due to the trees massive size and location failure in any direction will destroy its 'target', and since this disease is incurable with failure certain I recommend the Sapodilla tree removed. Next photos depict a small tree failure from Butt Rot (photos 21,22).

**Royal Poinciana,** *Delonix regia*, tree number **3**, located between Sapodilla and rear building abutting concrete knee wall at the middle east side of rear yard. The tree is approximately 11.5" diameter measured at approximately 5' above grade. Canopy spread is approximately 20'x13'. Presumably this tree is seed grown from larger Poinciana. Photographs depict an approximate 40* lean towards rear yard; a result of phototropism (photo 23). At the upper fulcrum a large open area of decay is evident (photo 24). Root System is cracking knee wall and lifting irrigation piping (photo 25). Repair is not possible by pruning. Condition is poor and failure likely. Recommend removal.

**Mahogany,** *Swietenia mahagoni*, tree number **4**, located between the out building and rear concrete wall at the northeast corner of rear yard. Canopy spread is approximately 50'x50' (photo 26). Mr. Batty is requesting heavy maintenance at this time. There are many areas throughout the tree of concern; heavily impacted included bark (photo 27), with one of the 3 codominant stems, emanating from the trunk, resting on the out building (photos 28,29). The tree appears to have been uplifted during a past storm event as evident by the primary and secondary root systems exposure (photos 30,31). The tree requires cleaning of dead, dying and diseased branches with the limb resting on the building being removed.

**Mahogany,** *Swietenia mahagoni*, tree number **5**, located at the west northwest corner of rear yard. Canopy spread is approximately 30'x30' (photo 32). Mr. Batty is requesting heavy maintenance at this time. There are areas throughout the tree of concern; heavily impacted included bark at approximately 1 ½' above grade (photo 33) with a rope embedded at base of tree greatly reducing the flow of phloem and xylem (photo 34). The north side of tree at inclusion appears to be splitting (photo 35). The tree requires cleaning of dead, dying and diseased

branches (photo 36) with the southernmost limb being removed at the point of inclusion. The rope will be removed.

**Washingtonia,** *Washingtonia robusta*, trees number **6 and 7**, located at the front yard center and east abutting driveway (photo 37,38). Recommend removal.

If you have any questions concerning this report please contact me at 305/747-2141.

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1

2b

2c

3

4

5

11

12—an example of codominance trunk failure

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

Photos 21 and 22 show examples of butt rot tree failure