

STAFF REPORT

DATE: September 26, 2018

RE: **3700 Eagle Avenue (permit application # T2018-0011)**

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

An application was received requesting the removal of **(1) African Tulip tree and (1) Mahogany tree**. A site inspection was done and documented the following:

Tree Species: African Tulip Tree (*Spathodea campanulata*)







09/28/2018



09/28/2018





09/28/2018



Diameter: 9.2"

Location: 60% (close to utility lines, backyard tree)

Species: 50% (not on protected or not protected tree list)

Condition: 40% (poor, heavy storm damage to structure)

Total Average Value = 50%

Value x Diameter = 4.6 replacement caliper inches

Tree Species: Mahogany (Swietenia mahagoni)

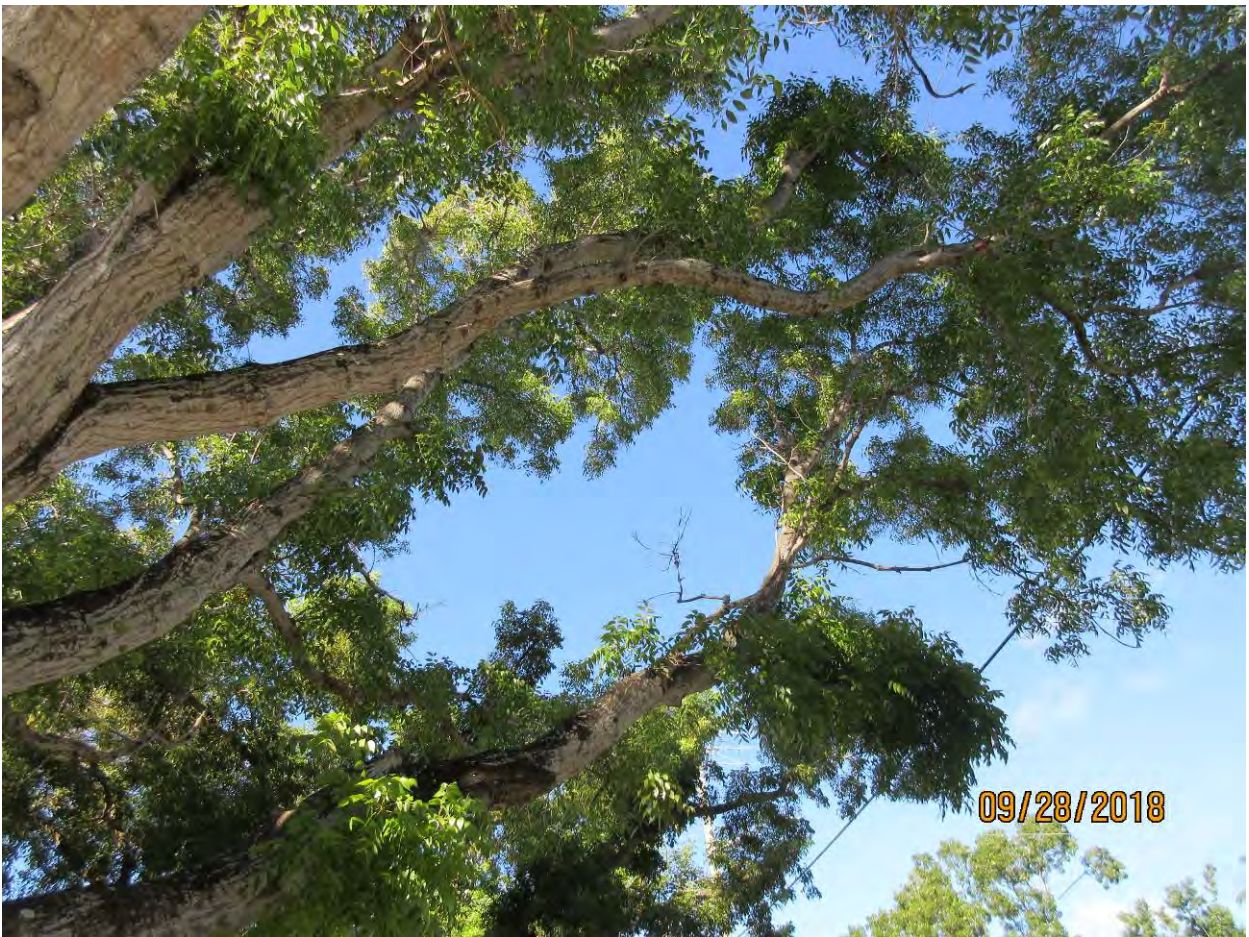














09/28/2018





09/28/2018



Diameter: 23.2"

Location: 60% (front yard tree-roots uplifting pavers in walkway and damaging concrete wall approximately 10 ft away)

Species: 100% (on protected tree list)

Condition: 60% (fair)

Total Average Value = 73%

Value x Diameter = 16.9 replacement caliper inches

Recommendation: Recommend approval of the removal of one (1) African Tulip tree at 3700 Eagle Avenue to be replaced with 4.6 caliper inches of dicot or fruit trees from approved list, FL#1, to be planted on site.

Regarding the Mahogany tree, additional information is needed regarding cost to reconstruct wall and sidewalk/paver access area. Are there reasonable, feasible alternatives available?

Additional information also needed regarding health of the mahogany tree. Property owner states tree is lifting up and leaning and he will provide additional photos.

Application



CANOPY
REMOVAL

2018
000011

Tree Permit Application

Date: 9/3/18

Please Clearly Print All Information unless indicated otherwise.

Tree Address 3700 Eagle Ave.
Cross/Corner Street 19th St.
List Tree Name(s) and Quantity African Tulip (1) - Mahogany (1)
Species Type(s) check all that apply () Palm (X) Flowering () Fruit (X) Shade () Unsure
Reason(s) for Application:

(X) REMOVE (X) Tree Health (X) Safety () Other/Explain below
() TRANSPLANT () New Location () Same Property () Other/Explain below
() HEAVY MAINTENANCE () Branch Removal () Crown Cleaning/Thinning () Crown Reduction

Additional Information and Explanation See attached sheet

Property Owner Name VINCENT P. Zito
Property Owner eMail Address SPQRINKWEAD.COM
Property Owner Mailing Address 3700 Eagle Ave
Property Owner Mailing City Key West **State** FL **Zip** 33040
Property Owner Phone Number (305) 923-1307
Property Owner Signature VAPZ

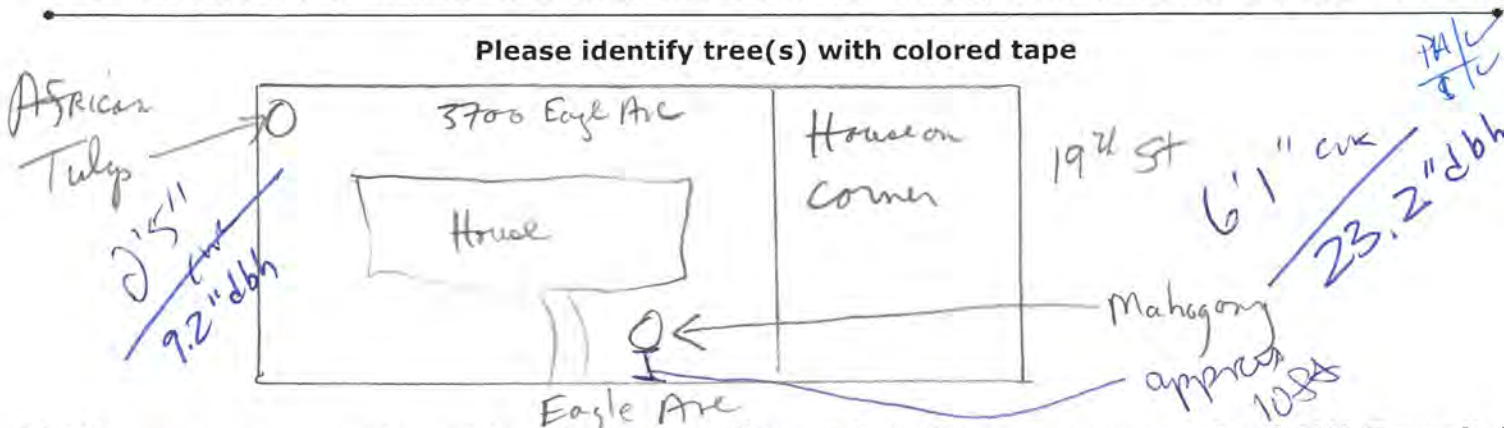
Representative Name _____
Representative eMail Address _____
Representative Mailing Address _____
Representative Mailing City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____
Representative Phone Number (____) _____ - _____

NOTE: A Tree Representation Authorization form must accompany this application if someone other than the owner will be representing the owner at a Tree Commission meeting or picking up an issued Tree Permit.

Tree Representation Authorization form attached ()

<<<<< Sketch location of tree in this area including cross/corner Street >>>>>

Please identify tree(s) with colored tape



If this process requires blocking of a City right-of-way, a separate ROW Permit is required. Please contact 305-809-3740.

ADDITIONAL INFO & EXPLANATION – for 3700 Eagle Ave – Vincent P Zito

- 1) AFRICAN TULIP – Tree badly damaged by Hurricane Maria. Not recovering. Leaning into telephone wires in back yard. Vertical cracks in trunk. Would like to replace with 1 Thatch Palm.
- 2) MAHAGONY – Tree lifting out of ground – many exposed roots. Looks like tree is slowly dying – many bare branches in crown. Did not bloom this year. The lifting action is destroying pavement and front wall on property and is lifting public sidewalk. Dangerously close to water main line. Has shifted entire front yard – cannot close and secure front gate or carport gate. Would like to replace with 3 Thatch Palms.



























Karen DeMaria

From: Karen DeMaria
Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 11:54 AM
To: 'spqrinkw@aol.com'
Subject: RE: From Vincent Zito

Thank you for the quick response. Just to clarify, Do you want me to process the removal of the Tulip tree AND the Mahogany for the October meeting or just the Tulip.

A heavy maintenance trimming of the canopy of the mahogany tree is usually a staff approval permitting process and I think that would be a wise idea. The removal of this tree will require additional documentation. The public demands documented proof when we process these removal applications.

Sincerely,

Karen

From: spqrinkw@aol.com <spqrinkw@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 6:36 AM
To: Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Cc: SPQRinKW@aol.com
Subject: Re: From Vincent Zito

Dear Karen -

Thanks for writing back to me. I plan on attending the Oct 9th meeting of the Commission. We will discuss the removal of the African Tulip at that time,

My concern about the Mahogany isn't just aesthetic. I've been trying four years to stabilize and accommodate that tree. My concern is that because the tree lifting out of the ground, it will eventually topple over. Replacing the entire tree would be the most thorough way of addressing the issue. AT THE VERY LEAST,, however, a severe crown trimming must be done ASAP to take the top-heavy weight off of the tree and adjust the weightier branches which put the weight of the tree all on one side.

The tree looks healthy when viewed from across the street. Nice full, dark green crown. Stand under the tree and look up into the branches and you'll see all the inner branches are dead and the green is at the very top of each branch - have had lots of die-off of major size inner branches,

There are plenty of dicot trees that would be 'the right tree in the right location.' I have started to do my homework finding a replacement.

Reconstruction costs including a new gate, wall, pathway and regrading will cost several thousand dollars. I can't imagine the costs if the tree topples over, downs some electrical wires & goes through my neighbor's roof into their living room.

I have discussed the situation with Ken King of Golden Bough. He recommended waiting until after the Oct 9 meeting to decide what to do, He said trimming roots by pathway and wall would de-stabilize the tree.

PLEASE PROCEED WITH THE APPLICATION FOR REMOVAL OF MAHOGANY

IF THIS IS NOT GRANTED, I MOVE TO HAVE PERMISSION GRANTED TO HAVE A SEVERE CROWN REDUCTION PERFORMED ASAP.

Thank you,

Vincent Zito

In a message dated 9/18/2018 1:48:53 PM Eastern Standard Time, kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov writes:

Vincent:

I did stop by last week and looked at the two trees (I put green ribbon around the trees). Your application states a request to remove both trees. I can understand the removal request for the African Tulip tree. I can not approve a request to remove the mahogany tree.

Removal of dicot trees requires the replacement of dicot trees not palms. The replacement requirement is determined by the diameter of the tree times the value (Condition, Location, and Species of the tree). An example would be a 10" diameter tree with a 50% value would require 5 caliper inches of replacement trees being planted on the property (caliper is a width measurement of the tree trunk measured 6 inch up on the trunk from the ground.)

Regarding the Mahogany tree, some roots might be able to be cut especially those that are along the front wall and sidewalk area. The Tree Commission will want additional information as to why the tree must be removed instead of reconstruction. Pavers can be moved and replaced and walls and gates can be reconstructed. What are the costs to do repairs or to reconstruct? I think the tree is in fair to good health considering it went through a hurricane a year ago, has an arborist looked at the tree?

Please let me know what you would like to me to do with the application, continue on with removal of both trees or modify the application. Right now I have your application to be heard at the October 9 Tree Commission meeting so the sooner I hear from you, the better. You may want to contact an arborist to help advise you. I have attached a list of arborist that have routinely worked with my office and understand the regulations.

Sincerely,

Karen

From: spqrinkw@aol.com <spqrinkw@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 6, 2018 11:27 AM
To: Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: From Vincent Zito

Hi Karen -

I left an application today at your office for consideration for October's meeting. I was hoping you could stop by my property and check out this Mahogany tree which is giving me trouble. Thank you.

Vincent Zito

3700 Eagle Ave

Key West, FL 33040

305 923-1307

SPQRinkKW@aol.com