



LISA H. HAMMER, RCA
Horticultural Consultant

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 AMERICAN SOCIETY of
CONSULTING ARBORISTS

July 7, 2014

Mr. Richard Heisenbottle
R.J. Heisenbottle Architects, PA
2199 Ponce De Leon Blvd., Suite 400
Coral Gables, FL 33134

RE: 6801 Granada Boulevard
Coral Gables, Florida

Dear Richard:

On May 21, 2014 we met at the above-referenced property where you provided me with a tree survey and requested that I locate and tag all specimen trees within the area of the property south of the proposed boundary line. On June 5, 2014, we met at the site with City of Coral Gables staff Brook Dannemiller, Troy Springmyer, and Charles Wu and evaluated the condition of those specimen trees. Tree health and structure were evaluated to determine overall condition, and whether or not, in the event of new construction, those trees warranted retention or relocation. We came up with a total of 18 specimen trees worthy of retention or relocation.

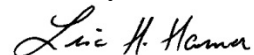
Based on that information, you prepared a potential building plan for the lot, retaining all 18 specimen trees. City staff (Public Service) has since provided review comments (7/2/14) suggesting greater setbacks and large root zone protection areas.

Rather than restricting building space, trees that are close to buildings or other structures can be individually evaluated to determine how best to protect them during and after construction. Every tree is different and there are many factors to consider including the proximity of the tree to the building, where the tree roots are located (they are not always radial), the total proportion of root system affected, tree lean or crown imbalances, vertical clearance for tree crowns, and other site- and tree-specific variables.

It may be possible to build around the trees using alternative methods such as pilings or grade beams to minimize root damage, installation of drainage and nutrient exchange systems, pruning of the crowns, or slight modifications to the structures to allow for branching or root growth. If these alternatives fail to provide an acceptable solution, tree relocation could be considered. These trees are healthy enough to warrant protection, therefore, they are generally healthy enough to be successfully relocated.

In summary, it is my professional opinion that rather than restricting potential building areas, each individual tree should be evaluated to determine what the potential impact from proposed construction will be and whether or not there are any viable alternatives to retain and protect the tree, or possibly relocate it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa H. Hammer".

Lisa H. Hammer, RCA
Horticultural Consultant