

September 2, 2014

The City of Coral Gables Commission
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Dear Mayor Cason and Commissioners,

This is an evaluation of property with *Quercus virginiana*, Oak trees located at:
1015 Lisbon Street
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

The best estimate reflects the tree was planted before historic Coral Gables and The Biltmore Hotel was built. Best estimate of the age is 125 to 150 years old. Oak trees, *Quercus virginiana*, will grow for more than 300 years.

This lot was enclosed by a six feet tall chain link fence, green shade⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ cloth hanging on the fence, and a pile of plant debris in the center of the lot. Construction markers were also near the trunk of the said oak tree. On the sidewalk at the base of one of the poles were markings indicating the property line.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

Photographs were taken from the sidewalk and swale of the property. The orange stake⁽³⁾ photographed thru the fence, indicated the edge of a drain field. The septic tank needs a place for the effluent liquid to exit the septic tank. This appears to be the intention here.

One problem for the tree is digging is generally done using a backhoe. In most cases three to four feet depth is required to accommodate the plastic tubes for the exit into the ground of waste water from the toilet system. A backhoe operator digging a septic tank would likely say this does no damage to the tree.

It is apparent that the backhoe operators have not gone back to repair the damage done to the trees with their machinery. Since the roots are in the way, they took the easiest route to remove them, tearing the roots using a backhoe. Trees need roots to keep them in place and to get food (nutrients) and water.

It is recognized that the orange marked wooden stakes are boundary markers. Usually there are footers or digging of some kind. On construction sites usually this is not a problem. Digging this close to the trunk of this tree, would be very bad for the tree. Actually three trees growing as one. This tree is so large it took two photos⁽⁴⁾ to capture the entire canopy of the tree from across the street.

With a trunk diameter of ten feet, the root protection zone should be 100 feet across in diameter. Simply, no digging or grade change should happen within about fifty feet of the center of the trunk. It appears that the construction team is not following this based on where the stakes are placed.

The American National Standards Institute A-300 is the guideline for tree care. The fifth book is about the care of trees during construction. Part 53.4.3.1 ANSI A300 (Part 5)-2012 ("*Management of Trees and Shrubs During Site Planning, Site Development, and Construction*") states tree conservation should be integrated with the site development plan.

- A. Trees to be retained
- B. Tree and root protection zones.
- C. Tree protection zone barriers.
- D. Tree protection plan.
- E. Soil erosion zone.
- F. Soil compaction controls.
- G. Staging and storage areas.
- H. Existing and proposed utilities and other on-site activities.

Part 53.5 provides guidelines related to pre-construction phase. Coverage to assure that all parties involved are aware of a tree conservation plan, tree protection plan, goals of tree protection, construction practices and penalties for not complying. There are also best management practices for managing trees during construction.



Photo 4

If the construction team is allowed to dig where the stakes are this or these trees will die a very long and slow death. Farther away from the trunk the smaller roots absorb nutrients and moisture from the soil. Roots of this age and caliber have stored or saved energy, in their larger roots for long droughts and attacks by insects. When very large roots or limbs are removed close to the trunk, those

savings accounts are closed to the tree as its defense expenses go up. This death takes years. It very rarely is attributed to construction activities.

Below is as photo⁽⁵⁾ illustrating a straight orange fence to back of property (dividing of property). Cutting roots this close to the base of the tree will do irreparable damage.



Photo 5

With over forty five years in the tree care industry, please accept this evaluation as valuable input.

Yours in arboriculture,

Robert D. Brennan
FI-1059-A

Attachment

CC: "Cason, Jim" <jimcason@coralgables.com>
"Frank Quesada" <fquesada@coralgables.com>
"William Kerdyk" <wkerdyk@coralgables.com>
"Keon, Patricia" <pkeon@coralgables.com>
"Vince Lago" <vlago@coralgables.com>
"Trias, Ramon" <rtrias@coralgables.com>
"Mindreau, Carlos A." <cmindreau@coralgables.com>
"Levi, Naomi" <nlevi@coralgables.com>
"Urquia, Billy" <burquia@coralgables.com>
"Dannemiller, Brook" <BDannemiller@coralgables.com>
"Wu, Charles" <cwu@coralgables.com>
"Tompkins, Jane" <jtompkins@coralgables.com>
"Olazabal, Carmen" <colazabal@coralgables.com>

ROBERT D. BRENNAN

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CERTIFICATIONS

State of Florida registered Beekeeper	March 8, 2014
University of Florida Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences, Green Industries' Best Management Practices Certificate,	April 2012
Consulting Arborist,	April 2010
Certified Horticulture Professional, Miami-Dade County Extension Service,	2005
International Society of Arboriculture, Certified Arborist	May 2004

AFFILIATIONS

Palm Beach Beekeepers Assoc.	2013- Present
Broward Beekeepers' Association	2011 – Present
American Society of Consulting Arborist	2010 – Present
Tropical Arborist Guild	2009 - Present
Barnacle Board of Directors	2009 – Present
Official Unofficial Tree Climbing Training Team	2008 – Present
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden	2009 - Present
International Society of Arboriculture	2004 – Present
National Plant Diagnostic Network	2004 – Present
Society of Municipal Arborist	2004 – Present
Junior Chamber of Commerce	1974 – 1989
Miami-Dade Agricultural Extension Service	1972 – Present

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Million Trees Miami	May 22, 2014
Moving large Trees Florida ISA Fairchild	September 26, 2013
Moving A Rain Tree Fort Lauderdale Commission	8/21/2013
Laurel wilt" Red Bay Ambrosia beetle, Tropical Arborist Guild	May 25, 2012
"Proper Pruning," Flowering Tree Society	2012 -2013
"Proper Pruning," Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden	2011-2012-2013
"Pruning Trees," WZAB 880 AM Radio with Mark Benson	2011
"Proper Pruning Within the Code," Shell Lumber	2011
"Proper Pruning of Your Fruit Trees," Rare Fruit Council, West Palm Beach Chapter	2011
"Proper Pruning of Your Fruit Trees," Rare Fruit Council, Miami Chapter	2010 – 2011
"Proper Pruning," Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden	2010
"The Importance of the Agricultural Extension," Miami-Dade County Commission	2009– 2011
"Rigging, Cabling, Knots and Bracing,"	2007
City of Miami Beach, Department of Parks & Recreation,	
Host, Municipal Arborist Society Visit to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden,	2007
"Proper Pruning, chainsaw safety," University of Florida,	2006 - Present
Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences, Miami-Dade Extension	2006 - Present
Meaning of the Jaycee Creed, April 1984	

HONORS AND AWARDS

AWARD IN EDUCATION	INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE	2014
Chair, Overall Advisory Committee UF Agricultural Extension Service	3-11-2014	Present
Homestead Agricultural Extension Service “Volunteer of the Year”		2013
Chair, Urban Advisory Committee	2005	Present
President, Tropical Arborist Guild	2009 –	Present
University of Florida Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences, Homestead Extension, “Outstanding Volunteer Homestead”		2005
State Representative to Jaycee International		1992
Jaycee President Award of Honor		1986
Outstanding State Chairman Government Involvement		1984
Outstanding Young Men of America		1983
Junior Chamber of Commerce	<i>Jaycee of the Year,</i>	1979
Jaycee of the Quarter		1, 3, 4, 1979

EXPERIENCE

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden *Arborist, 2009 – Present*

Inspect, feed, prune and care for trees in an 83 acre botanical garden of global significance for its collection of taxonomically arranged and well-documented tropical plants. This is 22 acres at Four Fillies Farm of Avocado, Mango, lychee, longan. Banana, loquat, sapodilla brown, sapodilla white, sapodilla black, sapodilla yellow, citrus, Flowering trees, Bauhenia, Ceba pentandra, Red ceiba, Poinciana Red, Poinciana yellow, jacaranda, Chinese box, palms and native trees. Plans and create lectures on Fungus, pruning, invasive plants, chain saw safety, climbing safety, tools studied and purchased.

City of Miami *Consultant, 2008*

Advised city officials regarding transplanting trees from the site of the Orange Bowl and other projects

City of Miami *Consultant 2014*

Consulting: Tree protection while others evacuate contaminated soil. *Merrie Christmas* and Blanche Park, Indian Creek Country Club, Tree protection plan, *Rain tree* Fort Lauderdale, Cymbal Development,

Brennan’s Tree Service *Proprietor, 1969 – 2009*

Owned and operated tree care and landscaping company that inspected, fed and pruned trees. Maintained and cleaned tools and equipment, researched current techniques. Hired and trained workers, supervised and inspected work, and managed schedules and payroll. Printed cards, arranged telephone service, received telephone calls, scheduled appointments, kept appointments, gave estimates, collected payments, through knowledge education at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Married to Eileen Brennan since 1984, three children, Louis, Robert and Talia

EDUCATION

Continuing Education

American Society of Consulting Arborist “Academy” February 2014
Bee college August -2013
Research Study – Fungal Damage in Trees 2007 – Present
Mangrove Protection 2008
Mature Tree Preservation 2006 – Present
Additional 429 units of continuing education from the International Society of Arboriculture,
instructor of several courses (90 units required, details upon request)

Miami Dade College, Miami, Florida

Horticulture and Plant Identification 2014
Studied, Science for Computer Programming & Analysis, 1999-2002
Associate in Arts for Physical Education, 1975

Coral Gables Senior High School, Coral Gables, Florida

Diploma, 1971

COMMUNITY SERVICE

CHAIRMAN OVERALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION 2014
The Barnacle Society, Board of Directors 2010 – Present

Committee to Rewrite the Miami-Dade County Street Tree Master Plan

Advised Miami-Dade County on standards and practices for planting, maintaining trees in urban environment.

Plant a tree Miami 2005-2014

Committee to Amend Village of Pinecrest Tree Code 2012

Advised Village of Pinecrest on standards, practices for planting, maintaining trees in suburban environment.

Committee to Rewrite City of Miami Tree Code 2009 – 2011

Advised City of Miami on standards, practices for planting and maintaining trees in urban environment.

Urban Advisory Committee *Chair*, 2005 – 2013

Participated in committee advising University of Florida College of Design, Construction and Planning on standards and practices for planting and maintaining trees in urban environment.

Boy Scouts of America, Troop 21 1997 – 2008

Organized and trained Boy Scouts in activities oriented towards teaching positive values, good character, responsible citizenship and physical fitness, as Assistant Scoutmaster from 2000 until 2008 and Scoutmaster 1997 until 2000.

YMCA*Soccer Coach, 1991 – 2000*

Volunteered as coach for community co-ed soccer team, instructing children on sportsmanship, team building and technique.

Coconut Grove Elementary*Parent Teacher Association, 1991 – 2001*

Participated in activities to support neighborhood elementary school, including service as chairman of the committee for organizing and managing sale of parking during the annual Coconut Grove Arts Festival, King Mango Strut and Goombay Festivals.

Junior Chamber of Commerce*1991 – 2000*

Participated in an organization of young professionals oriented towards teaching leadership development and business skills through community service and individual development activities. Serves as International Senator #44709

REFERENCES

Aaron Palmateer
Plant Pathology Department
Tropical Research and Education Center
18905 SW 280 Street
Homestead, Florida 33031
305-246-7001 Ext. 270

David Collins
Coconut Grove Business Improvement District
3390 Mary Street, Suite 130
Coconut Grove, FL 33133
305-461-5506

Fred & Faith Sandstrom
1720 Tigertail Avenue
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