

LBLA, INC.

Lynn Bender Landscape Architecture

LA6666715



DATE: November 19, 2024

**TO: Town of Highland Beach
3616 South Ocean Blvd.
Highland Beach, FL 33487**

Project Number PZ-24-9

Job Address: 3723 S OCEAN BLVD, HIGHLAND BEACH FL 33487

Specimen Tree Assessment

Per Sec. 20-124 – Exemptions. (Highland Beach) & per Section 163.045 (Florida Statutes)

The approved Demo Plan for lot clearing references the 6 existing trees to have protection barricades if determined to be deemed Specimen. As denoted with orange circle – stating “**6 trees which may be subject to tree protection**”.

The TDP & LP was prepared post lot clearing.

In my professional opinion, the 4 on-site Buttonwood trees would not qualify as Specimen due to their extremely unhealthy condition. (see attached photos) Trees # T100 thru T103 would not be recognized as high value at this time and therefore, not considered Specimen Trees.

Tree T100 has poor structure, with limited to no canopy, close proximity to tall neighboring privacy wall forced growth habit towards north & leaning with limited root zone, visible previous large branch cuts and weak new sucker growth, showing signs of decay.) **(20% condition – Poor)**

Tree T101 has no canopy or structure and have no value **(0% condition – Dead)**

Tree T102 has no leafed canopy and poor structure. Remnants of major limbs previously cut with multiple dead sucker growths. and have no value **(0% condition – Dead)**

Tree T103 has little to no canopy with extremely poor structure. Visible sign of decay and die-back limits any future potential for achieving specimen rating. Currently leaning and would most likely fall without the support provided. **(20% condition – Poor)**

Due to the overall size and current condition of the trees **T100, T101, T102 & T103**, it is determined that Trees T100 & T102 would be considered Hazardous trees (as found in Sec. 20-124(f) of the Town Code). In Addition, all 4 trees pose an unacceptable risk to persons or property (as per Section 163.045 of the Florida Statutes). It is my opinion that the potential for falling is more imminent, especially due to their high wind location and elevation directly west of the existing dunes.

Respectfully,

Lynn Bender



