



STORCH
LAW FIRM

GLENN D. STORCH, ESQUIRE
glenn@storchlawfirm.com

COREY D. BROWN, ESQUIRE
corey@storchlawfirm.com

A. JOSEPH POSEY, ESQUIRE
joey@storchlawfirm.com

April 10, 2026

Via Hand Delivery:

Ryan Solstice, AICP
Development Services Director
City of Edgewater
P.O. Box 100
Edgewater, Florida 32132-0100

***Re: Historic Tree Removal Application
Merritts Boat & Engineering***

Dear Ryan:

Enclosed please find an application for approval of a Historic Tree Removal Permit pursuant to Section 21-55.02 of the City of Edgewater Land Development Code. The tree in question is a 56-inch live oak, as shown on the enclosed conceptual development plan. As outlined under Section 21-55.05, the subject tree qualifies as a historic tree due to its size. In accordance with Section 21-55.03(b), we respectfully request City Council authorization for its removal based on site constraints, safety considerations, and the inability to reasonably develop the property while preserving the tree.

The current location of the tree significantly restricts reasonable use of the property. Any proposed development requires extensive earthwork and the installation of a substantial underground stormwater retention system to meet City land development code requirements. A tree of this size has a root system that extends well beyond the dripline, and the level of grading, excavation, and infrastructure necessary for development would directly and unavoidably impact both the canopy and root system. These impacts would leave the tree poorly anchored and structurally compromised. An independent arborist evaluation was conducted to assess the feasibility of preservation. The report concludes that preservation of the tree is not feasible. Specifically, the canopy would require reduction exceeding 50%, and significant disturbance to the root system would occur. Due to the size of the tree and the extent of its root structure, these impacts would likely destabilize the tree, increasing the risk of failure and creating a hazardous condition. The arborist further indicates that the tree is unlikely to survive construction impacts regardless of preservation efforts.

Given these findings, there is a practical opportunity at this stage to mitigate the impacts of removing the tree in a controlled and planned manner, rather than risking future failure that would provide no environmental or community benefit to the City of Edgewater. There is also a second historic tree located within the adjacent right-of-way along the eastern boundary, with a diameter of approximately 46 inches. My client is committed to preserving and protecting this tree

during construction activities and will implement appropriate tree protection measures to ensure its long-term health and stability.

This project represents a significant investment in the City of Edgewater. The property owner is a boat builder seeking to establish a new facility within the City, which will contribute positively to the local economy, support the marine industry, and encourage continued business growth in the area. The site is located within a more industrial portion of the City, characterized by higher impervious surface allowances. Requiring the project to be designed around this tree would effectively deny the owner the same development rights and reasonable use that have been afforded to other properties in the Park Avenue area.

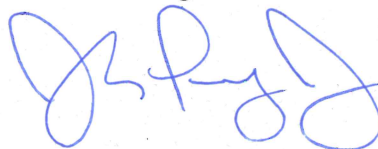
Based on the site limitations, arborist findings, and the constraints outlined above, we respectfully request approval of this Historic Tree Removal Permit. We believe this request is consistent with the intent and standards of the City's Land Development Code and appropriately balances environmental considerations with reasonable property use and economic development.

Enclosed please find the following:

- Application for Historic Tree Removal
- Arborist Report
- Conceptual Plan for Property

Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything further for this application.

Kindest regards,



A. Joseph Posey

GDS/ajp
Enclosures