

Review of Electric Utility Hurricane Preparedness and Restoration Actions

Docket No : 20170215-EU

Name : David Keindl

Electric Utility Provider : FP&L

Zip Code : 33304

Category : Power restoration time

Comments : From: David Keindl [mailto:w davidkl@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 2:56 PM

To: Scott Wyman

Subject: LaTerrace Condominiums / 910/920 NE 16th Terrace, Ft Lauderdale, FL 33304-4488

CORRESPONDENCE

10/10/2017

DOCUMENT NO. 08449-2017

Good Afternoon Scott,

I realize the Commissioner's office has been juggling enough problems since Hurricane Irma, but I felt compelled to write and let you and Dean T. know what is going on in your district. I'm the President of the LaTerrace Condominiums in Victoria Park and have been a resident going on 5 years. Our complex was built in 2005 and we have 4 large decorative palm trees that line the front of our two white contemporary buildings that cost upward of several thousand dollars each. These palms have survived Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma, tropical storms, and most recently Hurricane Irma without so much as losing a single palm branch. Of all the palms and vegetation around our buildings, these four palms withstood the winds from Irma without "any" damage. I came home last Thursday night, Oct 5th to find that FP&L had totally butchered two of these palms. I don't understand how they can just come and decimate trees on private property, without so much a simple notification phone call. The far left palm, three stories tall, had most of the palm branches on one side cut in half with no rhyme or reason making the once beautiful, symmetrical palm lop sided and left looking like it's dying. The far right palm, also three stories tall and magnificent, was basically destroyed. They cut off 8 huge branches leaving 6 on one side, less than half that was there. That is not how you trim a palm tree, anyone with half a brain knows that! Nevermind the fact that they left two dead branches hanging which poses more of a threat to power lines than do the live ones. These palms are positioned 18 feet back from the power lines. Not 18 inches, 18 FEET. There was no thought given to how these palms should be trimmed to insure their survival. Someone just took a power saw and started hacking off branches. Clearly FP&L are giving inexperienced, incompetent people direction to prune trees, that are clueless as to what they are doing and how it should be done. You would think they would hire professional horticulturists that are experienced, to insure the plants and trees they are "butchering" on private property, will survive. I contacted Kimberly Pearson in regards to this, but as I suspected, here is her response:

Dear Mr. Keindl,

Thank you for your communication. Unfortunately, we do not have authority over FPL. You may contact them directly.

Kimberly Pearson, Landscape Plans Examiner
City of Fort Lauderdale| Urban Design & Planning
700 NW 19th Avenue | Fort Lauderdale FL 33311
P: (954) 828-5200 E: kpearson@fortlauderdale.gov
cid:image011.png@01D16811.9BC66BE0

If she doesn't have authority, who does? They should have to answer to someone.

Do we have any recourse with FP&L for their blatant lack of authority for what they've done? Should the one palm tree die, can we go after them legally for killing the tree easily over 20 years old? I understand they are trying to protect their infrastructure of power lines, interesting enough that they did this "after" the hurricane and not before. Not very bright on their part, but seeing what they've done just goes to show how clueless they are to begin with. These original palms have been part of our landscaping for over 12 years and have never caused any damage or threat to the power lines, they are far enough back at 18 feet. I'm sorry to unload all this on you, but it infuriates me to see things like this happening in my neighborhood. There's no excuse and they should be held accountable and stopped from doing this to other trees on other properties.

Thank you for your time,

David Keindl
954-557-7798