Subject: Fwd: Tree removal - 91 Frangipani street, Klein Bron Estate, Brackenfell, 7560 From: Sonet Fitchat <sonet@cluedapp.co.za> Date: 2020/09/23, 16:03 To: "cheylenekemp" <cheylene.kemp@capetown.gov.za>

CC: "1 Fitchat" <theo@cluedapp.co.za>

Mr Abrahams,

We have unfortunately removed a tree that we thought was on our property, but which we have now found out is actually on municipal ground since it is near the road.

Our estate manager came to have a look and to inform us that we need written permission to remove the tree, but by that time most of the roots had already been chopped off, so it would not have been possible to save the tree.

The reason we removed the tree was because our house has many waterproofing issues and we had been informed by a landscaping company that trees' roots can damage the house's foundations and cause more waterproofing issues.

We are first time homeowners and did not know that if a tree is a certain distance from the road it is actually the property of the municipality. We thought it was our responsibility to prune and maintain the tree, and that we had the right to remove it.

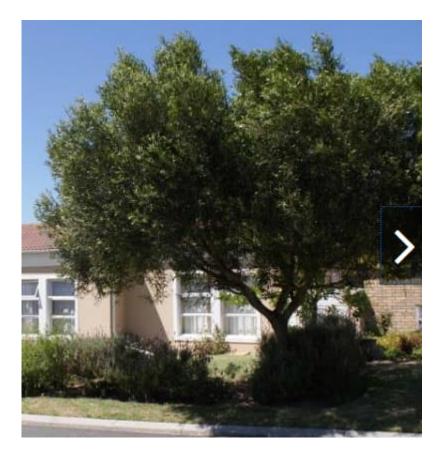
We have since discovered otherwise and understand that we may be liable for a fine.

We sincerely apologise for not obtaining the relevant written permission first. We understand ignorance is not an excuse, but we truly did not know. We just wanted to improve our house.

I attach a photo of the tree.

Kind regards, Sonet Fitchat

–Frangipani tree.png-



-Attachments:-

Frangipani tree.png

303 KB

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Mr Strydom,

Mr Abrahams has forwarded my first email to you regarding the tree we removed.

Our neighbour had informed us that she and a previous occupant of our house had planted that tree, so even though I understand that we may not remove a tree on the sidewalk we just want to ask that it be taken into consideration that the municipality had not incurred any expenses to buy or plant the tree.

I have read up about municipal tree removal, and we now understand that public trees are important for the environment and for oxygen production etc.

We also want to find out whether we may be given the opportunity to replant the same tree (we unfortunately don't know what kind of tree it was) instead of paying a fine?

Kind regards, Sonet