MOBILE TREE COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT                              Date: August 20, 2019

APPLICANT NAME                        David Crowder

LOCATION                                  600 Church Street
                                            (Northwest corner of Church Street and South Warren Street)

REQUEST                                Trimming and dead-liming of six live oak trees.

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT               District 2

PRESENT ZONING                        T-4, Mixed-Use, Low Intensity

HEALTH OF TREE                        The trees appear to have some normal limb die-back.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS                 Proximity to street (Church St and S Warren St), powerlines through canopy (primarily S Warren St).

HISTORIC DISTRICT                    Church Street East

ENGINEERING COMMENTS                 None

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING COMMENTS         None

URBAN FORESTRY COMMENTS              1. Tree trimming permit be issued to a certified arborist who is licensed and bonded to work in the City of Mobile; and 2. All work to be coordinated with Urban Forestry and Alabama Power, in compliance with ANSI A300 pruning standards.

PLANNING COMMENTS                    None

ANALYSIS                              The applicant is requesting approval to trim and dead-limb six (6) live oaks in the right-of-way along Church Street and South Warren Street. The applicant
proposes to build a new house on a vacant lot, and the proposed tree maintenance would be to ensure the best health of the trees into the future.

The vacant lot has approximately 52 feet of frontage onto Church Street, and approximately 164 feet of frontage onto South Warren Street. Two 40+inch live oaks are present in the Church Street right-of-way, while five 26+inch live oaks are present in the South Warren Street right-of-way (one of the trees along South Warren Street was approved for removal by the Commission, at its June 2019 meeting). All immediately abutting properties are developed with single-family residences, while the property across South Warren Street is developed as a fast-food restaurant.

The vacant lot is approximately 11,800 square feet, and the applicant is proposing a residence with a building footprint of approximately 5,100 square feet, a portion of which will be two-story. Due to the property’s location within the Downtown Development District and the Church Street East Historic District, architectural review of the structure will be required.

It appears that trimming and dead-limbing, which is considered routine maintenance for large live oak trees, would reduce future instances of branch failures and give the trees the best opportunity for continued health.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the preceding, this request for removal is recommended for APPROVAL subject to the following conditions:

1. Tree trimming permit be issued to a certified arborist who is licensed and bonded to work in the City of Mobile; and
2. All work to be coordinated with Urban Forestry and Alabama Power, in compliance with ANSI A300 pruning standards.
Tree removal approved at the June 2019 meeting