

**MOBILE TREE COMMISSION  
STAFF REPORT****Date: April 21, 2020**

<b><u>APPLICANT NAME</u></b>	Battiste Tree Service
<b><u>LOCATION</u></b>	304 Long Court (North side of Long Court, at the west terminus of Babs Street)
<b><u>REQUEST</u></b>	Remove two willow oaks.
<b><u>CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT</u></b>	District 7
<b><u>PRESENT ZONING</u></b>	R-1, Single-Family Residential
<b><u>HEALTH OF TREE</u></b>	Both trees show no signs of biological or structural issues.
<b><u>CONTRIBUTING FACTORS</u></b>	Location of trees between sidewalk and curb.
<b><u>HISTORIC DISTRICT</u></b>	N / A.
<b><u>ENGINEERING COMMENTS</u></b>	None
<b><u>TRAFFIC ENGINEERING COMMENTS</u></b>	None
<b><u>URBAN FORESTRY COMMENTS</u></b>	Removal is not recommended at this time. Removal request is recommended to be denied.
<b><u>PLANNING COMMENTS</u></b>	None
<b><u>ANALYSIS</u></b>	The applicant is requesting approval remove two (2) willow oaks from the right-of-way of Long Court. The applicant states that the trees are 18 to 24 inches in diameter, and 45 to 50 feet tall.

The applicant states the following:

*“Buckling sidewalk. Allow lirope to grow.”*

Aerial photos indicate that the two trees were present by 2002. Staff cannot discern if they were present in the previous set of aerials from 1997.

It is not uncommon for trees planted between the sidewalk and curb to buckle sidewalks.

According to Chapter 57, Streets and Sidewalks, Article III, Sidewalks, of the City Code (*specifically sections 57-99 through 57-101*), maintenance of sidewalks is the responsibility of the abutting property owner. In some instances, the sidewalk can be ground down to eliminate tripping hazards. Eventually, however, the sidewalk will require replacement.

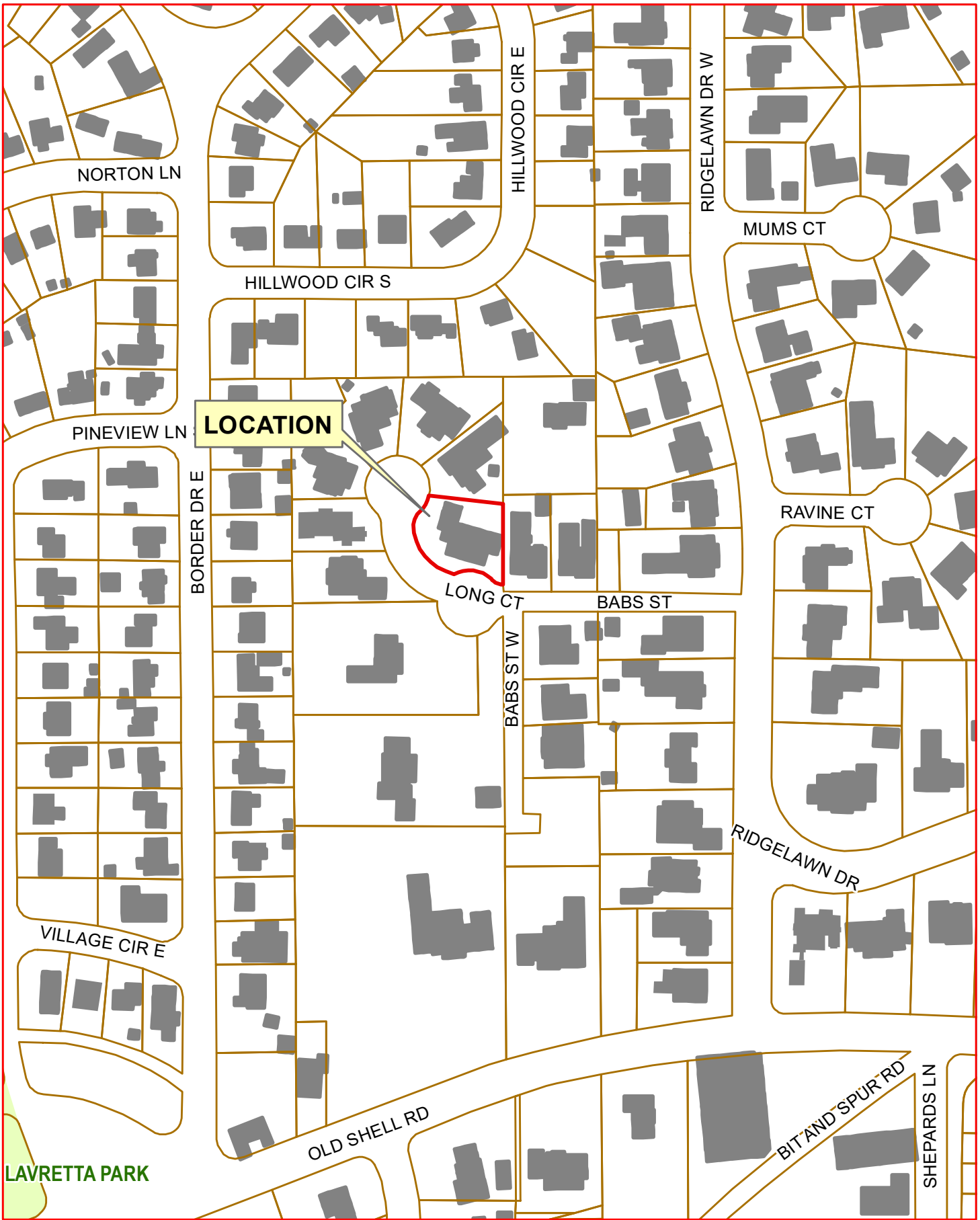
Urban Forestry has noted that the trees are in good health, and recommends that they not be removed.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

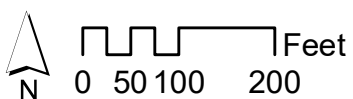
Staff recommends that the Commission consider all relevant aspects of the request, and determine if the proposed removal merits approval or denial.

If considered for approval by the Tree Commission, staff recommends the following conditions:

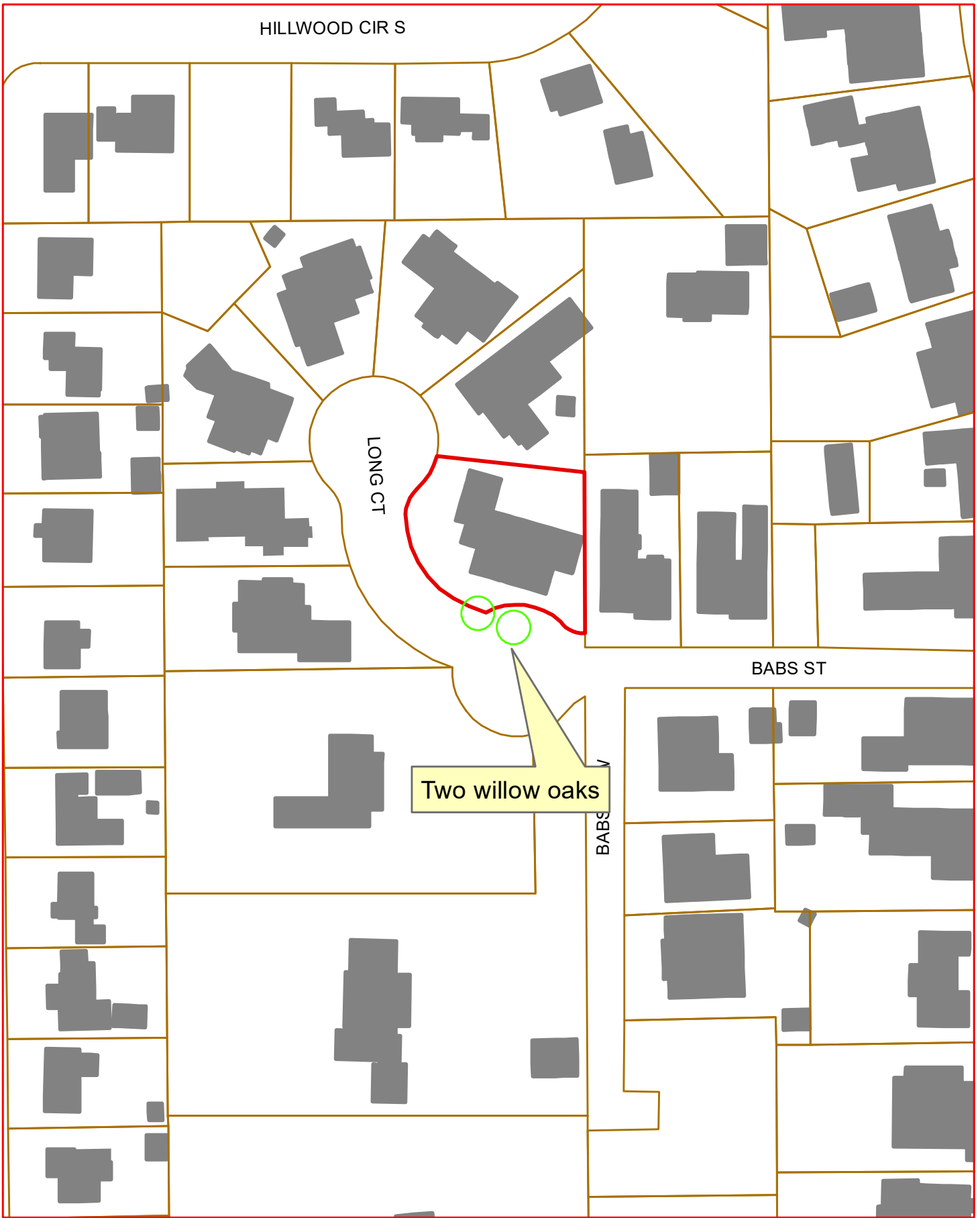
1. Donation of four trees to the Tree Bank, for a total of \$ 800.00;
2. Tree removal permit be issued to a certified arborist who is licensed and bonded to work in the City of Mobile; and
3. All work in the right-of-way, including tree removal and tree replanting, to be coordinated with Urban Forestry and the Permitting/Right-of-Way Division.



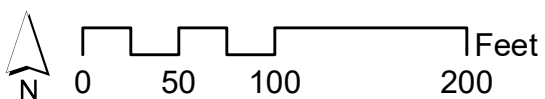
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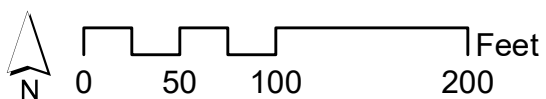


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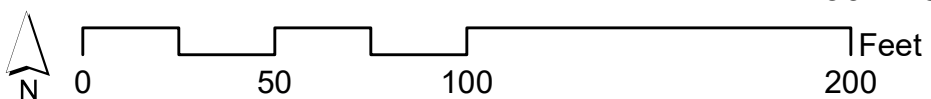


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