2 P-2015-006

MOBILE TREE COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT Date: May 17, 2016

APPLICANT NAME Volunteers of America

LOCATION 1204 Hillcrest Rd

(West side of Hillcrest Rd, 200 + feet North of Hillcrest

Crossing South)

REQUEST Remove one 8 inch Live Oak, one 10 inch Live Oak, and

one 12 inch Live Oak

CITY COUNCIL

DISTRICT District 6

PRESENT ZONING R-3, Multi-Family Residential

HEALTH OF TREE All trees are in good health

CONTRIBUTING

FACTORS

Traffic Engineering is requiring relocation of the existing drive to eliminate conflicts with the traffic light. The new drive location, as required by Traffic Engineering for safety reasons is in the middle of the site, and will be right in – right out only.

ENGINEERING

COMMENTS None

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

<u>COMMENTS</u> The existing Hillcrest Road curb-cut should be closed, as it is an uncontrolled driveway within a signalized intersection. The revised site plan showing the closing of the existing Hillcrest Road curb-cut and the construction of a new right-in, right-out curb-cut is acceptable.

URBAN FORESTRY

<u>COMMENTS</u> Due to Traffic Engineering recommending to move the curb cut to the center of the property, Urban Forestry recommends approval of the request to remove the 8 inch Live Oak, 10 inch Live Oak, and 12 inch Live Oak in the right of way.

PLANNING

COMMENTS Based on the fact that the new driveway, as required to be relocated by Traffic Engineering, is the reason for the request, Planning recommends approval of the request to remove the 8 inch Live Oak, 10 inch Live Oak, and 12 inch Live Oak in the right of way.

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MAWSS None

ANALYSIS The applicant had previously requested removal of these trees to allow greater visibility for a sign. As there were no other extenuating circumstances at the time, the application was denied. A couple of months later the applicant filed applications for expansion of the development. At that time, the Traffic Engineering Department stated that the existing driveway had to be closed and relocated due to a conflict with the existing traffic signal at Omni Park Drive. The relocation/redesign recommended and approved by the Traffic Engineer places the drive, a right in – right out design, in the center of the site; thereby requiring the removal of the trees in question.

The revised design and location was approved by the Planning Commission, and that approval is site plan specific.

The applicant is also required to bring the site into compliance with the Landscapaing and Tree Planting requirements of the Zoning Ordinance. Therefore, the landscape plan illustrates 13 overstory trees to be planted in the front setback (within 25' of the front property line), as well as other trees as required by the code. The 13 trees in the front setback, includes 3 replacement trees. While they are not within the right-of-way, the location on private property moves them further away from infrastructure that could be damaged by the root systems in the future.

Additionally, as they are being planted as replacement trees and are part of the approved PUD plan, they automatically become Heritage Trees and must therefore be maintained. Heritage Trees usually are only allowed to be removed if they are in bad health or are an impending danger of safety hazard; and if a permit is issued for removal, they must be replaced. Not too different from the requirements of trees in the right-of-way, with the exception of oversight by the Tree Commission.

RECOMMENDATION Based on the required relocation of the drive and the approval of the site plan by the Planning Commission, the request to remove the 8 inch Live Oak, 10 inch Live Oak, and 12 inch Live Oak in the right of way is recommended for approval, subject to the following conditions:

- 1. All removal and stump grinding is to be done by a licensed and bonded arborist, and shall be at the expense of the applicant;
- 2. All work in the right-of-way requires a right-of-way permit; and
- 3. Tree plantings to be in accordance with the approved landscaping and tree planting plan for the PUD, with the three replacement trees being as such, and specified as Heritage Trees, and noted that any work on or under these trees is to be permitted and coordinated with Urban Forestry; removal to be permitted only in the case of disease or impending danger.



APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

| CITY OF MOBILE | Application No. | |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------|
| MOBILE TREE COMMISSION | Date: 4/19/2016 | |
| 1. Applicant: | 2. Owner (if different from applican | t): |
| Name: Volunteers of America | Name: | |
| Address: 600 Azalea Road | Address: | |
| Mobile, AL Zip Code: 36609 | Zip Code:_ | |
| E-mail: hcreel@voase.org | E-mail: | |
| Telephone Number: (251) 661-1145 | Telephone Number: | |
| 3. Location of Tree: 1204 Hillcrest Road | City Council District | . <u>6</u> |
| 4. Type of Tree: Oak | Trim:Remove: | X |
| 5. Approximate Diameter four (4) feet from the | | |
| 6. Reason for Removal or Trimming as Reques | | |
| Wallace T. Dava | | |
| Applicant | Owner – if different from applicant | |

Application Fee - None

Applicant or Agent must be present at meeting to represent request.

All supporting information (photos, location plan, names and addresses of the applicant, property owner, adjacent property owners and directly across the street - on mailing labels, along with postage fee and \$1.00 notification fee for each) must be submitted with the application (Two Copies) by filing date.

Appeals must be made in writing to the Mobile City Council within 15 days of the decision.

Major projects involving multiple trees may be held over to the following month's agenda due to the time required by staff to investigate.

P. O. Box 1827 - Mobile, Alabama 36633-1827

Telephone: 251/208-5895 Fax: 251/208-5896 e-mail: Planning@cityofmobile.org

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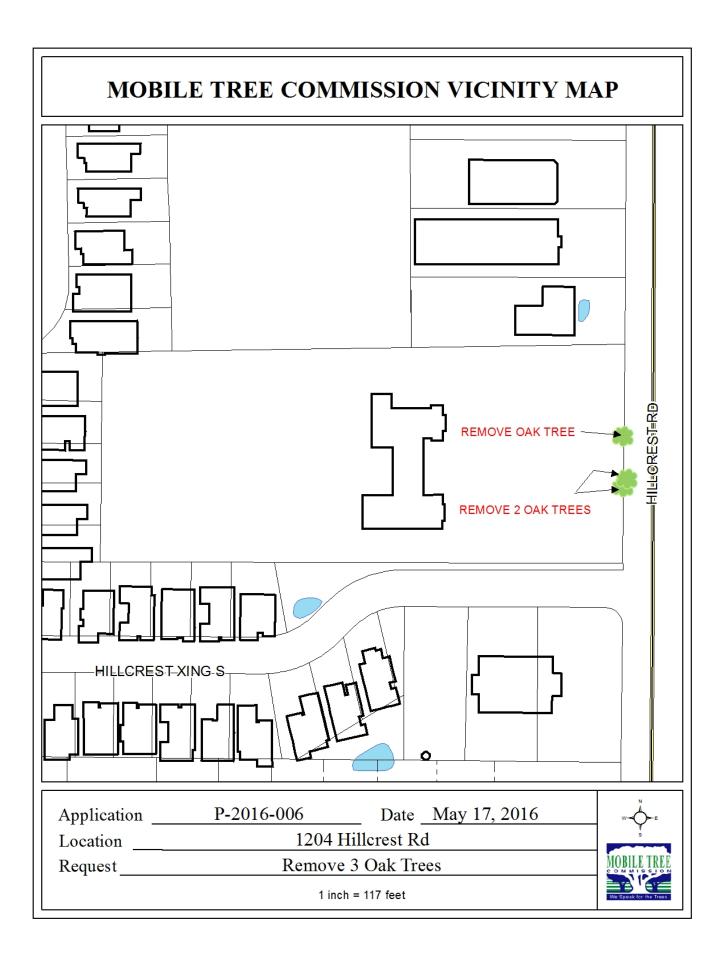
NARRATIVE

Volunteers of America Greater Southeast, Inc. is the current owner of the property located at 1204 Hillcrest Road. They were given subdivision and PUD approval at the December 3, 2015 meeting of the Mobile City Planning Commission. They are in the process of planning additions to the existing building. The existing curb cut servicing the property is located near the South property line adjacent to the intersection of Hillcrest Road and Hillcrest Crossing South which is controlled by traffic signals. Due to safety concerns, the Mobile Traffic Engineering Department has requested the existing curb cut be removed and relocated North near the center of the property frontage (See attached drawing). The new curb cut will be a right in-right out only configuration. Three existing oak trees as shown on the attached photographs will be in conflict with the new curb cut and will need to be removed.

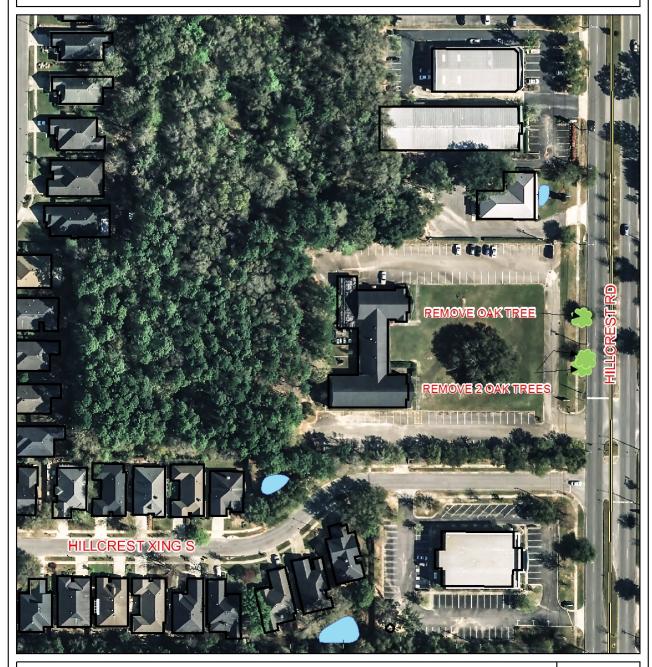
The reason for this application is to remove the existing trees as shown on the attached drawing and place new trees to replace them farther back within the property front setback along with trees required to satisfy Zoning requirements.

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MOBILE TREE COMMISSION VICINITY MAP



Application P-2016-006 Date May 17, 2016

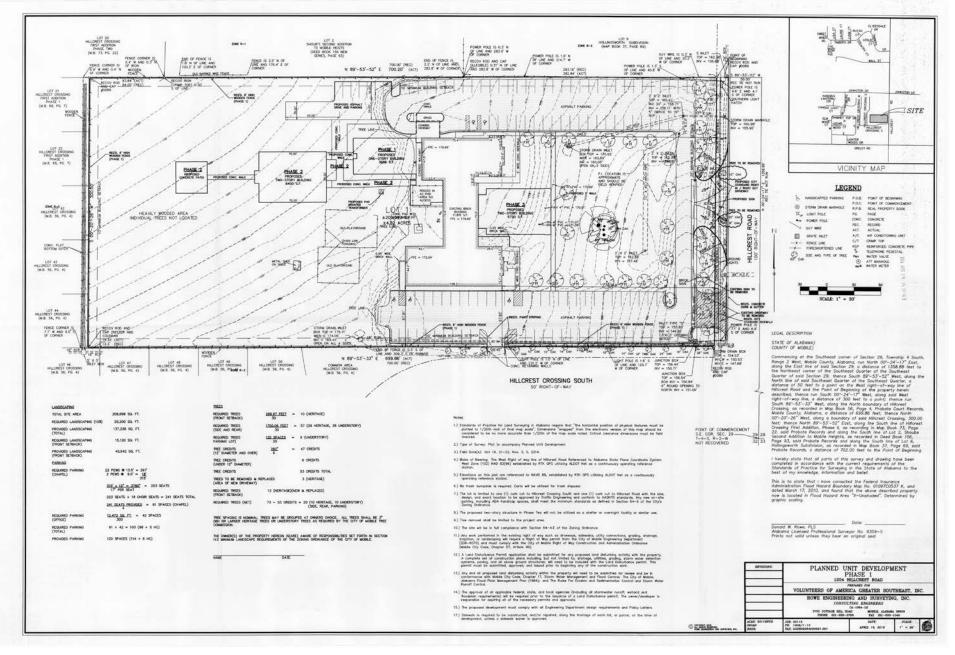
Location 1204 Hillcrest Rd

Request Remove 3 Oak Trees

WO Spack for the Trees

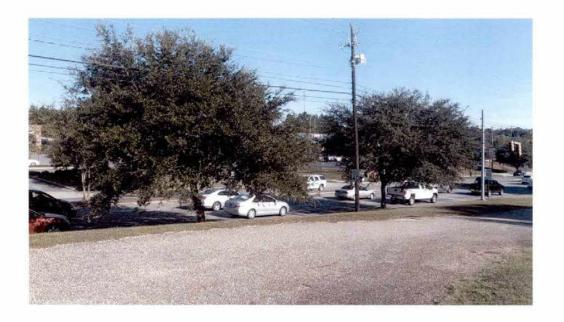
1 inch = 117 feet





1204 Hillcrest Road **Pictures**













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