

# MEMORANDUM

January 5, 2022

To: Mayor Andrew Gilich  
City Council Members  
Planning Commission  
Mike Leonard, CAO  
Jerry Creel, Director of Community Development

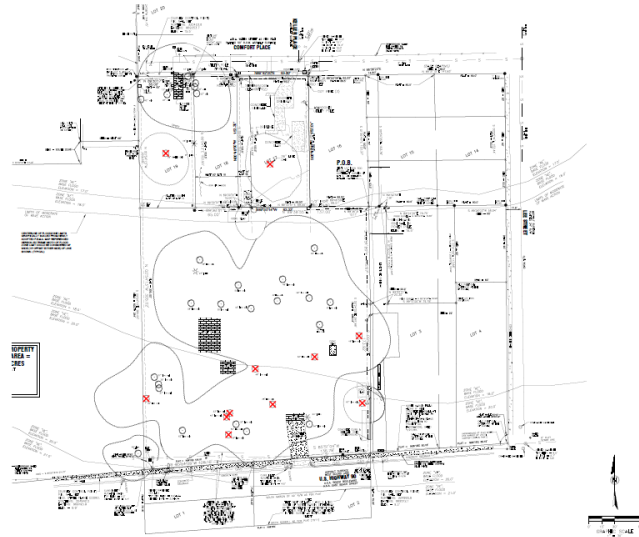
From: City of Biloxi Tree Committee  
Tracy Wyman, Chair (Ex-officio); Robin Lang (1); Shirley Robinson (2); Matt Dubaz (3); Susan Peterson (4); Wendy Lally (5); Christine Davis (6); Pamela Barlow (7)

Re: 2023-TR 001 – Sonny Bhakta, Hotel at 570 Beach Boulevard

A yet-to-be designed hotel project at 570 Beach Boulevard proposes the removal of 11 protected trees as shown in the SUMMARY OF PROPOSED REMOVALS below:

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED REMOVALS:

7 Live Oaks (DBH in inches)	Water Oak (DBH in inches)
23"	35"
29"	
32"	
26"	
38"	
40"	
46"	
50"	
49"	
67"	



## TREE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Tree Committee recommendation is to TABLE THIS TREE HEARING until such a time as a design for a hotel has been approved by the Architectural Review Board in a public meeting where interested members of the public also have opportunity to voice their input.

Our decision is based on the following:

1. The Home2Suites design proposed for this project was denied by the Architectural Review process, and a redesign has been requested. In addition to architectural concerns, there are valid concerns about access from Comfort Place, a small residential street, and the impact the tree removals and the height of the proposed structure would have on the privacy of the residents along Comfort Place.
2. While the zoning for this project does allow for commercial development, the tree ordinance does not allow for removal of a large number of protected and substantial live oaks.
3. The Live Oaks on this property have been deemed 'healthy' by the former City Arborist.

4. A design was proposed by the owner a couple years ago that worked around these heritage oak trees, incorporating them into a well-designed plan. The Committee recommends the owner consider a proposal more in keeping with a design that would celebrate these trees, rather than remove them.

**ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Should the Planning Commission authorize the removals regardless of the incomplete and unapproved design provided, the Committee recommends

- A. The applicant include tree protection plans on their site plan for any protected trees that will remain, according to the LDO;
- B. The applicant be liable for mitigation of all 11 protected trees at a ration of 2:1, or 22 Trees of same species removed as specified in the LDO.