

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT STAFF REPORT

March 23, 2026

**ZBA-14-26**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Petitioner**

Chris Lyons

**Requested Action and Purpose**

Petition for a special exception to allow the short-term rental of a property.

**Location and Existing Zoning**

1807 17<sup>th</sup> Ave E. Zoned SFR-3. (Council District 5)

**Size and Existing Land Use**

Approximately 0.23 acres, Single-family residential

**Surrounding Land Use and Zoning**

North: Single-family residence, SFR-3

East: Single family residence, SFR-3

South: Single family residence, SFR-3

West: Single family residence, SFR-3

**Applicable Regulations**

Sec. 25-39. Special Exception Use Permit

**d. Decision-Making Standards for Special Exception Use Permit**

The Zoning Board of Adjustment may approve a special exception use permit application only upon finding the proposed special exception use:

1. Complies with all applicable district-specific standards in Article IV :Zoning Districts;
2. Complies with all applicable standards in Article V : Use Regulations;
3. Complies with all relevant subdivision standards in the Subdivision Regulations;
4. Will not have a substantial adverse impact on vehicular and pedestrian safety;
5. Will not have a substantial adverse impact on vehicular traffic;
6. Is compatible with the character of surrounding development and the neighborhood;
7. Will not have a substantial adverse impact on adjoining properties in terms of noise, lights, glare, vibrations, fumes, odors, litter, or obstruction of air or light;
8. Will not have a substantial adverse impact on the aesthetic character of the area where it is proposed to be located; and
9. Will not have a substantial adverse impact on public safety or create nuisance conditions detrimental to the public.

**Sec. 25-101.c.4.iv.d General Standards**

1. Short-term rentals shall comply with all building and fire codes, and comply with all provisions of this Ordinance, including Article VI Division 2, Off-Street Parking, Bicycle Parking, and Loading Standards, and Article VI Division 10, Signs and Billboards.

## ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT STAFF REPORT

March 23, 2026

2. Short-term rentals shall comply with the standards in Sec. 10.8-13, Noise in residential districts, of the City Code.
3. Off-street parking spaces may be provided on driveways or within a parking area on the property.
4. The property shall contain a dwelling able to be occupied.
5. Commercial events or other large events such as concerts or weddings are prohibited on the property.
6. The rental of units for a period of less than 24 hours is prohibited

### **Sec. 25-101.c.4.iv.g Decision Criteria**

When deciding on an application for a special exception use permit to operate a short-term rental use, the Zoning Board of Adjustment shall consider the following factors, in addition to the general decision-making standards in Sec. 25-39.d:

1. Whether the property is permanently occupied and leased in its entirety to one party for periods of at least 30 consecutive nights;
2. Whether the short-term rental use is proposed to be or will be the primary or accessory use of the dwelling;
3. If a short-term rental is proposed for a site that has been previously used for a short-term rental, the number of complaints, violations, and other departures from the standards of this Ordinance and the City Code that have occurred on the property; and
4. As part of its evaluation on the character of surrounding development and the neighborhood and other potentially adverse impacts of the use, the characteristics of the neighborhood and surrounding properties including the underlying zone district, surrounding land uses, the number of nearby short-term rental uses, the topography, access, and similar factors.

### **Sec. 25-101.h. Standards specific to commercial uses, short-term rentals.**

1. The applicant shall provide the city with information regarding the number of nights which the premises was used as a short-term rental. If the city determines that the applicant has not rented the premises as a short-term rental in accordance with the spirit of this section, the city shall notify the applicant that the business license will not be renewed and, if the short-term rental was subject to a special exception use permit, that the special exception use permit shall be deemed null and void. In addition, the city shall not issue a new business license for short-term rental of the dwelling unit for at least one year from the date of notification of the decision to not renew the business license and void the special exception use permit.
2. In addition, if the use was permitted in accordance with a special exception use permit, the city shall determine whether there have been any verified complaints or violations. If there have been no verified complaints or violations, the city may renew the business license for one year if the business license has not be renewed and the special exception use permit has not been voided in accordance with subsection (1) above. If the city determines there have been verified complaints and violations, the city shall notify the applicant that the business license will not be renewed and that the special exception use permit shall be deemed cancelled.

## ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT STAFF REPORT

March 23, 2026

3. Following cancellation of a special exception use permit for a short-term rental, an applicant may apply for a new special exception use permit for a short-term rental in accordance with [section 25-39](#), special exception use permit, subject to the restrictions of this subsection.

### SUMMARY

The petitioner is requesting a special exception to allow the short-term rental of a dwelling. Chris Lyons will be the primary contact and will be available 24 hours a day in case of an emergency. The petitioner currently manages one short term rental property in Tuscaloosa. The house is equipped with exterior cameras, keypad locks and smoke/carbon monoxide detectors. The house is not owner occupied. The house will remain vacant when it is not rented short term. The house has 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. The petitioner is requesting 6 adults and 3 vehicles.

The petitioner was approved to operate a short-term rental at the April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, ZBA meeting. When the petitioner applied for renewal of their business license, it was noted that the property had been rented for 240 nights in 2025. In accordance with Sec. 25-101. h. the previous special exception use permit was deemed null and void by the city.

If approved, the petitioner is requesting that the ZBA waive the 30-night probationary period and allow the property to be rented for greater than 45 nights per year.

Office of Urban Development, Planning Division: If approved, staff recommends 4 adults / 2 vehicles based on existing driveway /off-street parking and occupancy as it relates to parking.

Office of Urban Development, Codes and Development Services Division: No violations found or complaints received.

Office of Urban Development, Building and Inspections Division: No comment

Office of the City Engineer: No comment

Fire and Rescue Department, Fire Administration: No comment

# ZBA Petition for Short-Term Rental

This application is for a request to the Zoning Board of Adjustment to approve a Special Exception to operate a short-term rental. Prior to submitting this form, a business license must be submitted to the Revenue Division.

**Have you submitted a business license to the Revenue Division?**

Yes

## Property Information:

**Site Address:**

1807 17th Ave E, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35405

**Property Owner Name:**

Chris Lyons

**Numer of Bedrooms:**

2

**Number of Bathrooms:**

1

**Total Square Footage of Residence:**

1000

**Is this the Owner's Primary Residence?**

No

**If yes, where will the property owner stay when the home is being rented? If no, please explain how this property will be used when it is not being rented on a short-term basis.**

**Untitled**

The property will be vacant when not rented.

## Applicant Information:

**Applicant Name:**

Chris Lyons

## Supplemental Information:

**On-street parking is prohibited while the dwelling is being rented on a short-term basis. Parking must be located on driveways or within a parking area on the property. No more than two vehicles may be parked tandem (one vehicle behind the other). Typically, two adults are allowed per vehicle.**

**How many vehicles are you requesting to park in your driveway or designated parking area during the short-term rental? How many adults are you requesting to rent to at one time?**

Untitled

3 vehicles and 6 adults

**Who will be the primary contact in case of an emergency? Where are they located in relation to the property? Will they be available 24 hours a day?**

Untitled

Chris or Holly Lyons. We are located in Northport and are available 24/7

**What is the petitioner's experience managing short-term rentals? (ex. how many properties, location, any issues, etc.)**

Untitled

We have 2 STR's in Tuscaloosa and have been hosting for over two years. We have not had any issues at any time. We would like for both properties to have the probationary period waived and be allowed to rent more than 45 days. We have a 4.98 rating and have been a superhost for almost 2 years. Being good hosts allows us the chance to make a great impression for the city of Tuscaloosa.

**What security measures are in place for renters to prevent violations of City ordinances and protect the neighborhood? (ex. cameras, keypad locks, noise detection systems, etc.) Attach a copy of your rules and regulations for renters along with this application at the bottom of the form.**

Untitled

We have keypad locks, outdoor cameras, house rules, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

## **Supporting Documents:**

**Rules and Regulations:**

house rules.jpeg

**Photos of Parking Area:**

\_DSC7677.jpg

**Additional Documents:**

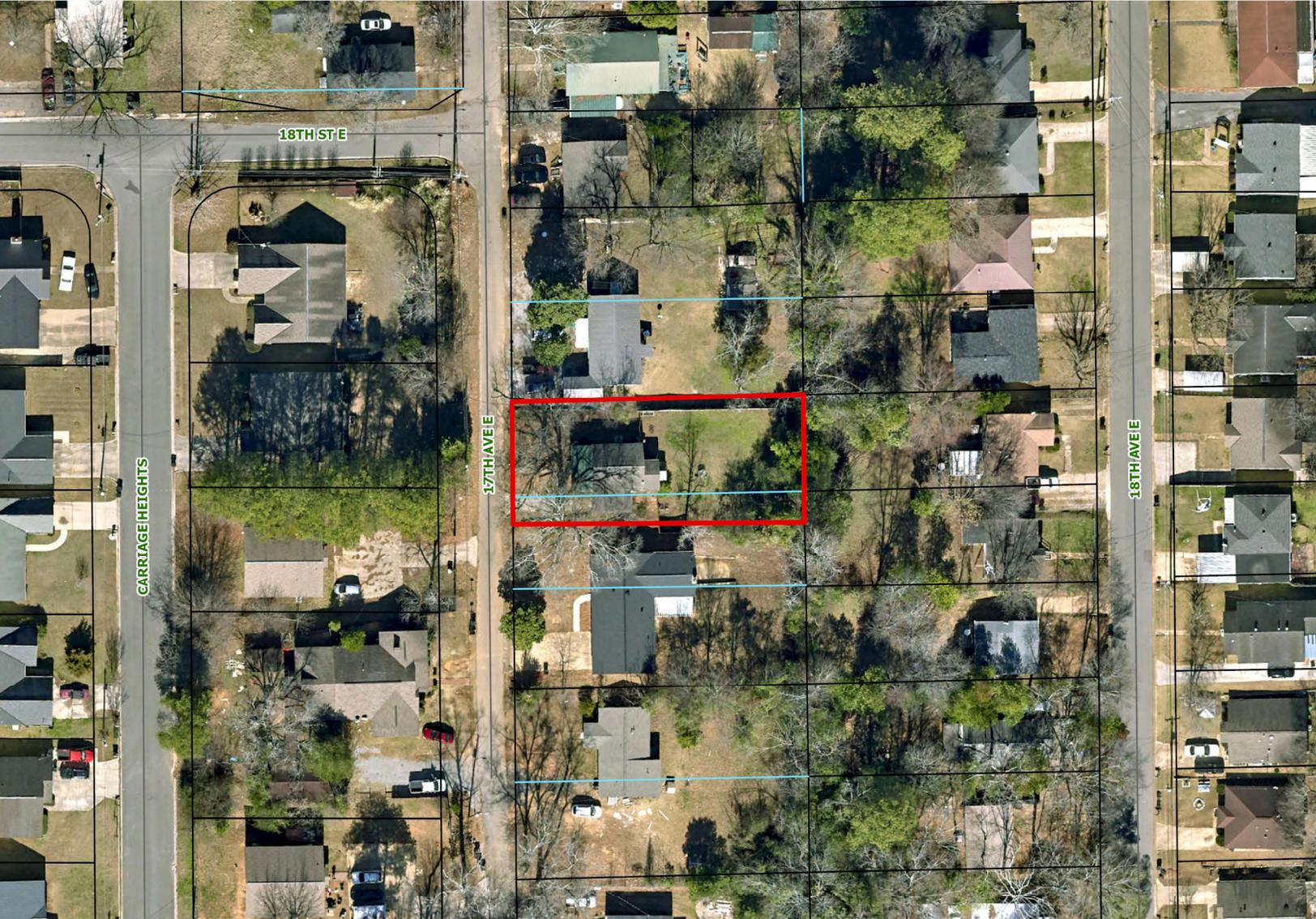
Host reviews.jpg

**Once submitted, a staff member will contact the applicant using the email provided on this form. If more documents are required, the staff member will clarify what is required in that email. By submitting this application, you recognize the city will send public notification and place a sign on the property with information for the public.**



# 1807 17th Avenue East

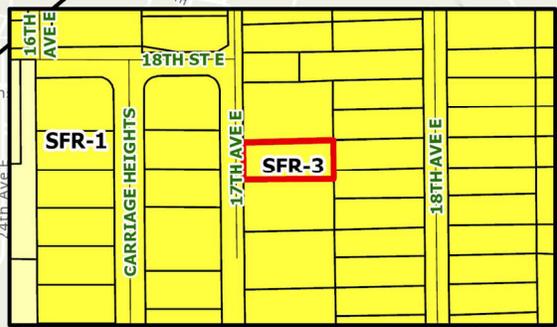
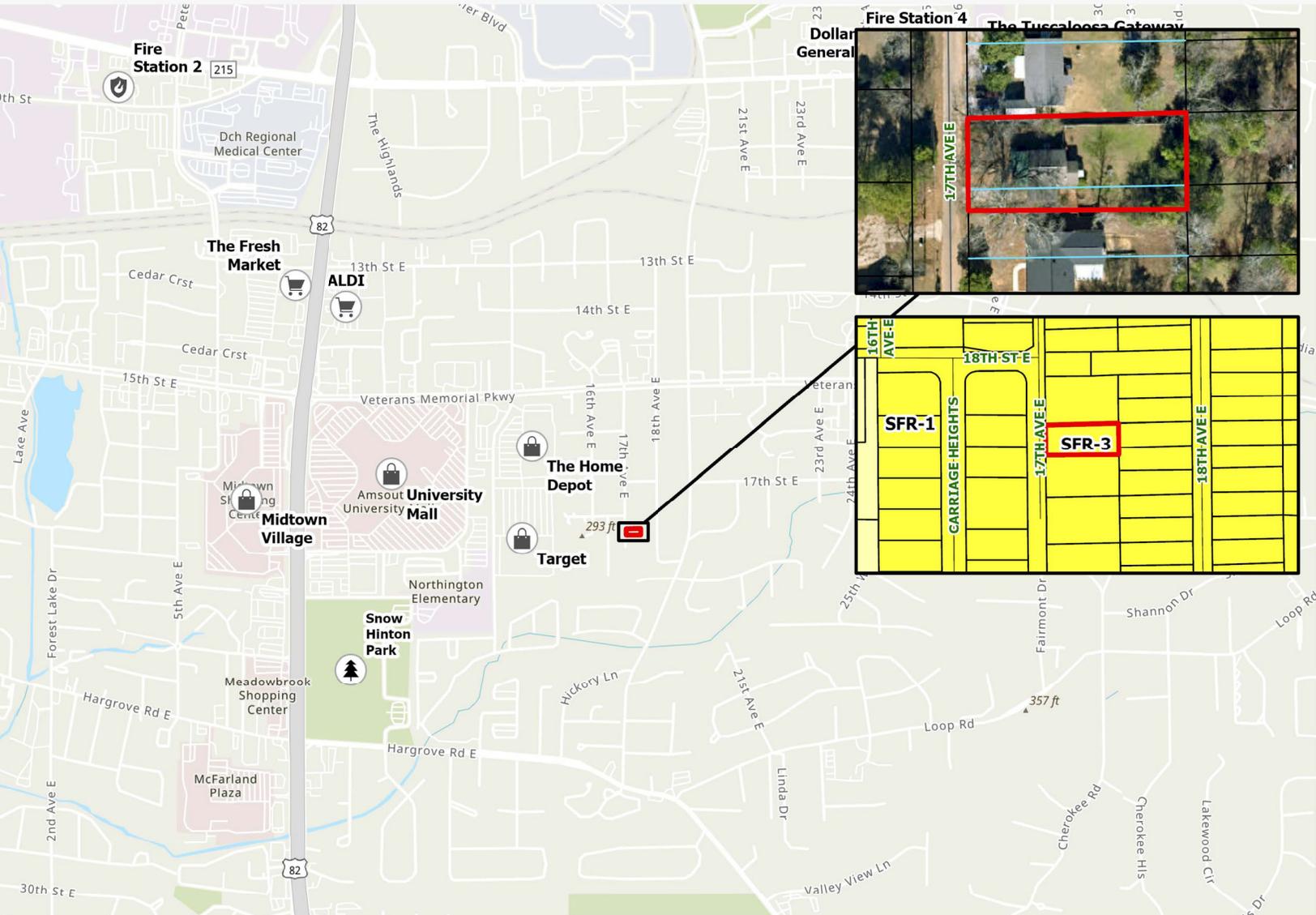
1 inch = 63 feet  
0 30 60 90 120 Feet





# 1807 17th Avenue East

0 625 1,250 1,875 2,500 Feet

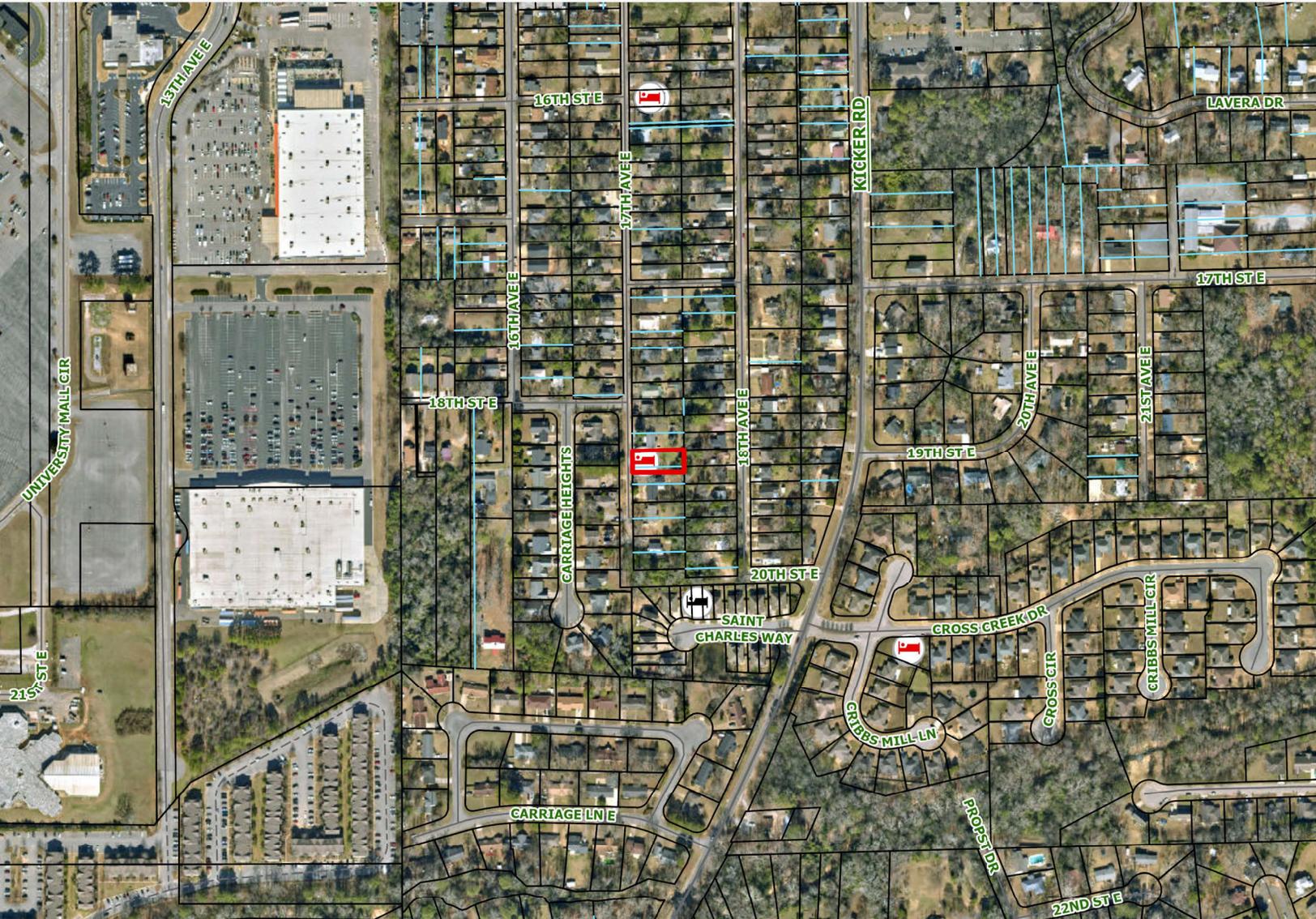




# 1807 17th Avenue East

1 inch = 350 feet  
0 200 400 600 800

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1807

