

Re: Detroit Thermal Application in the Lafayette Park Historic District

Dear City of Detroit Historic District Commissioners,

I am a resident of the Lafayette Park Historic District neighborhood. I am writing to state my strong opposition to Detroit Thermal's application for a project in the Lafayette Park Historic District. I oppose the proposed project because I believe it would irrevocably damage my neighborhood's landscape, which is a central component our National Historic Landmark designation.

The proposed project would generate a significant adverse effect on the landscape of our neighborhood. The project will kill and damage mature trees that define our historic landscape as well as numerous shrubs and planting beds. Project plans acknowledge damage to the landscape as the entire area is labeled as "disturbance" with "restoration in-kind." Also, a smaller section, located near Lafayette Avenue, that contains mature trees, shrubs and plantings is also identified as "disturbance" with "restoration in-kind." Our 60-year-old landscape cannot be "restored." It took 60 years of time, investment, and stewardship to become what it is today.

I am also concerned that the project could damage the historic character of our neighborhood in other ways, including by installing new steam vents and conducting deep excavation near the foundations of our buildings. I am not confident that the impact on our neighborhood was considered in the development of these plans. Therefore, I am asking that the Detroit Historic District Commission reject Detroit Thermal's application.

Thank you kindly for your time and your commitment to serving the residents of Detroit and preserving the city's historic places.

Sincerely,

Matthew Morin
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