

Dear City of Detroit Historic District Commissioners,

My name is Lula Kem, I am 9 years old and in 4th grade at Academy of the Americas. I have lived in Lafayette Park my whole life. I am writing you a letter for a class project.

There is a plan to put steam pipes right under the playground in front of my house. They will have to dig up all around our favorite climbing tree. The area will be fenced off so we won't be able to play there. I don't want this because it will be hard for the kids to play. And the steam will probably mess up all the trees and grass. And I don't want the construction trucks to be there all the time fixing the pipes.

My suggestion is to find a different route for the pipe.

Thank you for reading my letter and please see if you can find a solution.

Lula Kem
1412 Nicolet Pl
Detroit, MI 48207

Dear City of Detroit Historic District Commissioners,

My name is Andrew Kem, Lula's father, also 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 it would irrevocably damage my neighborhood's historic landscape, which is a central component of my neighborhood's National Historic Landmark designation.

The proposed project would generate a significant adverse effect on the historic landscape of my neighborhood. This is an understatement. The project will kill and damage mature trees that define our historic landscape, shrubs and planting beds. The project plans to convert the most sensitive and most beloved portion of our historic landscape into a work site. Project plans acknowledge damage to the landscape as the entire area is labeled as "disturbance" with "restoration in-kind." This area is the jewel of our historic landscape. This is not the only area of our historic landscape that will be damaged. A smaller section, located near Lafayette Avenue, that also 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.

The plans submitted for this project by Detroit Thermal demonstrate its lack of understanding and respect for my neighborhood’s historic status. This lacking is also demonstrated by Detroit Thermal’s work to date in my neighborhood. These plans were developed with no input or engagement from me or my neighborhood. Detroit Thermal has been working in my neighborhood for more than seven months. During that time, it has cut down most of a mature magnolia tree, damaged shrubs and flowers, and has refused to meet with me and/or provide information to my neighborhood in response to our concerns. Several of their other sites around their network lack some basic maintenance.

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 historic homes. I have no confidence that the impact on our historic neighborhood was considered in the development of these plans.

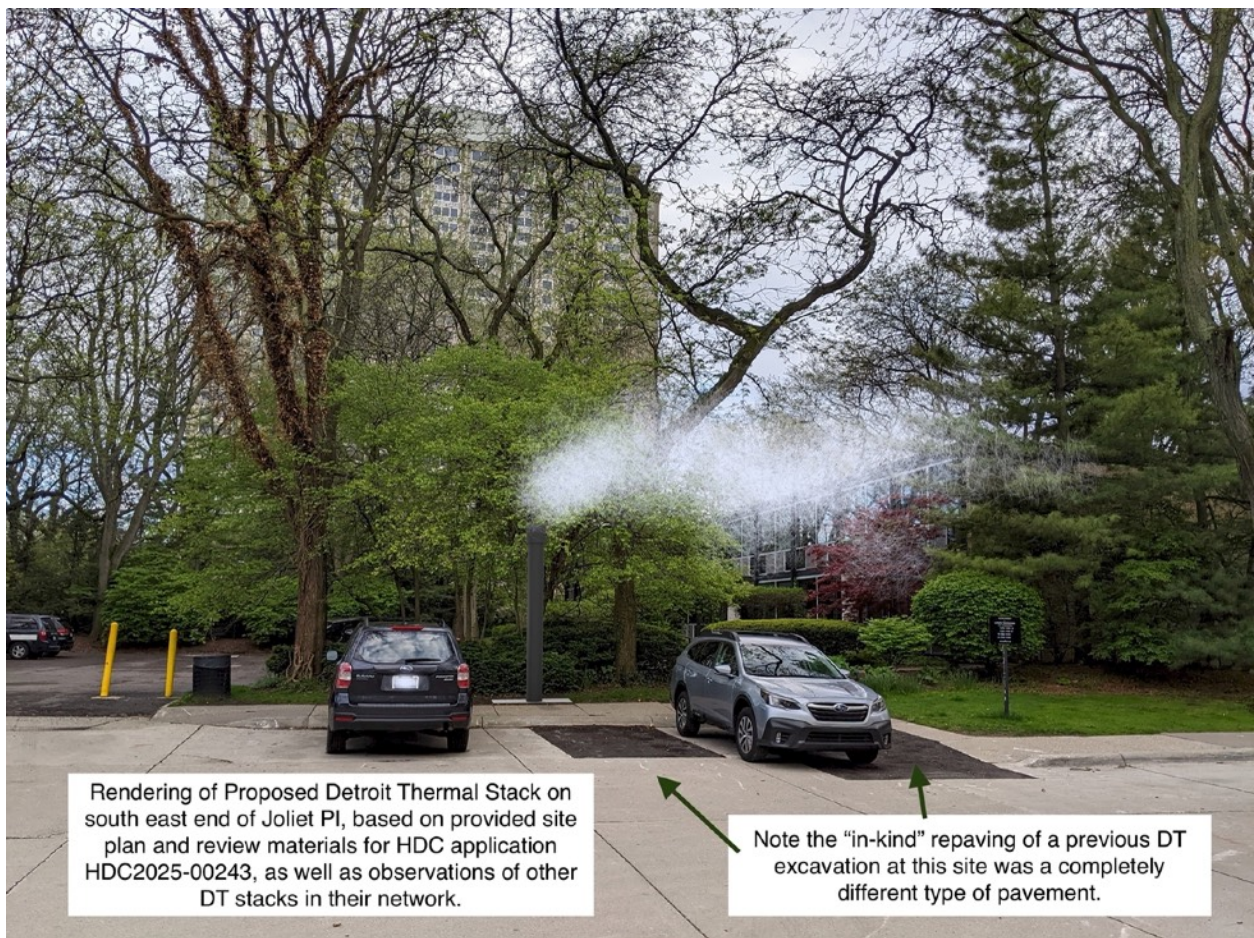
I have included in the following pages renderings of what the 2 steam stacks that are in Detroit Thermal’s plans would look like, based on the provided site plan , review materials and observations of other elements of their network. I have also included examples of how ground cover does not grow immediately around their installations as well as an image of a nearby worksite on Antietam St. that shows the level of disregard for the property within which Detroit Thermal infrastructure is claiming right-of-way.

I am asking that the Detroit Historic District Commission reject Detroit Thermal’s application to prevent it from irreparably harming our historic neighborhood.

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

Sincerely,

Andrew Kem
1412 Nicolet Pl
313-570-3985





Steam stack at Beaubien and Jefferson emitting steam 5-10-25.
Steam emission is more visible in colder temps due to greater temperature differential



Funnel style Steam Stack at Warren and 75 service drive 5-10-25.
Note lack of ground cover directly adjacent to steam infrastructure vs. grassy ground cover of median to the east.

