

May 12, 2025

Alex Wright
1409 Joliet Place
Detroit, MI 48207

Dear Detroit Historic District Commissioners,

As a Lafayette Park Historic District resident, I am writing to express my firm opposition to Detroit Thermal's application for a proposed project within our neighborhood.

I hope the countless letters submitted for your consideration opposing this project make a difference. I hope you all have time to witness how this process has negatively altered our community. Generations of young Detroiters have grown up in Lafayette Park, and I don't want my children to be the last of them.

The Commission's opportunity is clear: by denying this application, you can *protect and preserve one of the city's historic districts and ensure the area's unique character is maintained for future generations.*

The proposed project threatens to alter this historic environment permanently. The plans indicate that mature trees, shrubs, and established planting beds, many of which have been cultivated and cared for over decades, would be at risk of destruction or severe damage. Areas identified as "disturbance" with "restoration in-kind" cannot truly be returned to their original state; the character and maturity of our landscape are irreplaceable and cannot be recreated overnight.

Furthermore, the project's planning and outreach process has been deeply concerning. There has been a lack of meaningful engagement with residents, and previous work by Detroit Thermal in our neighborhood has already resulted in the loss of valued plantings and insufficient communication with those affected. This approach demonstrates a disregard for the historic significance of our district and the community's stewardship of its landscape.

I respectfully urge the Commission to deny Detroit Thermal's application for these reasons. Protecting Lafayette Park's historic landscape is essential to preserving its legacy for future generations.

Thank you for your attention and ongoing dedication to safeguarding Detroit's historic neighborhoods.

Sincerely,
Alex Wright
Co-Owner, Detroit City FC
1409 Joliet Pl.