

May 13, 2025

Hello City of Detroit Historic District Commissioners,

As a long-time resident of Lafayette Townhouses, a part of the Lafayette Park Historic District neighborhood, I want to register my shock over the project that Detroit Thermal has proposed and my strong opposition to it.

The project would cut through the very heart of our neighborhood, significantly altering a mature landscape that was carefully planned over 60 years ago and just as carefully maintained by generations of Lafayette Park residents. That growth and stewardship can't be "restored" no matter what Detroit Thermal promises.

Further, the communication from Detroit Thermal has been nearly non-existent. They started working with heavy machinery at the end of Nicolet Place without any notice to me and my neighbors. I had no idea what was going on until I heard from friends across the street.

From what I understand, there are alternate paths that Detroit Thermal can use to connect the steam lines to 1300. I assume they have chosen to go through our historic neighborhood because it's the most direct path and will cost them less money. However, the cost to us will be enormous in terms of lost landscaping, possible damage to our buildings with deep excavation, potential danger to children on our community playground with permanent steam vents, diminished property value, and possible loss of our Historic District designation.

Many times a week, I walk through this area (the site of the proposed project) on my way to the park. It truly is the heart of our neighborhood, with beautiful trees, shrubs, and flowers. In all seasons, it makes me happy to see neighbors and children gathered for play and conversation there, and proud of where we live. It also makes me sad and angry that this is all threatened by a company that seems to have no understanding of, or respect for, what our community has created over many years.

I hope the Detroit Historic District Commission will soundly reject Detroit Thermal's project to run the steam lines through our historic neighborhood and steer them towards finding a different solution that doesn't impact our neighborhood so severely.

Thank you for all you do to serve Detroit and to preserve its beauty and its historic communities.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Treece  
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