

From: [Bob Pettapiece](#)
To: [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Detroit Thermal Application in the Lafayette Park Historic District
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 5:12:13 PM

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 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. These plans were developed with no input or engagement. Detroit Thermal has been working in for more than seven months.

I am also concerned that the project could damage the historic character of our neighborhood in other ways, including by installing new steam vents.

I am asking that the Detroit Historic District Commission reject Detroit Thermal's application to prevent it from irreparably harming our historic neighborhood and **ask for an alternate route, perhaps through the park. While I do not like the idea of tearing up the park, it seems more sensible than tearing up established housing.**

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

Sincerely,

Bob Pettapiece
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