

From: [Shelley Selim](#)
To: [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Lafayette Park Historic District Application from Detroit Thermal
Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:00:53 AM

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.

It is a rarity to find a neighborhood with mature trees in downtown Detroit, and the reason this has happened in Lafayette Park is due to thoughtful stewardship from generations of residents. We care about the historic significance of this place, and for many of us, it's the main reason we moved to the neighborhood. I am proud to be a part of this ongoing legacy of stewardship and care for this neighborhood. The proposed project would dismantle that legacy of care, killing and damaging mature trees, and causing irreparable damage to the landscape.

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 neighbors. 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.

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

Sincerely,
Shelley Selim
1301 Joliet Pl. Detroit, MI, 48207
703-615-7526