

**From:** [J Moran](#)  
**To:** [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Reid Kurvink](#); [J Moran](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Detroit Thermal Application in the Lafayette Park Historic District  
**Date:** Sunday, May 11, 2025 3:11:26 PM

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Dear City of Detroit Historic District Commissioners,

We are residents of the Lafayette Park Historic District neighborhood and are writing to share our concerns about Detroit Thermal's application for a project in the Lafayette Park Historic District. Detroit Thermal is planning on installing its infrastructure in our neighborhood to offer utility cost-savings to 1300 East Lafayette. We oppose this proposed project because of the damage it will have on our neighborhood's infrastructure and landscape which are central components of our National Historic Landmark designation.

The plans submitted for this project by Detroit Thermal demonstrate its lack of understanding and respect for our neighborhood's historic status. This project would damage the character of our neighborhood via its installation of new steam vents and its deep excavation near the foundations of our buildings. Their lack of understanding is also demonstrated by Detroit Thermal's work to date in our neighborhood. **Detroit Thermal has been working in our neighborhood for more than seven months without input from our community nor approval from your Commission.** During that time, Detroit Thermal cut down the majority of a mature magnolia tree, damaged shrubs and flowers, and has refused to meet with our community and/or provide information to our community in response to our concerns.

The project plans to convert the most sensitive (our children's playground area) and most beloved portion of our historic landscape into a work site. If this project is approved to move forward, it will threaten to damage if not kill mature trees that define our landscape along with shrubbery and planting beds. It may also impact our flood risk by disrupting the delicate infrastructure surrounding the buildings in the proposed work zone. While Detroit Thermal's project plans acknowledge damage to the landscape, they provide little in the way of "restoration in-kind." Our 60-year-old landscape cannot be "restored" to its designated state without decades of care and maintenance. Surely there must be another location where Detroit Thermal can install their steam equipment infrastructure for future customers that does not impact the delicate historic infrastructure and landscape of Lafayette Park?

We ask that you as Commissioners of the Detroit Historic District reject Detroit Thermal's application to prevent it from irreparably harming our neighborhood.

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

Sincerely,

Julie G. Moran and Reid M. Kurvink

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