

From: neilmc@comcast.net
To: [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Lafayette Park Historic District Concern
Date: Sunday, May 11, 2025 10:46:18 PM

Dear Historic District Commission Members,
My name is Neil McEachern and I have lived at 1342 Nicolet, also known as The Dr. Charles H. Wright House, for 35 years. My concern is that the Detroit Thermal plan will irrevocably harm our neighborhood which is a dedicated National Landmark.

When Mies van der Rohe designed Lafayette Park he brought Alfred Caldwell, a nationally known landscape architect, to lay out the landscaping. Wherever Caldwell designated a tree to be planted, he put a dot on the site plan. The developer then told him that that many trees would be too expensive. Caldwell replied that he didn't care if saplings or more substantial trees were planted but that a tree was to be planted at every spot he had marked. And so it was. Our planted environment is very important to us. It is a gift that previous residents have passed down to us, the current residents, and we want to pass it on to those future generations who will follow us.

When Dennis Kafalinos bought the former Shapero and wanted to turn it into a nightclub and "hotel" we went to the City Council and convinced them and the Zoning Board to disallow such a use. When the new owner of the Lafayette Towers wanted to put up a fence curtailing access to the park and shopping plaza, we came before your committee asking your help to stop his scheme. You sided with us and we maintained free access to the park and shopping plaza.

Now today, we are asking your help to maintain our neighborhood for us and future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Neil R. McEachern