

From: [NClark Campbell](#)
To: [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Detroit Thermal Application - Lafayette Park Historic District
Date: Monday, May 12, 2025 12:04:33 PM

Commissioners:

I respectfully request that you reject Detroit Thermal's application for this project.

It is clear that Detroit Thermal does not understand why they are being forced to come before you, our Historic District Commission. From the outset of this proposal they appear to have assumed they could provide 1300 Lafayette with steam by taking the shortest route possible, regardless of how or where that took them.

When you examine their plans you can easily see that they are familiar and comfortable working with pavement, roadways and curbs. It is crystal clear that they have no concept of the havoc and devastation their work will wreak on an area like ours with a mature tree canopy and understory, one that took decades and generations to establish.

"Shrubs and landscaping to be restored in kind. Existing trees to remain in place."

Absolutely no clue. Our trees will not survive the attack on their root systems. Trenching 8 feet deep will most assuredly damage them beyond recovery. At no time was it ever presented to us that this project would require the work area scope and intensity of long, deep trenches being dug with heavy equipment pounding and thrashing through the heart of our established trees, our greenspace understory and our cherished playground.

Detroit Thermal does have an alternate path to facilitate this steam delivery, one that does not destroy our National Historic Landmark landscape. There is a fully functional steam infrastructure that is capable of this task that was in service up until two years ago, delivering steam to the Chrysler Elementary school across the street from 1300. This is the same infrastructure they are proposing to tap in to by destroying our greenspace.

If there is any hardship on the part of the petitioner it is entirely self inflicted. Had they followed the correct protocols, the ones they avoided from the outset, this issue could have been addressed and resolved much sooner.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important concern.

Sincerely,

N. Clark Campbell
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