

From: [Dan Wiest](#)
To: [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Lafayette Park Historic District Application from Detroit Thermal
Date: Monday, May 12, 2025 9:38:10 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 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. From what I understand, the original plans presented to the neighborhood are nowhere near what is now planned. No updates to this original plan were provided until the neighborhood did its own investigation and unearthed the depth of harm the current plans do.

Detroit Thermal's actions do not reflect well on them and lend doubt on future actions. When they were in charge of the incinerator, they were not very responsive to numerous complaints from the neighboring areas, especially when their noxious odors would spread as far as Midtown. It does not give credence to any claims they make in working with the community on this project.

It is not unusual for the city to point to Lafayette Park with pride for the architectural character in buildings and landscape and the quality of life this engenders for its residents. Yet this project will detract from that. Frequent tours both domestic and international tour our neighborhood. They may scratch their heads if confronted with what Detroit Thermal plans comes to fruition. They may wonder who would have let this happen.

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,
Daniel Wiest
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