

From: [Harriet B. Saperstein](#)
To: [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Lafayette Pk HD District App from Detroit Thermal
Date: Monday, May 12, 2025 7:17:51 PM

Dear members of the Historic District Commission:

I have been a resident of Lafayette Park since 1963, when I first moved into a Nicolet Unit facing the park now under threat by Detroit Thermal.: I still live in Lafayette Park, although I now am a resident of the Chateaufort Co-op across the Lafayette Plaisance Park. I walk through the housing units facing the Nicolet/Joliet central park area placed between two sets of Mies van der Rohe houses often, and bring guests to the area so that we can all continue to appreciate the Historic District and the 60 year growth of the central park/playground area that makes it beautiful and usable at the same time.

It is clear that Detroit Thermal has no appreciation for the historic nature of this area, or cares about the 60 years it has taken to grow the trees and bushes that surround the playgrounds created for the children that live there, and the adults who enjoy watching them, and/or appreciate the Historic Nature of the Nicolet/Joliet houses facing this park area. It would be a sin or a crime (whichever word you want to use) to let Detroit Thermal run their lines through the central area as they are proposing, There is no way they can really protect the trees and bushes, and. keep access to the steam lines they want to run through this beautiful central area.

This is a nationally known Historic District! The steam pipes can go along Rivard - which is how and where they should be, or perhaps even go south of 1300 to connect on Larned with other City pipes.

Have they even thought about alternatives? I doubt it. The material they have offered to the residents -and hopefully Commission members-.show no real thought or analysis of other alternatives and the effects their "lowest cost" approach. would have. While I do not know the specifics for alternate possibilities, as a long time Lafayette Park resident, a 17 year employee of the City of Detroit (Planning, Development, Recreation and Youth Departments), former appointee of two Detroit Mayors, I do know that what Detroit Thermal is planning is wrong, wrong, wrong! ***The Detroit Thermal approach will destroy the 60 year growth of trees and bushes, disturb and make the playgrounds unsafe, reduce the value of the properties facing the central area and undercut the historic value of this whole area of Lafayette Park.*** There is no reason why this extension has to go through the parks and playgrounds except for the company that got the contract from 1300 to make money for themselves. I would not be surprised if they "underbid" the contract they offered 1300, since they obviously did not really analyze how they would/could protect bushes, trees and playgrounds while under construction...and afterwards! If something goes wrong trucks would have to come back in-- and unfortunately in this kind of construction something "always goes wrong" - if not immediately, just a few years later,

I urge the Historic Commission to reject this plan and meet their responsibilities to protect the Lafayette Park Historic District! .

Sincerely,
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