

**From:** [Beth Raymond](#)  
**To:** [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 9:42:33 AM

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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 central to our National Historic Landmark designation.

The proposed project would generate a significant adverse effect on the historic landscape of my neighborhood. This is an understatement. The project will kill and damage mature trees that define our historic landscape, shrubs and planting beds. The project plans to convert the most sensitive and most beloved portion of our historic landscape into a work site. Project plans acknowledge damage to the landscape as the entire area is labeled as "disturbance" with "restoration in-kind." This area is the jewel of our historic landscape. This is not the only area of our historic landscape that will be damaged. A smaller section, located near Lafayette Avenue, that also contains mature trees, shrubs and plantings is also identified as "disturbance" with "restoration in-kind." Our 60-year-old landscape cannot be "restored." It took 60 years of time, investment, and stewardship to become what it is today.

The plans submitted for this project by Detroit Thermal demonstrate its lack of understanding and respect for my neighborhood's historic status. Detroit Thermal has been working in my neighborhood for more than seven months, with no input from me or my neighbors. Most of a mature magnolia tree is gone; shrubs & flowers have been damaged; & no response has been provided to questions from neighbors about the work in progress.

This project poses threats to the functioning of our neighborhood by installation of new steam vents & conduct of deep excavation near the foundations of our historic homes, a condition evidently not considered in the development of Detroit Thermal's plans.

I would urge the Detroit Historic District Commission to reject Detroit Thermal's application & thus prevent irreparable harm to our historic neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration,

Beth Raymond

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