

From: [Angelyn Frankenberg](#)
To: [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Lafayette Park Historic District Application from Detroit Thermal
Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 5:13:30 PM

Dear City of Detroit Historic District Commissioners,

I am writing to share my determined opposition to Detroit Thermal's planned project in the Lafayette Park Historic District. If approved, the project will permanently damage my neighborhood's landscape, which is central to our National Historic Landmark designation.

The project will damage, possibly kill, mature trees that define our landscape, shrubs and planting beds. If approved, it will convert one of the most sensitive parts of our historic green space into a work site.

Project plans acknowledge damage to the landscape as the entire area is labeled as "disturbance" with "restoration-in-kind." Detroit Thermal has not shared its definition of "restoration-in-kind" with us, but we are certain that it would not be close to the "just compensation" that easement law requires when a property is significantly altered.

Although Detroit Thermal emphasizes a "temporary inconvenience," it is clear that our landscape will be permanently altered, and the extent of the damage will not be known for some time, possibly years (death of trees, possible damage to building foundations).

I am sympathetic to 1300 Lafayette's need for an affordable heating system. However, Detroit Thermal's easement does not give it the right to permanently damage these historic grounds. Yes, installing new steam lines through city streets would be more expensive for Detroit Thermal, but as a private company owned by multinational corporation, Vaudon Infrastructure Partners, it can afford to do the right thing.

I am asking the Detroit Historic District Commission to reject Detroit Thermal's application.

Thank you kindly for your time and your commitment to serving the residents of Detroit and preserving the city's historic places.

Sincerely,
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