

**From:** [Mara Ignatius](#)  
**To:** [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Lafayette Park Historic District Application from Detroit Thermal  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 9:46:50 PM

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Dear City of Detroit Historic District Commissioners,

I am a long-time resident of the Lafayette Park Historic District neighborhood and 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 and the significance and value of Alfred Caldwell's landscape design. These plans also disregard the integral nature of our carefully tended outdoor spaces, to the lives of our residents and children.

I am also concerned that the project could damage the historic character and value of our neighborhood in many ways, including by installing new steam vents and conducting deep excavation near the foundations of our historic homes.

I am asking that the Detroit Historic District Commission reject Detroit Thermal's application to prevent it from irreparably harming our historic neighborhood. Surely there are alternative proposals that can be considered and offered to achieve the same end goal for the residents of 1300 Lafayette.

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

Sincerely,

Mara Ignatius  
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