

From: [Jim Kelly](#)
To: [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Lafayette Park Historic District Application from Detroit Thermal
Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 9:24:00 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I have been a resident of the Lafayette Park Historic District for 11 years. I am writing to express my concerns about Detroit Thermal's application for new steam infrastructure less than 30 feet from my front door.

While I am sympathetic to the needs of our neighbors in 1300 Lafayette, I'm concerned that the proposed route through our historic playgrounds and landscaped common areas would irreparably alter the unique character of Lafayette Park.

Our landscape is not only a core element of the neighborhood's historic designation, but also a carefully preserved shared space that serves residents and families every day. This is not an exaggeration; the omission of private outdoor space is an intentional feature of Lafayette Park that has succeeded in creating a very tightly-knit community. Disruption of our space disrupts not only our relationships with each other but with the living, breathing neighborhood itself.

I hope the Commission will consider the following questions:

- Have alternative routes, such as public rights-of-way, been seriously explored? If so, where is the documentation? If not, why not?
- What public input has been gathered, and how have community concerns been reflected in the application?
- Is there a detailed and specific plan to preserve the mature trees and other historic plantings in the proposed work area? If such a plan exists, it has not been shared with residents of any of the four Lafayette Park cooperatives.

Given the potential for irreversible harm, the absence of transparent planning, and the lack of meaningful engagement with the community, I respectfully ask the Commission to deny this incomplete and half-baked application.

Thank you for your time and for your ongoing work to preserve and protect Detroit's historic neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Jim Kelly III

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