

Hello City of Detroit Historic District Commissioners,

My name is Garie Thomas-Bass. I'm a 31 year resident of the Lafayette Park Historic District neighborhood. I'm also a 68 year resident of the city of Detroit (East side near city airport). (Yes!)

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. There are other alternatives that would be much LESS devastating to the present and future historic landscaping.

The proposed project would generate a SIGNIFICANT adverse effect on the historic landscape of my neighborhood, now and WHEN (NOT if) repairs and maintenance need to be performed. This also opens up a Pandora's box for precedence to ANY other profit making structural issues in the future!!!

Detroit Thermal acknowledges that the project will kill and/or damage mature trees, shrubs, and planting beds that definitely define our landscape. The project plans to convert the most sensitive and most beloved portion of our historic landscape into a work site. The work area impacts dozens of mature trees, dozens of shrubs, countless flowers and ground-covering plants, and raised beds that make up our community garden. Detroit Thermal's plans fail to provide adequate tree protection. Detroit Thermal's own plans identify 47 mature trees in the project area and propose removing mature trees, shrubs, and raised beds in our community garden.

The plans submitted for this project by Detroit Thermal demonstrate its lack of understanding and respect for my neighborhood's historic status. This lacking is also demonstrated by Detroit Thermal's work to date in my neighborhood. Despite promising to meet with our neighborhood after the public hearing on May 14<sup>th</sup>, Detroit Thermal developed and submitted new plans with NO input or engagement from me or my neighborhood. Detroit Thermal has been working in my neighborhood for more than nine months. During that time, it has cut down most of a mature magnolia tree, damaged shrubs and flowers, and damaged an original bench near the playground even prior to the proposed "REAL work!!!".

I am also concerned that the project could damage the historic character of our neighborhood in other ways, including by installing new steam vents and conducting deep excavation near the foundations of our historic homes. I have NO confidence that the impact on our historic neighborhood was considered in the development of these plans.

I am asking that the Detroit Historic District Commission reject Detroit Thermal's application, which is not historically appropriate, to prevent it from irreparably harming the Lafayette Park Historic District.

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

Sincerely,  
Garie Thomas-Bass  
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