

July 1, 2025

Hello City of Detroit Historic District Commissioners,

I'm writing again as a long-time resident of Lafayette Townhouses, part of the Lafayette Park Historic District neighborhood.

I'm not on any neighborhood board at this time, so I haven't seen what revisions Detroit Thermal (DT) is now proposing to the DHDC, and I can't speak specifically to them. From what I understand, however, the project would basically move forward as before, meaning: within our property; with massive construction literally feet from our front doors; deep excavation, potentially damaging our historic buildings; and creating a significant and negative impact on the landscape. On this last point, DT no doubt believes they've covered the community's concerns, but from what I've heard, their new application contains many errors regarding the landscaping. Further, no amount of replacements, no matter how well-intentioned, can replace what has been carefully tended over many decades with time, energy, and money.

I realize that the HDC views applications through a particular lens which I, as an amateur, may not understand. However, my question for you is: *What's the point of being designated an historic district, and being distinctly recognized as a National Historic Landmark, if a huge construction project like this can go forward, cutting through the heart of our community, putting our buildings at risk, and damaging the mature landscape, a foundational aspect of the historic designation?*

I understand that 1300 needs heat, and I want their problem solved, but cannot DT create an alternate path to connect the steam lines to 1300? There is much other land nearby that wouldn't create as much havoc as in our green, child-friendly, and historically-designated space.

I ask the Detroit Historic District Commission to reject Detroit Thermal's project to run the steam lines through our historic neighborhood.

Thank you for all you do to serve Detroit and to preserve its beauty and its historic communities.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Treece
1325 Nicolet Place
Detroit, MI 48207