

1410 Nicolet Place  
Detroit, Michigan 48207  
July 1, 2025

Re: Detroit Thermal Application in the Lafayette Park Historic District

Dear City of Detroit Historic District Commissioners:

I have lived in the Lafayette Park Historic District neighborhood (Nicolet Co-op) for more than forty-five years. I write **again** to voice my vehement **opposition** to Detroit Thermal's application for a project in my neighborhood because the work would irreparably damage our landscape. Here are the reasons for my objections:

- Detroit Thermal has not met with representatives from the neighborhood and has not provided information in response to our concerns. A reasonable and affordable alternative to provide heat for 1300 Lafayette was presented at the last meeting.
- The children's playground would be turned into an excavation work site.
- The project would kill and damage mature trees, shrubs and planting beds that define our historic landscape. Dozens of shrubs, countless flowers, ground-covering plants, raised beds that make up the community garden, and 60 or more mature trees would be impacted. This foliage is absolutely necessary in an area where the basic building structure is a "glass box."
- The promise of "restoration-in-kind" would be impossible for landscaping that took 60 years of time, investment, and stewardship to develop.
- Detroit Thermal has cordoned off areas and worked here for more than nine months, has cut down most of a mature magnolia tree, damaged shrubs and flowers, and an original bench near the playground.
- The company plans to remove sections of the fence that connects the Nicolet and Joliet properties (positioned to deter walking traffic from the park through the Co-op grounds and where the community raised beds are located) and excavate large stretches of the landscape.
- The plans for deep excavation on our property so close to the townhomes is very concerning.

I ask that the Detroit Historic District Commission reject Detroit Thermal's application to prevent it from irreparably harming our historic neighborhood. I find it difficult to believe that such excavation so close to homes in other historic areas would be allowed.

Thank you so much for your consideration and commitment to serving the residents of Detroit and the preservation of its historic places.

Sincerely,

*Loretta Ryder*

Loretta Ryder

