



Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Lafayette Park Historic District Application from Detroit Thermal

From Comcast <nawurm@comcast.net>**Date** Mon 6/30/2025 6:09 PM**To** Historic District Commission (Staff) <hdc@detroitmi.gov>

Dear City of Detroit Historic District Commissioners,

My husband and I live in the historic Lafayette Park Mies Van de Rohe neighborhood. I am writing to request you delay or reject Detroit Thermal's application for a project in our neighborhood until we can accurately assess the true impact of their recent, updated application and present our view and alternatives to you. Due to this proposed project's negative effect on the aesthetic of our historic homes and landscaping, on our property values, and on expected utility (water) increases, this proposed project will likely cause significant long term damage to our 300+ residents. This neighborhood, as you know, has its landscape as a central component of the National Historic Landmark designation. The buildings and landscaping were designed together and are inter-connected.

Detroit Thermal acknowledges that the project will kill and damage 47 mature trees, as well as shrubs, and planting beds that define our landscape. We believe this is just the tip of the iceberg and that:

- * the interconnected tree root system will suffer and many more trees will die and fall.
- * the sidewalks will likely cave in with removal of tree roots and dirt.
- * the heavy equipment will compact the soil making future growing difficult.
- * the tree canopy will be removed, opening up the historic co-op's floor-to-ceiling windows to greater sun exposure. Since our air conditioning is water-powered, many residents will face escalating costs of a diminishing resource.

The plans submitted for this project by Detroit Thermal show an untruthful, minimal impact on our neighborhood's historic status, and an unwillingness to work with us to protect our historic character and aesthetic. They know that cement is expensive, and desire to take the cheapest route of digging up historic landscaping instead of using the Rivard or Chrysler school pathways available. I wonder why other utilities, like DTE and Xfinity, choose to work on Lafayette and Rivard versus dig up the center of the Lafayette Park historic district... perhaps it's because they understand and respect what the Historic District Commission is charged with trying to protect.

Many of the 300+ Lafayette Park Historic District neighbors, including ourselves, are retired and/or live on fixed incomes. While we want our neighbors in the 1300 high rise to have heat, we truly can't afford for their financial problems to become ours. Please, Detroit Historic District Commission, reject or delay Detroit Thermal's application, which is not

historically appropriate, and allow us to work with them and their client in 1300 to identify alternatives to prevent it from irreparably harming the Lafayette Park Historic District and creating increasing, ongoing future expenses.

Thank you for all you do to serve the residents of Detroit and preserve this great city's historic places.

Sincerely,

Nancy Wurm
1414 Joliet Pl

Sent from my iPad