



Outlook

Fw: [EXTERNAL] Lafayette Park Historic District Application from Detroit Thermal - please oppose and deny this project application

From Historic District Commission (Staff) <hdc@detroitmi.gov>**Date** Tue 7/1/2025 10:51 AM**To** Audra Dye <dyea@detroitmi.gov>

This has been uploaded to the property folder and will be uploaded to the property page.

From: Seth Saeugling <s.saeugling@gmail.com>**Sent:** Monday, June 30, 2025 7:55 PM**To:** Historic District Commission (Staff) <hdc@detroitmi.gov>**Cc:** Claire G. <clairecgoebel@gmail.com>**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Lafayette Park Historic District Application from Detroit Thermal - please oppose and deny this project application

Dear Commissioners of the Detroit Historic District Commission,

I am a resident of the Lafayette Park Historic District, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to Detroit Thermal's proposed project within our historic neighborhood. I oppose this project because it would permanently alter and damage the historic landscape that is integral to our neighborhood's National Historic Landmark status.

The project, as proposed, would cause substantial harm to the historic setting of our community. By Detroit Thermal's own admission, their plan would destroy or severely damage mature trees, shrubs, garden beds, and other plantings that are vital to the distinctive character of our neighborhood. They intend to turn one of the most cherished and sensitive areas of our historic landscape into an active construction site. This area includes dozens of established trees and shrubs, extensive flower beds and ground cover, as well as the raised beds that form our community garden. Their submitted plans offer inadequate protections for these natural assets. In fact, Detroit Thermal's own documents show that 47 mature trees fall within the impacted zone and would be removed along with shrubs and community garden beds.

It is clear from these plans that Detroit Thermal does not fully grasp or respect the historic significance of our neighborhood. Their disregard is further shown by how they have operated here to date.

Although they committed to engaging with residents after the May 14th public hearing, they instead produced and submitted new plans without any input or dialogue with our community. Over the past nine months, Detroit Thermal's activities have already resulted in the removal of most of a mature magnolia, damage to shrubs and flowers, and harm to an original bench near the playground.

I am also deeply worried about other potential impacts to our historic district, such as the installation of new steam vents and extensive excavation close to the foundations of our historic homes. Based on what I have seen, I do not believe the historic character of our neighborhood has been adequately considered in the project's design.

I urge the Detroit Historic District Commission to deny this application, which does not meet historic preservation standards and would cause lasting harm to the Lafayette Park Historic District.

Thank you for your attention, your service to Detroit residents, and your dedication to safeguarding our city's historic sites.

Sincerely,

Seth

1404 Nicolet Pl

--

Respectfully,

Seth

- I check email 1x/day.
- Please text me if urgent.
- Most emails answered within 1 business day.