



Outlook

[EXTERNAL] RECOMMENDATIONS RE: Lafayette Park Historic District Application from Detroit Thermal

From Roberta Deering <gpandrdp@gmail.com>

Date Mon 6/30/2025 9:36 PM

To Historic District Commission (Staff) <hdc@detroitmi.gov>

Cc Alexa Bush <Alexa.Bush@detroitmi.gov>; tiffanydemetra@gmail.com <tiffanydemetra@gmail.com>; mayorduggan@detroitmi.gov <mayorduggan@detroitmi.gov>; Michael Duggan <Michael.Duggan@detroitmi.gov>; Mike Duggan <dugganm@detroitmi.gov>; Mary Sheffield <sheffieldm@detroitmi.gov>; mary.sheffield@detroitmi.gov <mary.sheffield@detroitmi.gov>; Mary Waters <Mary.Waters@detroitmi.gov>; Coleman A. Young <Coleman.Young@detroitmi.gov>; Raymond Solomon II <solomonr@detroitmi.gov>; ray.solomon@detroitmi.gov <ray.solomon@detroitmi.gov>; Keith Butler <Keith.Butler@detroitmi.gov>; Garrick Landsberg <landsbergg@detroitmi.gov>; garrick.landsberg@detroitmi.gov <garrick.landsberg@detroitmi.gov>; Charles Birnbaum <cbirnbaum@tclf.org>; KC Property Services <b.jackson@kcpropertyservice.com>

Dear Commissioners, Detroit Historic District Commission

Regarding Detroit Thermal's current proposal in the City of Detroit's Lafayette Park Historic District, and within the Mies van der Rohe National Historic Landmark Historic District: please DENY the proposal AND require MODIFICATIONS to the project that would remove the potential of significant impacts to the historic features and characteristics of the district's landscape and setting, while also providing for a Detroit Thermal connection to 1300 E. Lafayette.

Lafayette Park's Mies van der Rohe National Historic Landmark Historic District's design was a collaborative effort of architect, Mies van der Rohe, landscape designer Alfred Caldwell, and planner Ludwig Hilberseimer, listed not only within the city of Detroit's Lafayette Park Historic District, but as a National Historic Landmark Historic District, the most significant designation in the National Register of Historic Places. The Mies van der Rohe Historic District designed landscape, its plantings, site plan and visual connections within and between the plantings and structures, are significant features of its' historic designation.

Feasible options appear to exist that could align and structure the Detroit Thermal infrastructure to connect to 1300 E. Lafayette and, also, AVOID the current proposal's significant impacts to the landscape — its' design, setting and plantings — of the City's Lafayette Park Historic District and the Mies van der Rohe National Historic Landmark Historic District.

Please pursue consideration of these alternatives, and preserve this locally, state-wide and nationally-significant Detroit historic district.

Thank you for your consideration,

Roberta Deering, LEED AP
Retired Preservation Director, City of Sacramento, CA
Resident of Lafayette Park

7/1/25, 11:00 AM

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1319 Joliet Pl.

Detroit, MI 48207