



[EXTERNAL] LAFAYETTE Park Historic District Application from Detroit Thermal

From Michael Hinsky <mejhinsky@gmail.com>

Date Tue 7/1/2025 12:47 PM

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

Dear City of Detroit Historic District Commissioners,

As residents of the Lafayette Park Historic District neighborhood we are writing to state our strong opposition to Detroit Thermal's application for a project in the Lafayette Park Historic District. Our opposition to the proposed project is based on our strong belief that continued work by Detroit Thermal in our historic neighborhood will significantly and irreparably damage our historic landscape which is a central component of the landmark status of our historic neighborhood. neighborhood. Detroit Thermal acknowledges that the project will kill and damage mature trees, shrubs, and planting beds that define our landscape. The project plans to convert the most sensitive and most beloved portion of our historic landscape into a work site. The work area impacts dozens of mature trees, dozens of shrubs, countless flowers and ground-covering plants, and raised beds that makeup our community garden. In short, Detroit Thermal's plans fail to provide adequate protection for our landscape.

Detroit Thermal's own plans identify 47 mature trees in the project area and propose removing mature trees, shrubs, and raised beds in our community garden.

The plans submitted for this project by Detroit Thermal demonstrate its lack of understanding and respect for my neighborhood's historic status. This lacking is also demonstrated by Detroit Thermal's work to date in our neighborhood. Despite promising to meet with our neighborhood after the public hearing on May 14th, Detroit Thermal developed and submitted new plans with no input or engagement from the residents in our neighborhood. Detroit Thermal has been working in our neighborhood for more than nine months. During that time, it has cut down most of a mature magnolia tree, damaged shrubs and flowers, and damaged an original bench near the playground, and then walked away from it for several months. We are also concerned that the project could damage the historic character of our neighborhood in other ways, including by conducting deep excavation near the foundations of our historic homes. I have no confidence that the impact on our historic neighborhood was considered in the development of these plans.

I am asking that the Detroit Historic District Commission reject Detroit Thermal's application, which is not historically appropriate, to prevent it from irreparably harming the Lafayette Park Historic District.

Thank you kindly for your time and your commitment to serving the residents of Detroit and preserving the city's historic places.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Hinsky & Tyrus N. Curtis