



Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Lafayette Park Historic District Application from Detroit Thermal

From Joanne Johnson <jhsjohnson1@gmail.com>

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

Cc mayorduggan@detroitmi.gov <mayorduggan@detroitmi.gov>; Coleman A. Young <Coleman.Young@detroitmi.gov>; Mary Waters <Mary.Waters@detroitmi.gov>; Michael Duggan <Michael.Duggan@detroitmi.gov>; Keith Butler <Keith.Butler@detroitmi.gov>; Garrick Landsberg <landsbergg@detroitmi.gov>; Alexa Bush <Alexa.Bush@detroitmi.gov>; Raymond Solomon II <solomonr@detroitmi.gov>; Mike Duggan <dugganm@detroitmi.gov>; Mary Sheffield <sheffieldm@detroitmi.gov>; tiffanydemetra@gmail.ocm <tiffanydemetra@gmail.ocm>

Dear City of Detroit Historic District Commissioners:

I am a Detroit resident in District 5 in the Lafayette Park Historic District neighborhood. I am writing to express my **STRONG** opposition to Detroit Thermal's application for a project here in my District.

I oppose the proposed project because it would irrevocably damage my neighborhood's historic (and valuable) landscape, a central component of our National Historic Landmark designation.

This proposed project would cause a number of significant adverse effects on our landscape. **Detroit Thermal has acknowledged that the project will kill and damage mature trees (many of which are well over 60 years old,)** shrubs and planting beds that define our landscape. They plan to convert the most sensitive and beloved central portion of our historic landscape into a work site, as well as endanger the many children who daily use our playground, adjacent to this work site. Their work area impacts DOZENS of mature trees, dozens of shrubs, countless flowers and ground-cover plants, and raised planting beds in our community garden. Detroit Thermal's plans fail to provide adequate tree protection - their own plans identify **47 mature trees** in the project area!

The plans submitted for this project by Detroit Thermal demonstrate its lack of understanding and respect for my neighborhood's historic status. Their disregard has already been demonstrated by their work here to date. Despite their promise to meet with us after the public hearing on May 14, Detroit Thermal developed and submitted their new plans with NO input or engagement from any of us here. They have been working in our neighborhood for more than 9 months, during which time they have cut down most of a mature Magnolia tree, damaged shrubs and flowers, and damaged an original mid-century bench near our playground.

Another concern is how their project would hurt the historic character of our neighborhood (and perhaps even the stability of our buildings?) by installing steam vents and conducting deep excavation near the foundations of our historic homes. I seriously doubt that the impact of this project 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 all of the aforementioned damage and disruption to our Lafayette Park Historic District.

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

Sincerely,

--

Ms. Joanne Johnson

Resident (for 24 years) - and Registered Detroit voter
1407 Joliet Place, Detroit