



Outlook

[EXTERNAL] No to Detroit Thermal Re-application in the Lafayette Park Historic District

From meredithsimpson@me.com <meredithsimpson@me.com>

Date Tue 7/1/2025 4:37 PM

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

Cc Mary Sheffield <sheffieldm@detroitmi.gov>; Alexa Bush <Alexa.Bush@detroitmi.gov>; Raymond Solomon II <solomonr@detroitmi.gov>; Keith Butler <Keith.Butler@detroitmi.gov>

Dear City of Detroit Historic District Commissioners,

I am a resident of the Lafayette Park Historic District neighborhood, writing here to express my opposition to Detroit Thermal's application for their destructive utility project running through the heart of the Lafayette Park Historic District. I oppose the proposed project because in its updated format, it will still irrevocably damage our historic landscape, which is a central component of our National Historic Landmark designation.

I appreciate that Detroit Thermal took the steps of hiring a landscape architect and an arborist to update their original plans for the project. However, after an in-depth review of Detroit Thermal's June 11th submitted plans, unfortunately there are **myriad errors and serious omissions**. Most importantly, **the updated plans lack a sufficient tree protection plan** and will seriously damage and/or kill several mature trees in the heart of this community. Because the plans do not address protection of our many trees' **critical root zones** (as defined by ISA Best Management Practices), **11 trees have the potential for severe damage resulting in removal**. This number is in direct conflict with Detroit Thermal's plan listing only 4 trees in harm's way—because they are not addressing critical root zone and have made myriad errors in their tree identification and mapping. This negligence is perhaps partially explained by a curious rush towards a 'special public meeting' to take place during a summer holiday week. If Detroit Thermal were to properly protect these trees, following accepted best practices for critical root zone protection, this would be a much more reasonable proposal to consider.

I am asking that you please reject Detroit Thermal's application to prevent it from irreparably harming a large (and sad) number of beautiful mature trees in this National Historic Landmark landscape. It is your job as commissioners to protect unique places like this in the City of Detroit.

Thank you very much for your time, and your commitment to preserving this city's historic places.

Sincerely,

Meredith Simpson
1352 Nicolet Pl., Detroit