



November 10, 2025

Historic District Commission
Planning and Development Department
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 808
Detroit, MI 48226

RE: HDC application – Historic Fort Wayne Fence Replacement

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing with respect to the Historic Fort Wayne (“HFW”) fence replacement application prepared and submitted by the City of Detroit’s General Services Department.

The Detroit Historical Society (“DHS”) is pleased to provide this letter, formally acknowledging the DHS’s support of the replacement of the fence at HFW. In May of last year, the Detroit City Council approved a renewed contract with DHS, adding an additional twenty years to the term of our long-standing partnership with the City of Detroit. As the operator of the Collections Resource Center, located at HFW, the DHS respectfully urges the Commission to consider the replacement of the current fence with the proposed wrought iron style fence.

The current barbed wire fence presents security concerns and over conflicts with the shared goal of improving public perception of the site. The proposed fence offers a style of fence that is practical and would provide more adequate security for the 250,000 artifacts in our care that are stored on the site. This collection represents the irreplaceable cultural patrimony of the City of Detroit. Beyond our building, the new fence also supports the prevailing vision to improve the site as a whole as it increases Historic Fort Wayne’s accessibility to the public as a welcoming cultural heritage site.

The opportunity to replace the current fence reaffirms the City of Detroit’s commitment to honoring the cultural and historic significance of the site. I thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Dimick
Director of Collections and Curatorial