



November 10, 2025

City of Detroit
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 Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (“NHBP”) Tribal Historic Preservation Office (“THPO”) is pleased to provide this letter, formally acknowledging the NHBP’s support of the replacement of the fence at HFW. In April of this year, the Detroit City Council unanimously approved the deed transfer of the Fort Wayne Burial Mound, a 0.58-acre area of land, to the NHBP. As the owner of this ancestral land and the official tribal partner of the site, the NHBP respectfully urges the Commission to consider the replacement of the fence with the proposed wrought iron style fence.

The current barbed wire fence offers an imposing and exclusionary presence as Tribal Members approach HFW, which is the resting place of our relatives. The proposed fence offers a style of fence that is practical and secure and more aligned with our shared vision for thoughtful and inclusive stewardship of the site.

The opportunity to replace the current fence is an important step, reaffirming the City of Detroit’s commitment to honoring the cultural and historic significance of the land.

I say migwèth (thank you) for your consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Migwèth Thank You,

Onyleen Zapata
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi