Breckan Hendricks

From: City Clerk

From: James <jimnavarroyap@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2026 7:31 PM
To: City Clerk <City.Clerk@juneau.gov>
Cc: Borough Assembly <BoroughAssembly@juneau.gov>
Subject: Re: Comment on Preserving Manila Square and Rizal Monument as Focal Points

Hello,

I am following up on a public comment I submitted recently regarding development project that might impact Manila Square, as I noticed it has not been posted yet. Could you please let me know if there are any issues with the submission or if it is still pending review.

Thank you for your assistance.

Best Regards,

Jimmy Yap

On Nov 5, 2026, at 12:57 PM, James <jimnavarroyap@gmail.com> wrote:

To: CIty and Borough of Juneau City Clerk / Visitor Industry Task Force

I write in staunch support of protecting and preserving Manila Square and the Rizal Monument as prominent historical and cultural focal points of downtown Juneau. As the city considers downtown improvements, these landmarks should remain visible, accessible, and central to the community's shared heritage.

Dedicated by the CBJ Assembly in August 2002 at the intersection of Marine Way and South Franklin Street, Manila Square honors the deep roots and lasting contributions of Filipino Americans in Juneau. This history includes those who arrived aboard the USS Burnside in 1904 to help lay the telegraph cable connecting Juneau and Seattle, as well as the "Alaskeros" who worked in Southeast Alaska's fish canneries and those who worked in the Alaska-Juneau Gold Mine during the 1920s and 1930s.

At the heart of the square stands the bust of Dr. José P. Rizal, the national hero of the Philippines. The monument symbolizes heritage, multiculturalism, and community resilience. Amid ongoing downtown development and changing visitor patterns, the square and monument remain enduring anchors

of Juneau's immigrant history and cultural identity. Tourists around the world take photos at Manila Square and the Rizal Monument as one of the testaments that they set foot in Juneau, Alaska.

As the Assembly and task force review downtown improvements, wayfinding, and pedestrian circulation, I urge the city to explicitly safeguard Manila Square and the Rizal Monument in future planning decisions. Infrastructure changes should preserve their prominence and accessibility, rather than diminish their visibility or cultural significance. These landmarks should be celebrated as core anchors of our shared local history.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to preserving Juneau's rich cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Navarro Yap

Board of Directors, Filipino Community Inc. Juneau, Alaska

(206) 375-6918