November 5, 2026

Ms. Breckan Hendricks
Municipal Clerk
City and Borough of Juneau
155 S. Seward Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Ms. Hendricks,

I am submitting comments on the Preliminary Recommendation #7 for today's meeting of Juneau's Visitor Industry Task Force (VITF).

Preserving Manila Square and Filipino Heritage

The recommendation could result in the removal of Manila Square and the bust of Dr. Jose Rizal, the Philippine national hero. Together, these landmarks honor Filipino history, preserve culture, and pass Filipino heritage on to future generations.

Filipino Contributions to Juneau

Filipinos have lived in Juneau for more than 100 years, contributing to its workforce and its social and economic vitality. In 1904, 80 Filipinos aboard the cable vessel USS Burnside helped install the first telegraph cable linking Juneau and Seattle. During the 1920s and 1930s, Filipinos worked in fish canneries and the Alaska-Juneau Gold Mine. Today, nearly 3,000 Filipinos call

Juneau home. Most work two jobs, supporting the city's economic infrastructure through their labor and taxes.

Considering Alternatives

I am deeply concerned that restructuring of the roundabout is already underway with CBJ's support under Recommendation #7. Can an alternative address traffic congestion while preserving Manila Square and Dr. Rizal's bust? Must the solution be limited to flowers, or can other options be considered such as moving the above to another location with as much visibility and access?

Meeting Agenda

The time allocated for today's meeting is 1.5 hours. Agenda items comprise of various broad categories. Under some categories, there are multiple areas of discussion. How is the public able to make substantial input at today's meeting with this extremely dense agenda? Is the city's objective really to provide a forum for citizens to give feedback for consideration or merely to have able assurance that a process checklist has been completed? This is concerning to the Filipino community in Juneau.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Carrillo
45-year Resident of Juneau

Cc: Mayor Beth Weldon
Ella Adkison
Mila Cosgrove
Paul Kelly