

**Public Comment statement
Proposed Gilkey Square Icon
First on First- John Leaver**

I will be unable to participate this evening, so I would request that the below statement be relayed to the Council during the meeting... Verbatim or a summary as you see fit.

"As you are aware The proposed "Marketing Icon" for Gilkey Square has generated a great deal of controversy, especially AFTER last week's Less than fact based newspaper article & Editorial by Ken Stern which both omitted and twisted facts. My NEXTDOOR.com Rebuttal garnered even more comments.

I have spoken with the members of the group as well as the Chamber director and we will make major changes to the proposed Icon. There are no details available yet, but it would be to return to the original concept put forth last year by the Chamber during the Tulip festival. This design would be somewhat smaller and less costly. We believe that any surplus of funds could be put to productive use by refurbishing the two existing Informational kiosks. Our intention is to continue with Peter Wited as he provided much time and effort in this project already.

Our intended goal of completion in time for the Tulip Festival will slip, but this is inevitable given the delay in this process."

John Leaver

22 Feb 2022