

From: john vaccari
Date: Mon, Dec 4, 2017 at 11:12 AM
Subject: Kenney Park
To: aldermanconnolly@gmail.com

Hi Jack

To follow up on our recent conversation,
I would like to point out the errors, in order of importance, in the Kenney park sign
(photo is attached)

1. Sign says John was a "1967 graduate of Somerville High School."

In fact John graduated in 1968 from St. Clement High School.

I was a classmate of his from the 4th grade until graduation -

Attached is his photo from my yearbook.

2. Sign says John died "at the age of 19."

He was 18. According to his profile on
The Virtual Wall Vietnam Veteran's Memorial,

www.virtualwall.org

he was born on March 29, 1950 and as the sign correctly states,
died on February 23, 1969, meaning that he was killed a little more than a month
before what would have been his 19th birthday.

I have attached a text file detailing his Virtual Wall record.

3. Sign says "He was a lifelong resident of Davis Square."

He lived at 42 Bromfield Rd. which would make him a resident of the Powderhouse or
Ball Sq. neighborhoods. Davis Sq. is more than twice the distance from his home than either of
those locations. Why bother adding an inaccuracy like that instead of merely stating that he
was a lifelong resident of Somerville?

4. Sign says, "Statues of PFC Kenney and his mother standing next to the kneeling mime are located in Seven Hills park in Davis Square."

Is this true? Or is it an urban myth? It doesn't seem logical that a statue of a fallen hero would be
commissioned and then not placed in the park named in his honor.

I don't think, nor have I met anyone who thinks that the statue looks like John.

Unless this statement can be verified, why include it on an official City of Somerville sign?

Jack, you may say that I am quibbling with these last two points. Truth is, I wouldn't have bothered
writing you this letter had these been my only two concerns about the accuracy of the sign.

The city chose to honor John's sacrifice by dedicating this park in his name.

Surely, we owe it John's memory and his service to set the record straight and correct these factual errors,
which are easily disprovable.

Thank you,
Johnny Vaccari