



City Manager's Office

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 11/16/23

TO: Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Doug Thornley, City Manager Approved Electronically

FROM: Megan Berner, Arts & Culture Manager

SUBJECT: Letter from Historical Resources Commission Concerning the Future of 501 Riverside Drive (Lear Theater/First Church of Christ, Scientist)

At their November 9, 2023 meeting, the Historical Resources Commission (HRC) unanimously voted in favor of writing a letter to the City Manager, Mayor and City Council regarding their recommendations for the immediate future of 501 Riverside Drive (Lear Theater/First Church of Christ, Scientist). Please see the attached letter with recommended actions regarding the Lear Theater from the Historical Resources Commission.

Historical Resources Commission

Commissioners:

Debbie Campbell, Chair
Bradley Carlson, Vice-Chair
Deborah Hinman
Greg Erny
Tina Davis
Will Durham
Hagen Sandoval

November 14, 2023

RE: Plans for 501 Riverside Drive (First Church of Christ, Scientist/Lear Theater)

Dear City Council:

As advisors to the City Council regarding the preservation of Reno's historic resources, the City of Reno's Historical Resources Commission (HRC) considered recommendations regarding the future of 501 Riverside Drive at the meeting held November 9, 2023. The HRC is concerned about the conservation and protection of 501 Riverside Drive and voted unanimously to provide the following recommendations regarding actions the City should take immediately:

- Include the HRC on all decision-making regarding any activities associated with the property.
- Provide a meaningful forum for the public to inform the future use of the property and create a webpage to share information and updates about the property with the public.
- Hire a consultant to complete a Historic Structure Report consistent with the guidelines in the National Park Service Preservation Brief #43: "The Preparation and Use of Historic Structure Reports."
- Designate a project manager that coordinates all activities associated with the property, serves as a point of contact for the public, and ensures effective communication between various city departments.

501 Riverside Drive is truly one of Reno's most valuable community treasures and the HRC is very supportive of preserving this historic building for future generations.

Yours most sincerely,



Debbie Campbell, P.E.
Chair, City of Reno Historical Resources Commission

City of Reno, P. O. Box 1900, Reno, NV 89505