



C I T Y O F
RENO
Memorandum

DATE: November 5, 2024
TO: Mayor and City Council
THROUGH: Jackie Bryant, Interim City Manager
FROM: Matt Brezina, Parks Manager
John Beck, Fire Marshal
DEPT: Parks and Recreation
Reno Fire Department

SUBJECT: November 5, 2024 Shade Structure Fire at Sierra Vista Park

At approximately 01:36 AM on November 5th, 2024, a structure fire occurred at Sierra Vista Park located at 1985 Beaumont Parkway. This memo is to advise Council on the incident and next steps.

Reno Fire Department Report

The fire involved a single standalone structure, which is best described as an open community BBQ/Meeting building. The fire fully involved the burned structure but was extinguished by multiple responding Reno Fire Department crews before it could extend to any adjacent structures or foliage. No eyewitness(es) or suspects were located on the scene at the time of fire suppression's arrival in the area, and no video surveillance cameras were present in the area.

The fire's origin within the structure was undetermined due to the lack of specific fire damage. The fire was classified as Arson, 2nd Degree, based on the lack of accidental sources of ignition (energized sources, active BBQ, lightning, discarded cigarette smoking material) found within or surrounding the building of origin.

Park Maintenance Report

Park Maintenance Supervisor Dave Barrett responded to a call at approximately 2:30 A.M. from a 9-1-1 dispatcher, who reported that the Reno Fire Department was onsite attending to a structure fire within a City of Reno park and that a gate lock had been cut for access. No additional response from Parks staff was needed at that time.

At approximately 4:30 A.M., Dave Barrett received a second call requesting him to respond to the fire site to secure it from the public. Dave then closed and locked the front entrance gates.

The burned shade structure remains standing in its damaged state, pending an investigation, and will be fully demolished by a contractor yet to be determined (Exhibit A). Temporary chain-link fencing will secure the site until demolition can be scheduled. The initial estimated damages are \$163,000 for the shade structure and an additional \$6,000 for the four aluminum picnic tables that were inside the structure at the time of the fire, totaling \$169,000.

Staff will begin the remediation process immediately, using Parks Capital Maintenance funds, and a property insurance claim will be filed.

Exhibit A. Pictures of the damaged shade structure

