



NEVADA PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

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Chris Brandes
Public Safety Director
Chief of Police

Item # 9G
Date: 4/14/25



Nevada Public Safety Department – Fire & EMS

TO: Nevada City Council

FROM: Raymond Reynolds
Nevada Public Safety-Director of Fire and EMS

DATE: April 7, 2025

RE: Fireworks discussion

Prior to my arrival the fire department shot off the fireworks and hand lit all shells for years. The city would provide funds to the fire department based off donations a few citizens would collect. The fire department started paying up to \$2000 from their donations to cover any shortages. The minimum show amount we agreed to be involved with was \$10,000. This provides approximately 30 minutes.

In 2018 the department had two firefighters transported to the hospital when a grand finale rack exploded. It was deemed the fire department would no longer be involved and if fireworks were to continue someone other than the fire department needed to put them on. The donations were also needed to buy protective bunker gear for the department. For the last couple of years some businesses have contributed to the fireworks fund once the hotel motel funds were over with the hotel selling. They have discontinued their desire to contribute.

The fire department donated our time to standby during fireworks and to help the contracted fireworks shooter clean up the park after the show was over so Park and Rec staff did not have to the following day. The fire department does not own or sanction the fireworks for July 4th. I have continued to assist the city in obtaining the permits and be the authorized representative between the city and J&M Fireworks Company to assure proper insurance and a seamless show occurred. The city currently has budgeted \$1,600 from Hotel/Motel Tax. With the decline in Hotel/Motel Tax there is limited dollars available. The City holds an account for the 4th of July Committee who has raised funds in the past for fireworks. This account currently has \$5,062.00.

It is not worth the work of obtaining the permits, approval, and volunteers donating their time for a \$5,000 show. Unless someone steps up, I would recommend fireworks be discontinued. Even if someone funds this year, next year we will be in the same position. We would like to see another organization own the July 4th fireworks or an appropriate funding stream be established.

Respectfully,

Ray Reynolds, Director of Fire & EMS