



Mississippi
Alberta
North Portland

METRO

Vancouver
East County
Beaverton



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A popular soul food joint, Reo's Ribs, is back in full-force at its location in the Hollywood District after making repairs from a 2017 fire. Pictured are members of the Reo's Ribs team, Joseph Grant (left), Isabell Garcia, owner Reo Varnado, Deja Willingham, Rick Varnado, and Ron Varnado.

'We've been packed every day,' owner says on re-opening

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland once again is enjoying the soul food offerings of Reo's Ribs. The popular black-owned restaurant in the Hollywood District reopened this month after a fire totaled the interior of its historic building a year-and-a-half-ago.

"We're just glad to be back open" owner Reo Varnado told the Port-

Reo's Ribs is Back

land Observer.

Varnado said his Mississippi-style barbecue has been drawing the crowds since its soft re-launch three weeks ago.

"It's been packed every day, everybody enjoying the food...And we're just having a blast 'cause

people come from all around the United States," he said.

In May 2017 the building was heavily damaged in a suspicious, overnight fire in which people were reportedly seen running away from the scene when it happened. No arrests have ever been made.

Varnado, who is the uncle and occasional professional chef to rapper Snoop Dogg, was in California at the time as a guest on Martha and Snoop's Potluck Dinner Party, which is hosted by Martha Stewart and his nephew. Varnado speculated at the time that he may have been the target of a racially motivated arson.

That same month, a GoFundMe page and benefit concert by the Legendary Beyons worked to raise money for the restaurant to pay for the damages. It was announced in November of last year on social media that the restaurant was work-

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