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Portland, Oregon FREE

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PHOTO BY TAMARA LISCHKA

Red-taped registry

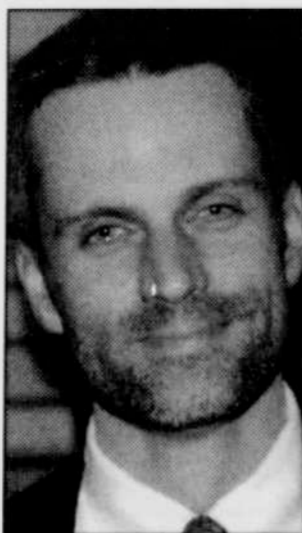
Portland-Multnomah County domestic
partnership registry delayed, mayor's
office expects vote soon BY JONATHAN KIPP

Supporters of a domestic partnership registry in Portland and throughout Multnomah County, who had expected to unveil the details of the registry at Portland's annual pride celebration, recently announced a disappointing delay in the proceedings.

The plan to create a registry, announced by Portland Mayor Vera Katz in January, is said to have support from both the Multnomah County Commission and the Portland City Council. A joint vote on the registry, scheduled for May 24, was postponed, according to advisory committee member George Eighmey.

"It's nothing bad. It's just typical of what we have to do," Eighmey, a former state representative, says about the sometimes slow pace of bureaucracies.

Sam Adams, Katz's chief of staff, says it is taking more time than anticipated to work out some of the legal and policy issues in the proposed resolution. City and county attorneys are currently reviewing the final wording. A draft ordinance, Adams says, will be available for review the first week of June.



Sam Adams

PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

"We had hoped to have this done, completed and implemented for Gay Pride Month," Adams adds.

Adams says the delay will be short. After the draft is complete, citizens will have approximately two weeks for comment. Following public comment, the draft will begin to work its way through the county ordinance-making process, Adams says. If the ordinance is passed, it will be implemented after 30 days.

The city of Portland and Multnomah County conducted four focus groups in preparation for the vote, Adams says. According to Eighmey, all the focus groups gave positive

feedback about the proposal.

While the registry will be available to everyone in Multnomah County—regardless of sexual orientation—the sexual minorities community was instrumental in putting the registry idea on the table, Eighmey says.

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