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Office of Human Relations Secures Ongoing Funding

The Portland Office of Human Relations, created by lame duck Mayor Tom Potter, was off to a rocky start last month when its ongoing funding was caught in the cross hairs of what City Hall insiders called grudge match.

Potter and Commissioner Randy Leonard, who proposed an alternative to Potter's budget, ironed out a compromised budget June 4 with the full council that provides the office with \$260,295 in ongoing dollars.

The office, composed of the Racial Profiling Committee and Immigrant and Refugee Task Force and the newly established Human Rights Commission, is charged with "fostering diversity and resolving issues rooted in bias and discrimination."

María Lisa Johnson, the office's director hired May 7, said her division still faces a challenge. "It's on us to do our coalition building and educational work and make it as meaningful as we can. We need a lot of visibility and depth in our first year. It's a good challenge."

The office will also enjoy a one-time pot of \$386,955 left over from this year's budget. This will help pay for two staff positions, materials and services.

"We can do some good community educational work with that. That's our opportunity because this special appropriation is one-time-only, so it will never come back," Johnson said.

Later this month, the office will post job listings for community outreach and program coordinator positions.

In three to five months, Johnson aims to move the office from City Hall to a more accessible place, possibly on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Royalty Crowned in Vancouver and Portland

A new prince and princess were crowned May 31 for the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Raintree Empire in Vancouver, Wash.

Julie Johnson and Just Out Advertising Representative Justin Taylor were crowned as Prince XXXIV Clyde and Princess XXXIV Ivory Cox.

For first-time titleholder

Taylor, this year will mean "a lot of makeup and no facial hair."

The Investitures and Crowning of Prince & Princess was held at the Fraternal Order of the Eagles in Vancouver. Johnson and Taylor were chosen by the reigning Rain Emperor XXXIV Brandon and Tree Empress XXXIV Shelia Dupont.

"When you're the Emperor and Empress, you want a powerhouse imperial family," said Taylor. "They choose who they think is going to be good fits to make their reigns successful in raising money for charity and attracting people to their shows."

The titleholders will perform during the Vancouver Gay Pageant 7 p.m. July 12 at the Fraternal Order of the Eagles, 107 E. Seventh Ave. in Vancouver.

In other court news, the Portland Gay Pride Pageant was held June 7 at Fez Ballroom. The evening closed with the newly crowned Ms. Gay Pride Onyx, Mr. Gay Pride Gypsy and Miss Gay Pride Aurora Cities.

QDoc Sees Successful Return

QDoc, the country's only documentary film festival focusing on queer content, returned May 29 to June 1. Clinton Street Theater accommodated swelling audiences and more appearances from out-of-town directors, including two visiting from Rome to introduce their film *Suddenly, Last Winter*.

A goal for future QDocs, according to festival co-founder and co-director Russ Gage, is flying in more foreign directors to introduce their films.



Prince XXXIV Clyde and Princess XXXIV Ivory Cox were crowned May 31 in Vancouver, Wash.

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