

100 Days and Counting

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strategies director Carolyn Becic. Becic, who leads Oregon Mentors, reportedly backed out of the new position Jan. 22.

Adams told *The Oregonian* Jan. 31 that he has "remapped" his role in the education agenda to a less visible position. He will remain co-chairman of the education committee while Multnomah County Chairman Ted Wheeler assumes the public role.

Community and Parents for Public Schools of Portland also removed Adams' name from next month's parent leadership conference, where he was scheduled to speak.

But Favor Ellis, executive director of the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center, believes Adams has the life experience

and political acumen to forward her cause. "He can fund programs for queer youth and talk about his experience as a queer youth. People in all walks of life make mistakes."

Adams' plan to stimulate the economy and create jobs involves the formation of a citywide retail action strategy, the launch of work force training for green jobs and evaluating whether bringing major league soccer and baseball to Portland would fuel the economy.

Business owner Lanagan supports Adams' goal of streamlining the business permitting process, but he expects the mayor to encounter static sparked from the scandal. "I think it's going to be more difficult for Sam to get things done as efficiently as he could have before," he said.

Another policy area was potentially tainted when the qualifications of Adams' planning and sustainability policy adviser, Amy Ruiz, were called into question. *Willamette Week* suggested that Ruiz, who is a lesbian and former *Portland Mercury* news editor, was hired to take her off the story.

Lisa Libby, Adams' planning and sustainability director, disagrees. "We have a strong and committed team, and Amy is an invaluable part of it."

Adams' interest in greening the city predates his campaign. His vision includes taxing plastic grocery bags, laying the groundwork for an eastside streetcar and exploring wind energy. In his first 100 days, Adams plans to appoint a cabinet that can discuss climate change and establish a Northwest Progressive Cities Coalition.

Libby's team ticked the

first item off the list Jan. 23 by promoting the Urban Growth Bounty, which bolsters urban agriculture. Other priorities include smoothly merging the newly formed bureau of planning and sustainability according to the Portland Plan, and accessing City Hall's own green practices.

According to Libby, the 100 Days plan is actually ahead of schedule. "We plan on wrapping up a lot of our efforts in April. We look to be on track at this point," she said.

To openly gay Metro Councilor Robert Liberty, the sustainability and transportation plans come down to policy and funding. When the scandal broke Jan. 19, Adams was attending the Conference of Mayors in Washington, D.C. He cut his trip short and flew home the following day to hold a press conference.

"To the extent that being at the Conference of Mayors was important for him to move his agenda forward, the scandal has had an impact on his work to secure more money or change policy," said Liberty. "But it is hard for me to imagine that missing part of that conference would have any effect on his efforts to raise money or change policy at the federal or state level."

Acito, one of several high-profile artists who organized a Jan. 23 press conference and rally in support of Adams, viewed the 100 Days arts plan as a step in the right direction. "It seems like he is determined to move us forward by transforming us from a do-it-yourself community to a do-it-ourselves community. I don't think that we've capitalized on our relationships and coalitions, and I'm feeling that synergy with Sam taking the lead."

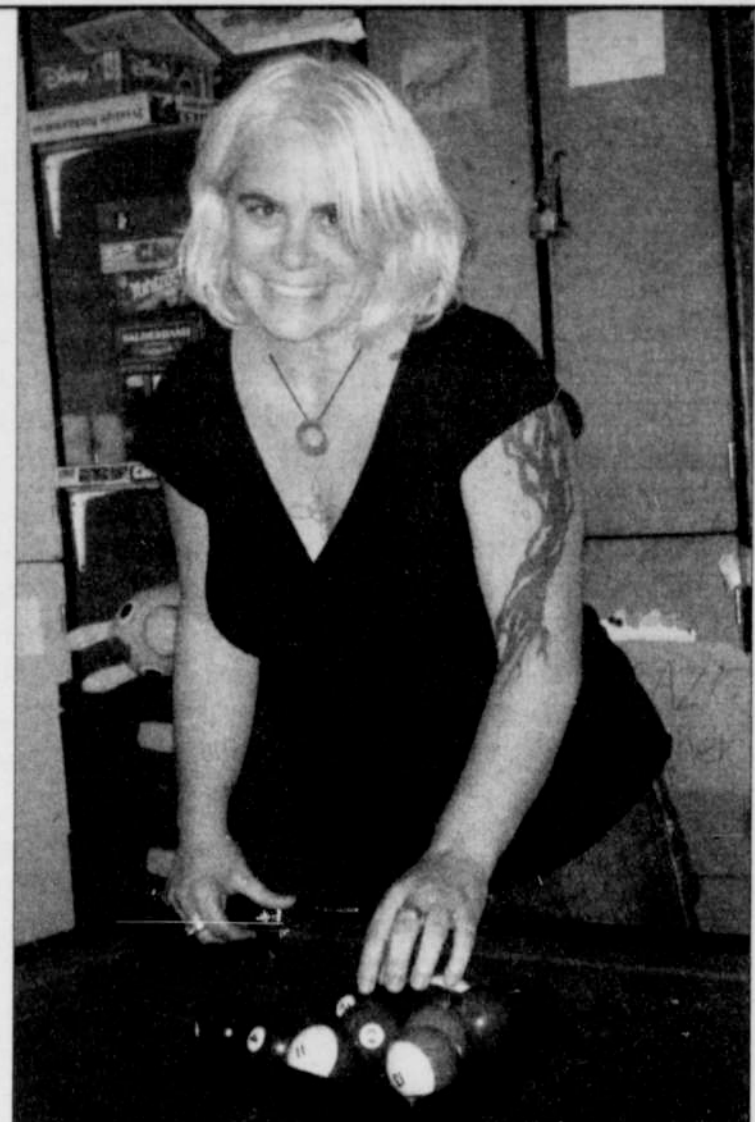
According to Acito, the scandal might have been "the best thing that ever happened to the arts community. I personally have never been to an event

in Portland where all of the arts leaders of the community were in one room together. I think this scandal has mobilized the arts community in an unprecedented, cooperative way."

Emergency management and city improvement are the final items in Adams' 100 Days agenda. Establishing communication protocols for emergency management situations and reforming the budget process do not appear impeded by the scandal.

From Lanagan's point of view, the city and the man may emerge stronger from the scandal.

"I think the end result is going to be a more compassionate, more understanding Adams," he said. "I think we will end up with a better mayor than we had, one who's able to understand challenges, problems and difficulties on a much more personal level. Sam's been our golden boy for so long and has had a very unimpeded ride. I don't think encountering an issue like this is necessarily a bad thing. It might be very grounding to a talented individual." 10



Favor Ellis, executive director of the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center, has faith in Adams' ability to promote queer youth mentoring.



MARTY DAVIS

Speculation over former *Portland Mercury* news editor Amy Ruiz's qualifications as Adams' planning and sustainability policy adviser has not slowed down her ability to stick with the 100 Days plan.



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