

NORTHWEST NEWS

Sam Adams Update

Adams Cleared, Film at II, Recall Plans Continue

By AMANDA SCHURR

The Sam Adams saga again took center stage on Monday, June 22, when the office of Oregon Attorney General John Kroger released its report. The findings stated that there was no evidence that the mayor had broken the law by engaging in a sexual relationship with former legislative intern Beau Breedlove, 17 at the time of their introduction in 2005.

During an almost six-month process, state investigators interviewed 57 witnesses and found none to corroborate Breedlove's account of his underage relationship with then City Commissioner Adams, or any subsequent criminal wrongdoing.

Among the questions stemming from the initial matter, whether or not Adams committed official misconduct by hiring former *Portland Mercury* writer Amy Ruiz to his administration in an attempt to halt her coverage of the scandal; whether or not he utilized government resources to cover up the story; and whether he made false statements while on the mayoral fundraising trail.

Ultimately, Breedlove's credibility – tainted by a felony theft conviction in Hawaii in 2006, inconsistent accounts, media solicitations and a revealing, paid cover spread earlier this year in *Unzipped* magazine – was a significant factor in the decision.

"Accordingly, we have concluded there is insufficient evidence to charge, let alone convict, Adams with illegal sexual contact with a minor," the report stated. Adams was quick to a response to the results, saying "I made mistakes in my personal life" and reiterating his apology.

Upon the report's publication, the Attorney General's office released a litany of supporting documentation compiled during the investigation, including city calendars, correspondence, interview transcripts, phone records and text messages between Adams

and Breedlove.

The aftermath prompted Breedlove to break his silence – a week after his mother, Gwen Roseler, released a statement in which she called her son "a victim," "exploited, deceived and betrayed by a friend and a 'mentor' (?) for his political gain."

In a July 2 appearance on Portland NBC affiliate KGW, Breedlove expressed his anger at Adams' refusal to "come clean" – and how his own credibility had taken a beating



RecallSamAdams.com organizer Jasun Wurster

when Adams' had not come into question. "It really upsets me (that Adams denied it)," Breedlove said. "It's just lie after lie after lie until we're at the end of the bowl and the last person to be burned from the situation is me, and he's

still burned me to try to save his career."

Breedlove accused the mayor of sending deliberately misleading text messages. "At the time I thought, oh that's fine, he's protecting himself, but now at this point in time I realize that he was doing it to cover himself, and putting me on the line." Breedlove also claimed that Kroger's office didn't contact witnesses to back up his own side of the story.

"I assumed that there would be some type of safety net to prevent people from lying," he added. Kroger saw no need to put Adams, Breedlove or anyone else under oath before a grand jury – a move that would've made false testimony illegal, versus that given to a state investigator, which is not against the law in Oregon.

Jasun Wurster, head of the grassroots RecallSamAdams.com effort slated to launch with a July 7 filing, told *Just Out* that

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