

NW News in Brief

BY RYAN J. PRADO

Mayor Adams Files Ordinance for Trans-Inclusive Health Care for City Employees

The office of Mayor Sam Adams announced May 31 that the mayor filed an ordinance for City Council that would add trans-inclusive health care benefits, including sexual reassignment surgery, to one of the plans offered to City of Portland employees.

The mayor's proposal, if approved by the City Council June 8, would override a decision by a city committee that each year looks at the health benefits the city offers through its self-insurance fund. For the second time this year, the 12-member committee of union representatives and city managers couldn't reach a required consensus on sexual reassignment surgery.

"As Mayor, it is important to me that we attract and retain the best and brightest employees to the City of Portland. Offering non-discriminatory health care benefits—as leading employers like Nike, Google, Microsoft and IBM do—is one way to accomplish that goal," Adams said in a press release. "Covering basic, medically necessary care is a matter of fairness, and it's the right thing to do."

"We all know someone who has been denied medically necessary care by an insurance company," said Jeana Frazzini, executive director of Basic Rights Oregon, via press release. "This proposal would ensure that decisions about health care are made between doctor and patient."

City insurance—established for roughly

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two-thirds of Portland's 6,500 employees by the fund CityCore—already covers hormone therapy and counseling for transgender employees who transition from one sex to the other. Under the new plan, the insurance also would pay for operations to "alter a participant's physical characteristics to that of the opposite sex," the proposal reads, with a maximum benefit of \$50,000.

The additional cost for adding coverage for sexual reassignment surgery would cost the city about \$32,000, resulting in a .08 percent increase. If approved, Portland would become the first city, though not the first government, in Oregon to offer coverage for surgery for transgender employees. Multnomah County established a similar policy last year.

The City Council is expected to approve the proposal, which would take effect July 1.

Just Out *will continue to report on this story as it develops.*

CC Slaughters to Open New Location in Mexico

While CC Slaughters is officially celebrating its 30th anniversary all summer long here in Portland, plans are in place south of the U.S. border for a new incarnation of the popular LGBTQ nightclub. Slaughters' director of marketing and entertainment, David Pettit, confirmed to *Just Out* that owners John Houston and Bruce Rice are opening a new CC Slaughters in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico.

The design, said Pettit, will be similar to CC Slaughters Portland, with a nightclub and drag show on the main side, and a martini lounge akin to the Rainbow Room on the other. The current plan is for the bar to open in September or October of this year—just in time for the peak tourism season in Puerto Vallarta.

"John and Bruce have chosen to open this location to bring everything great about CC's to Puerto Vallarta, as this has become a great gay destination and they



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