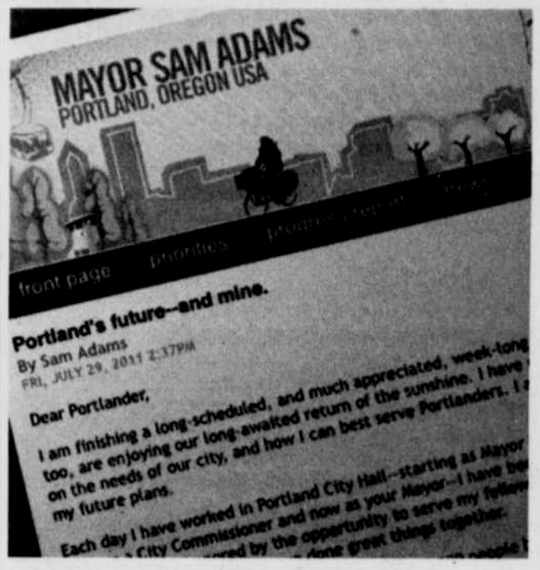
BY RYAN J. PRADO

Mayor Adams Announces He Will Not Run for Re-Election

After months of speculation, Portland Mayor Sam Adams announced the afternoon of Friday, July 29 that he would not seek a second term in office.

"With the state of our nation in such flux, and so many local issues needing focused and hands-on mayoral leadership, for me, the choice is clear," read the official release, in which Adams said he couldn't reconcile the current needs of the city with the immediate need to begin fundraising and campaign efforts, and "how challenging the race for re-election would be."

MARTY DAVIS



On Tuesday, August 2, Adams attributed the decision to a variety of things. "It really boiled down to the work completed, the reforms underway, the state of the city and then what would be the requirements of a successful campaign," he told *Just Out*. "And in the end, it's always a combination of things."

The announcement was met with a mixture of shock and apathy from the community, though for his part Adams said responses ranged from "very positive" to "surprised" and "disappointed."

Adams wouldn't reveal any thoughts on life after mayoral office. "Maybe I'm alone in this," he said, "but I worked hard, I really am focused on being a good mayor and worked hard to make an informed decision about how best I can serve Portland and have not had any considerations beyond that yet."

Nor would he weigh in publicly on any candidates who have thrown their hats into the ring (New Seasons co-founder Eileen Brady, City Commissioner Charlie Hales), or are considering it (City Commissioner Dan Saltzman). "Obviously ... as candidates I want them to be focused and supportive [of] legalizing gay marriage in Oregon. That's something that is a decision even before the next election," said Adams, adding his hopes that candidates would advocate for public safety, fair workplace consideration, anti-bullying efforts and transgender rights, and make them a part of their platform if elected.

Of his next 17 months of work for the LGBTQ community, Adams reiterated previous statements regarding recent bias crimes and the subsequent public service campaign in the Entertainment District proposed during a recent Sexual Minorities Roundtable. "The best way to prevent the next bias crime is to solve the last one," he said, reminding the community that a witness has yet to come forward for the May 22 incident on the Eastbank Esplanade.

"Part of that campaign will include outreach to all the bar owners. We talked about doing some bias crime training for the private security guards in the district so they will be on the lookout for any indications of bias activities that could lead to violence," Adams continued, stressing the need for volunteers for Q Patrol. "When the bars get out at 2 a.m., our police officers, depending on the night, can have a lot of calls for service, so we need a lot of help there."

Among his other priorities for the LGBTQ community during his remaining time in office, Adams mentioned fundraising efforts for marriage equality and ballot initiatives, transgender rights, safety and community policing, supporting the Q Center and "the basic issues—the basic needs—which is why I made this decision, to create jobs, improve education and public safety and sustainability of the city."

Adams told *Just Out* that early conversations with leaders in the LGBTQ community "were very encouraging and very supportive of my run for re-election." Still, when asked if he felt he had let down the community given the scandals accompanying his time in office, and his decision not to run again, Adams deferred any personal or political analysis.

"Our work to move forward the queer community to a place of true equality in this city has, I think, been well served by my administration," he said. And I'm not done yet."

—Amanda Schurr

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