



'Sam, Sam, are you nuts? We won't have all these cuts'

Over 100 City of Portland workers protested a new round of expected budget cuts Jan. 30 outside the Portland Bureau of Transportation's Stanton Yard maintenance facility at 2929 N. Kerby Ave.

Workers, represented by Laborers Local 483, said Portland can't afford to cut back on road and sewer maintenance, as it will be more costly in the long run. Nor can their families afford the loss of jobs.

Jerry "JJ" Johnson (pictured above with bullhorn) returned to work on light duty in January after a fall on the job which caused a spinal cord injury. Johnson has been a city sewer worker for 22 years, and seniority rules make it unlikely he'll be laid off. But he said he's bothered by the idea that the City hired dozens of workers in 2011 only to propose laying them off in 2012.

"They act like they couldn't have forecasted this," Johnson told the Labor

Press. Workers facing possible layoff include Jens Peill, whose recent hire to a City job enables him to support wife Jessica and four children — Sebastian, Brianna, Sophia and Fiona — all of whom turned up at the rally and are pictured to Johnson's right.

Several political office seekers made an appearance at the protest, including Portland mayoral candidates Jefferson Smith and Charlie Hales and City Council candidate Mary Nolan.

After rallying outside Stanton Yard, workers marched through adjacent Legacy Emanuel Hospital, which is also laying off staff, and then held a public forum at nearby Matt Dishman Community Center. Dishman Center is named after a public employee, the City's first African-American police officer.



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At City of Portland

Unions start to weigh in on mayor's race

Unions representing workers at the City of Portland are starting to weigh in on the May primary election for mayor.

On Jan. 24, the largest union at the City — the 950-member American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 189 — endorsed State Rep. Jefferson Smith. A week before that, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 48 announced its support of businesswoman Eileen Brady. Local 48 represents about 100 electricians at the City.

Both locals are part of the District Council of Trades Unions, a coalition of seven union locals representing some 1,800 City employees. The other locals include Laborers Local 483, Operating Engineers Local 701, Painters District Council 5, Plumbers and Fitters Local 290 and Machinists Lodge 1005. The DCTU has not yet endorsed a candidate in the mayor's race.

Smith and Brady are among 18 candidates running to succeed Mayor Sam Adams, who is not seeking re-election. Smith, Brady and former Portland city commissioner Charlie Hales are the front-runners.

In a press release, Local 189 said with the City's weak mayor structure, a mayor needs to be able to build con-

sensus with four other strong personalities. As a state representative, Jefferson Smith has a proven track record of consensus building, without compromising on important issues such as protecting voting rights and creating transparency in government. He has shown through his work to limit middle management and focus budgets on front line services that he is willing to challenge the status quo.

IBEW Local 48 Business Manager Cliff Davis said the union backed Brady based on her experience as co-founder of New Seasons Market, and for her work on the Oregon Health Fund

Board. "The next mayor of Portland needs to be a job creator," he said. "Portland needs Eileen's deep management and job creation experience in the mayor's office."

Currently, 18 candidates have filed to run for mayor (the deadline to file is March 6). One of them, Max Bauske, is a member of UFCW Local 555. Bauske, 22, works part-time at Fred Meyer and attends Portland Community College full time.

The primary election is May 15. If no candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote, the top two vote-getters will face off in November.

AFSCME backs Nolan, Novick for City Council

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 189 added its name to a list of union locals endorsing Steve Novick and Mary Nolan for Portland City Council.

In December, IBEW Local 48, Portland Fire Fighters Local 43, the Portland Police Association, and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 8, endorsed Novick and Nolan.

Novick is running for Position 4. The seat is being vacated by Randy

Leonard, a former president of Fire Fighters Local 43. Leonard has held the seat since 2002 and is not seeking re-election.

Nolan left the Oregon House of Representatives to challenge incumbent Amanda Fritz in Position 1. Fritz is a 29-year member of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). Fritz has endorsements from ONA and Communications Workers of America Local 7901.

The AFSCME Local 189 endorsements were voted on at a general membership meeting held Jan. 24.

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