

The



Harmonizer

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Monthly Newsletter for Music City Couples

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Serving Nashville & All Of Middle Tennessee and Surrounding Communities

Mayor Sam Adams-Beau Breedlove scandal shakes up Portland, Oregon

By kgw.com Staff

PORTLAND, Ore. -- In a video statement released Sunday, Portland Mayor Sam Adams said he would not resign, adding that the city faced some of its "toughest times" in history and that he would work harder than ever for Portlanders.



I go back to work as your mayor. I know I have let you down and made mistakes. I ask your forgiveness. I believe I have a lot to offer the city I love during this time of important challenges," the statement said.

City Commissioner Randy Leonard said he received a voicemail from Adams Sunday morning, in which the mayor said he would continue to fight the allegations made against him. In that message, Leonard said, Adams went on to say he planned to stay in office and would not resign.

Details of the mayor's relationship with former intern Beau Breedlove continued to surface over the weekend.

The Oregonian published a revealing interview on Sunday that further detailed the young man's past relationship with Mayor Adams. Breedlove told the paper that he and Adams kissed twice prior to his 18th birthday. But Breedlove also corroborated Adams' claims that the two did not have a sexual

relationship until after he turned 18.

Breedlove said the relationship was consensual and that he never felt like a victim.

Return to City Hall

Adams arrived at City Hall Saturday after a four-day absence and met with each city commissioner individually, in private meetings that were not open to the public

Under Portland City Council procedure, individual meetings do not have to be made open to the public

Commissioner Dan Saltzman said he urged Adams to remain as mayor; Commissioner Nick Fish would not discuss details of his meeting.

The week of events included the mayor's revelations that he had a sexual relationship with a teenager in 2005 and lied about it.

"This is a terrible thing I've put the city through and I feel really badly about it," Adams said. "I need to make sure I've gotten the pros and cons of staying and the pros and cons of leaving."

Adams apologized, saying the scandal presented "a low point" in his life. Adams went on to say he believes an investigation will not reveal any criminal behavior

Support and opposition grow

Hundreds showed up in front of City Hall Friday evening to show their support for the mayor, but Adams did not make an appearance at the rally. Instead, he spent the day gathering advice on whether or not he should stay in office, according to his staff.

Earlier Friday, a group of representatives from Portland's arts, business and civic communities gathered Friday in City Hall to voice their support as picketers shouted at each other outside. *(continued next page)*

Birthdays

- Feb 08 - LaTonya (of LaWanda)
- Feb 11 - Chris (of Tanya)
- Feb 19 - Joey (of Eddie)
- Feb 25 - Rochelle (of Melissa)

Anniversaries

- Feb 04 - Tony & David (11-Years)
- Feb 14 - Cathy & Ginny (11-Years)
- Feb 14 - LaWanda & LaTonya (3-Years)
- Feb 14 - Scott & Rob (5-Years)
- Feb 15 - Charlotte & Patricia (2-Years)
- Feb 20 - Ken & Steven (3-Years)

Don't See Your Special Day Listed this month. Send an email to info@musiccitycouples.org and ask to be added. We don't want to miss anyone's birthday, anniversary, or special dates



If you wish to be featured in next month's issue, please send in your information with a current photo to webmaster@musiccitycouples.org

SPOTLIGHT

Your Story Here

Please Contact The Webmaster

"I'm not sure he can ever get back my loyalty," Commissioner Randy Leonard told KGW. "What happened though, is Sam asking me to take something at his word or giving me all the information to reach a different conclusion or benefit of the doubt ... I can't do that. "Sam's silence to me is deafening. His complete absence from the building is telling." Portland Commissioner Dan Saltzman joined those supporting Adams, calling him "the right man" for the job despite the mayor's admission that he lied about the relationship.

"He has got so many ideas, so many things he cares about in this city. He loves this city," Saltzman said. "And I think he's the mayor that we need at this point to keep this city moving forward in these tough times."

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Groups had formed online in support of the mayor even as a recall effort was also underway at another website.

Adams did not appear in public after a Tuesday press conference detailing the relationship and cover up.

The mayor's [Portland Online blog](#) was also pulled Thursday. Adams has long stayed in touch with constituents through the blog, but on Thursday the URL linked to a blank page that initially said, "Due to pending legal action these pages are now unavailable." By mid-morning the page was totally blank.

Local papers call for resignation

The [Portland Business Journal](#) joined Portland's gay newspaper [Just Out](#) and the editorial boards of both the [Oregonian](#) newspaper and the [Portland Tribune](#) in calling on Adams to resign. The head of the [Portland Police Union](#) also joined the call for Adams' resignation.

"Does this set a precedent that every single city employee is now allowed to lie? I think he should resign," Portland Police Union President Scott Westerman said.

Legal inquiry launched

City Commissioner Randy Leonard called for a third-party investigation to clarify the timing of the sex and if any rules were broken to benefit the mayor and his career. In addition, Oregon Attorney General John Kroger is launching an inquiry into the scandal at the request of Portland Police Chief Rosie Sizer and Multnomah County District Attorney Michael Schruck.

On Tuesday, Mayor Adams publicly acknowledged having a sexual relationship with Beau Breedlove, a legislative intern he mentored in 2005. In a Tuesday afternoon press conference, Adams apologized to the public for previously lying about it. Adams said it was a serious error in judgment, but he "has no plans to resign."

The admission came in response to a [Willamette Week story](#) on Monday confirming the affair.

The mayor admitted to having sex with Breedlove within a month of his 18th birthday, and that "the affair lasted maybe two months."

Mayor apologizes for lie

"I should have been honest at the time about my true relationship with Beau. I'm deeply sorry I asked Beau to lie on my behalf," Adams said

"This was a serious error on my part. It happened about four years ago, in my personal and professional life, and my job right now is to come clean."

Breedlove has not spoken publicly since Adams admitted to the affair. He did release a statement, in which he said:

"Reflecting back, I regret misleading anyone about the nature of the relationship. When the subject first surfaced during the campaign, I was living out-of-state and I did not anticipate the impact it might have on Portland's mayoral campaign. While my first instinct was to tell the truth, I also wanted to protect Sam Adams' reputation, considering our valuable friendship."

A state gay rights advocacy group, Basic Rights Oregon, issued a statement Tuesday saying Mayor Adams "exercised poor judgment," but went on to say he had "demonstrated his commitment to (Portland) and its people."

Adams said he intended to immediately make public all e-mail and phone records from the period of the relationship with Breedlove, which the mayor claims occurred during the summer of 2005.

The mayor also said he and Breedlove discussed a relationship prior to the intern's 18th birthday, when Breedlove was still a minor, but that he could not engage in an "inappropriate relationship" with someone legally underage.

Adams was asked repeatedly by the Portland press why voters should trust his judgment now, considering that he had lied through his campaign for mayor.

"I made a mistake ... I did not want to subject Beau to another round of media inquiries. I decided to come clean and tell the truth," the mayor said.

(Continued Next Page)

Adams: No plans to resign

Adams pointed to his two-decade career as a public official and asked Portlanders to look closely at his record

"I messed this one up, but it's an anomaly over the two decades that I've served Oregonians and Portlanders," he said.

Adams said his punishment will be a complete loss of public trust.

Adams acknowledged he had not yet apologized to Breedlove's parents but that he planned to.

He also said that this was not an issue of sexual orientation; rather, it was an issue of a public official lying, in his opinion.

"I don't think this is fundamentally an issue about sexual orientation. Other people can debate that," he said.

Adams had denied affair previously

In 2007, Adams said the rumors of the affair were politically motivated and flatly denied the relationship. He also told the public it was a non-sexual relationship.

"I'm not going to go down without a fight because this is not true," Adams told KGW in September 2007. "This is one of the worst smears you can make against a gay guy. It preys on the homophobic stereotype that gay men cannot be trusted with young people."

Then City Commissioner Adams published an open letter to Portlanders in 2007 denying the charges and calling them "smear tactics."

Adams also said at the time that he did exchange occasional text messages and phone calls while mentoring Breedlove, but he swore he never did anything inappropriate.

Adams admitted to the sexual relationship with Breedlove just as the Willamette Week prepared to publish a story concerning the relationship.

Adams at inauguration when story broke

Mayor Adams was in the Capitol for Obama's inauguration when word of the scandal broke on Monday. He returned to Portland instead of remaining for the inaugural festivities.

Mayor Adams said the sex scandal had tainted President Barack Obama's inauguration for Portland residents but that it "would have been highly inappropriate for me to stay in Washington."

He admitted that he may have been elected under false pretenses since he had covered up the relationship and avoided answering whether or not Portland would have elected him mayor had the allegations come out prior to Election Day.

Adams has been mayor of Portland since Jan. 1.

Nick Bradshaw and KGW Reporter Randy Neves contributed to this report

Provide by Towleroad

Gay Man Accused of Smearing Another in Portland Mayoral Race

Bob Ball, a gay real estate developer from Portland, Oregon who is seen as a would-be politician and **reportedly has an interest in running in the city's mayoral race**, has been accused of launching a nasty smear campaign against the leading candidate for the top job who is another openly gay man — City Commissioner Sam Adams.



It appears that Ball has decided to use the recent gay political scandals (such as Mark Foley and underage pages) as fodder for an unsubstantiated smear job against his potential opponent. Ball has apparently twisted a mentoring relationship that Adams had with a 17-year-old intern in the Oregon house to make it appear something untoward was going on.

The Oregonian reports: "The problem: The story Ball told about Adams and a 17-year-old legislative intern isn't true, according to both Adams and the young man. Adams acknowledges trying to be a mentor, including exchanging numerous phone calls and text messages with the young man over several months in summer 2005.

But both men said that they have never been anything more than friends. Ball said he was doing a public service in speaking with [Portland City Commissioner Randy] Leonard, implying that as a reserve police officer he felt a responsibility to report suspected child abuse. Oregon law requires people in positions of responsibility -- public or private -- to report child abuse to police or welfare workers. Those he told, including Leonard and former Mayor Vera Katz, said they took it as an attempt at political assassination."

The charges have led Adams to write [an open letter to the citizens of Portland](#). Writes Adams: "I have in the past, and I will in the future, respond to people who reach out to me for help and advice. This is especially true when it comes to young people. Growing up in Newport and Eugene, Oregon I remember when I was a teenager and I had nobody who I felt I could talk to at a time I desperately needed someone to give me advice and perspective about coming to terms with being gay. I came through it. Not everyone does. Gay youth suicide rates, homelessness and depression are still too high. And adequate services have been lacking: Reasons why I co-founded Portland's Q Center served on the Boards of Cascade AIDS Project, Basic Right Oregon and lobbied the state legislature in support of statewide non-discrimination laws. I didn't get into public life to allow my instinct to help others to be snuffed out by fear of sleazy misrepresentations or political manipulation. I understand the need for good judgment, and I keep within the bounds of propriety -- as I did in this case."

Beau Breedlove, the 17-year-old intern who is now 20, [continues to say there is and never was any kind of romantic relationship](#) between him and Adams. [Ball has issued a statement](#) in response to the local media frenzy regarding the accusations, concluding "Any story here is not about me."

The Portland Mercury blog [frames the debate](#). Adams told the paper: "If this had come from the right wing—and it probably will now—that would have been one thing. But to come from another gay man is something more hurtful. It plays into the worst, deep-seeded fears society has about gay men: You can't trust them with your young."

Favorite Recipe

No Submissions
This
Month

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info@musiccitycouples.org

Events Calendar**Grand Ole Opry**

Package: Main floor seats, Hotel,
Tours at an affordable price.
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Stirrup Nashville

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Nashville, TN, 37210
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Your New Favorite Neighborhood Bar

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Tribe

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Fax: 615-329-2914
1517A Church Street, Nashville, TN 37203

Red Restaurant

Tel: 615-329-2913
Fax: 615-329-2914
Mailing Address:
1515 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37203
[Melissa Simon](#), chef
[David Legg](#), general manager
[David Taylor](#), owner
[Keith Blaydes](#), owner

COUPLES

The Music City Couples Network, an organization of hundreds of loving and committed gay and lesbian couples believes that the Federal Marriage Amendment is an unconscionable assault on the rights of millions of American citizens, and is joining other organizations seeking its defeat.

According to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the amendment "would not only deny marriage to same-sex couples but could also deny any state legislature or electorate from ever voting to pass their own state's domestic partnership, civil union or marriage laws. Under the Federal Marriage Amendment, courts could be barred from enforcing the legal protections that a legislature provides through civil union or domestic partnership laws."

Civil marriage, other forms of relationship recognition, and basic civil rights protections are essential components that make all families, including families headed by same-sex couples, safer and more secure. Civil marriage and religious marriage are two separate things. Religious institutions will never be forced to bless relationships with which they disagree, just as today religious institutions can refuse to marry couples of different faiths or individuals who have been divorced.

2009 Monthly Events

Jan: Event Planning Meeting
Feb: Dinner Night Out
Mar: Brunch At Red Restaurant
Apr: Nashville Zoo
May: Hosts - Don & Russ
Jun: Gay Pride - Centennial Park
Jul: Annual 4th of July Celebration
Aug: Canning 101
Sep: Art Crawl
Oct: Annual Halloween Bonfire
Nov: Thanksgiving
Dec: Christmas

Newsletter Submissions

Send us your Current News, Favorite Recipe, and Announcements that you would like to have added to our Monthly Newsletter. Send all submissions to, Webmaster@musiccitycouples.org no later than the First Friday of Every Month. Anything received after that Friday will be included in the next month's issue

Hosts Needed

Music City Couples is in search of couples willing to Host a Party in their home, back yard, or even a Park. If you have the desire to be a Host, please contact:

Larry and Bobby.

info@musiccitycouples.org

615-824-9966 – Home

Movie Night Out

Several of our couples have been asking if we plan to re-instate the monthly movie night out. We need your help. If you would like to take charge of our Monthly Movie Night Out, please drop us an email:

info@musiccitycouples.org

Dinner Night Out

Everyone loves to eat. Certainly you have a favorite Restaurant. If you would like to see us have a Monthly Dinner Night Out, please forward your Restaurant Choices and help us plan the monthly event. Simply send us an email:

info@musiccitycouples.org

Camping

Contact Barb & Jane
Kingston, Springs, TN
info@musiccitycouples.org



Music City Couples is an organization of committed gay and lesbian couples in the Greater Nashville and Middle Tennessee area. The organization serves to provide a forum for gay/lesbian committed couples to strengthen their own relationships while also providing a social and supportive structure for their fellow committed couples. Music City Couples holds no religious affiliations and makes every attempt to respect the privacy of its couples.