



PRESS RELEASE

From: Grady Wheeler

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City Council appoints Jeremy Ferguson as Interim Mayor

City Council appointed Jeremy Ferguson Interim Mayor at its regularly scheduled Jan. 6, 2009 meeting. The position was vacated by James Bernard after he resigned as Mayor to assume his new position as Clackamas County Commissioner, a position he won in the November 2008 election.

Ferguson grew up just outside Milwaukie's city limits but moved to the city in 1995. It was Ferguson's experience on Milwaukie's Budget Committee, a position he held since 2006, but had to resign from in order to take his new position, that motivated him to apply.

"Serving on the Budget Committee gave me an opportunity to become intricately familiar with the functions of all of the City departments all the way down to the nickel and dime level," Ferguson said. "It spurred my interest because I enjoyed it on that level and thought I'd enjoy it even more to have some influence on the decisions that are made in our community."

Ferguson will serve until the next election, which will take place in May of 2009. The elected mayor will serve the remainder of Mayor Bernard's fourth term, through November of 2010. Ferguson says he has no desire to run for mayor in May, but is interested in filling a councilor position, should one open up. Both Councilor Deborah Barnes and Councilor Joe Loomis have stated they intend to run for mayor in May, and should one of them win, their position would be vacated.

"I welcome the current opportunity to become familiar with City Council and all of the details associated with the position, and it will allow me an opportunity to get to know the City and the City to get to know me," Ferguson said. "If the election vacates a councilor position I'm interested in the opportunity to fill it and maintain some continuity among the Council."

Ferguson manages TriMet's Information Development department, which produces the user information for riders such as schedules, service alerts and maps. He and his wife, Lisa, live in the Linwood Neighborhood and have two children, a daughter who attends Milwaukie High School, and a son who attends Campbell Elementary.

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