

NEWS RELEASE

(The soon to be established) Friends of Charles Lewis

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Charles Lewis to Launch Campaign for Portland City Council

PORTLAND, Oregon -- Charles Lewis will announce his candidacy for Portland City Commissioner on June 6, 2007 at the Oregon Convention Center's Martin Luther King Statue. The announcement will begin at 8:55am at "The Dream," Oregon's monument to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and Holladay Street.

Immediately following Charles' brief announcement, a group of supporters and media members will board an amphibious bus for a 1.5 hour land and water voyage to Portland City Hall where Charles will submit a statement of organization in anticipation of his campaign. Highlights will include "splashing down" into the Willamette River and a symbolic journey upstream on their way to City Hall for Charles and his supporters.

"I'm running because I'm filled with hope for Portland's future and because I believe in the idea of creative government," said Charles. "I'm running because I believe that Portland *can* be an affordable place for every family. I'm running because I believe that we *can* empower small businesses who are the life blood of our economy. And I'm running because I believe that we *can* instill government with a sense of both fiscal *and* social responsibility."

"I'm not a career politician," continued Charles, "I'm just a regular guy who is already working hard to make Portland an even better place. I have spent years bringing music education to thousands of underserved youth through the nonprofit I started called Ethos Music Center. Recently, I also started a small business called Portland Duck Tours because I love Portland and want to show it off in a fun and innovative way. I am deeply committed to Portland, and believe that by working together, we can improve the quality of life for every citizen."

Charles Lewis is the Founder and Executive Director of Ethos Music Center, a nonprofit music school based in North Portland. Over the past eight years, Ethos has helped make up for the lack of music education in the schools by starting up after school music programs in over 100 schools and community centers throughout the Portland Metropolitan Area. In addition, Charles owns Portland Duck Tours, an emerging small business that supports our city's thriving tourist scene and local economy. Portland Duck Tours highlights the Rose City with land and water tours in a bio-diesel powered amphibious bus.

Charles has an extensive record of public service including serving in the U.S. Peace Corps, building houses for Habitat for Humanity, working for Portland Mayor Vera Katz, and starting up Ethos, Portland's nationally recognized and award winning nonprofit music school.

In addition to his public service activities, Charles has an educational background well suited for a Portland City Commissioner. Charles graduated from the University of Portland in 1994 (magna cum laude) with degree in Political Science. After serving in the Peace Corps, Charles received a full scholarship to Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government where he served as one of the school's first Public Service Fellows. At Harvard, Charles was elected Student Body President and received the Robert F. Kennedy Award for Excellence in Public Service, one of Harvard's highest honors for public service. Charles graduated from Harvard in 1999 with a Master's Degree in Public Policy and a concentration in Business and Government.

The date of Charles' campaign announcement holds special meaning for him. On June 6, 1968, one of Charles' heroes, Robert F. Kennedy, was assassinated in California while campaigning to help the poor and disenfranchised. With this announcement, Charles is symbolically picking up a fallen torch to help light the way in his own continued small efforts to help struggling families and people on the margins of society. As the campaign rolls out, voters will find that it will focus predominantly on empowering Portland's middle income and low income people and families.

Charles is personally connected to the site selected for this announcement. In 1997, Charles helped direct the fundraising for Oregon's Martin Luther King monument, and later joined the statue's board of directors. Fundraising for the statue had been stalled for 8 years when Charles reinvigorated the effort and helped Betsy Brumm, Cheryl Perrin, and the Board of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Statue Foundation raise the money within 6 months. With Charles' help, the statue was completed and dedicated on August 28, 1998, thirty five years to the day of Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech. For Charles, the site represents our community's ongoing struggle for equality, freedom, and justice.

Charles began to consider running for City Council last Fall. In the order of clean, open and collaborative government, Commissioner Adams was the first person Charles told (after his wife) of his intention to run for the position in December of last year. He personally met with Commissioner Adams on Tuesday, May 29th to confirm his intention to run for Commissioner Seat #1. Previously, Charles assisted Adams by creating his 2004 primary campaign web site as a volunteer. Commissioner Adams, along with other City Commissioners, has been an advocate for Ethos' various projects in the community.

To date, Charles is the only candidate who has declared his candidacy for this important position. "As the first and only candidate currently in this race," said Charles, "I challenge any and all potential candidates to run 'clean and green' for Portland City Council."

On the 'clean' front, Charles will be running under Portland's inspired Voter Owned Elections law designed to take big money politics out of the election process. "I directly challenge any opponent to meet us on an even battlefield – where elections are decided based on vision and leadership – not by who receives the most money from special interests. Money doesn't buy votes in Portland. I believe that candidates who refuse to limit their fundraising to similar levels signal that they can be 'bought and paid for' by special interests and the wealthy elite."

On the 'green' front, Charles' campaign will be fueled by eco-friendly components like a wind-powered web server, a bio-diesel powered campaign vehicle, and environmentally friendly campaign literature. "We believe that how you run is as important as why you run," said Charles. "I'm looking forward to a very positive and innovative race that respects our environment. We are

going to challenge ourselves to be as creative and innovative as possible with our natural resources, and will challenge any potential opponent to do the same.”

More about Charles Lewis’ upcoming campaign including a full personal biography can be found online at www.CharlesLewis.com. The site will be updated frequently, and will feature video endorsements from many of “Charlie’s Angels,” the incredible volunteers and supporters who will drive this grassroots campaign.

Media members are encouraged to cover the campaign announcement at the Martin Luther King statue, on the amphibious bus, and anywhere along the designated route (i.e. “splashing” or literally “launching the campaign” into the Willamette). Because space is limited on the amphibious bus, please RSVP as soon as possible if you would like to ride along with the campaign as it swims upstream to Portland City Hall.

The media is also invited to download and use Charles’ campaign photo that is located at www.charleslewis.com/CharlesLewisPhoto.jpg

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