



PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MAYOR OF PORTLAND DECLARES SEPT 5-9 “GAY SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES WEEK”

Mayor Ted Wheeler Releases Letter Making Declaration

**PORTLAND, OR (September 1, 2017)** – The mayor of Portland, Ted Wheeler, has declared September 5th through 9th to be “Gay Softball World Series Week” in an open letter submitted to GSWS.

“There is no better city in the nation for hosting this prestigious sports and cultural competition than Portland,” said Mayor Wheeler. “From the moment our visitors land in Portland International Airport, recognized as America’s Best Airport for five consecutive years, our visitors experience the most friendly, beautiful, and livable city in the nation.”

“We couldn’t agree more, we are so proud of our progressive mayor and city,” said Roy Melani, Director of the Board in charge of launching the event in the Rose City. “This declaration is the official launch to our international event; we’re deeply thankful to Mayor Wheeler for his strong support of the LGBT community,” mused Melani.

The Gay Softball World Series (“GSWS”) begins this weekend, featuring a smorgasbord of events to celebrate the 3500 players, coaches and fans coming to experience a week-long softball competition among 186 teams from around the United States and Canada. The event is featured every year, each in a different North American Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) member city, who must bid for the chance to showcase their city. Portland won the bid for hosting the 2017 Series.

A copy of the letter is attached to this release.

### **About NAGAAA**

Formed in 1977, North American Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) is a 501c(3) international sports organization comprised of men and women dedicated to providing opportunity and access for the LGBT community to participate in organized softball competition in safe environments. Currently, more than 13,000 players from 46 cities across Canada and the United States participate in member leagues, and the best of these teams converge once a year for head-to-head competition at the annual *Gay Softball World Series*.

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The Rose City Softball Association (RCSA) burst onto the gay social scene in 1995. Host city for the international Gay Softball World Series in 2002, Portland embraced 76 teams and 1500 participants. This year, the RCSA will show off their city by hosting GSWS a second time, with 186 teams in four divisions with their 3500 players and supporters from around the US and Canada Labor Day week, celebrating community and friendship in 2017 through “*Progress, Pride and Play!*”

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OFFICE OF MAYOR TED WHEELER  
CITY OF PORTLAND

September 1, 2017

On behalf of the City of Portland, I am delighted to welcome the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) and its 3,500 athletes from forty-five cities across North America to participate in the 41<sup>st</sup> Gay Softball World Series from September 5<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017. We congratulate NAGAAA as it celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in our majestic City of Roses with 187 teams participating in this renowned World Series.

There is no better city in the nation for hosting this prestigious sports and cultural competition than Portland. We are proud to be named the most livable city in America with world-class restaurants, music, and art. From the moment our visitors land in Portland International Airport, recognized as America's Best Airport for five consecutive years, our visitors experience the most friendly, beautiful, and livable city in the nation.

We hope all participants and their families take the opportunity to experience the majesty of Portland during your event. Our city is proud to extend this special welcome to each of you and in your honor, we will officially designate the week of September 5<sup>th</sup> through September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 as "Gay Softball World Series Week" in Portland.

Sincerely,

Ted Wheeler  
Mayor