

The Council Chambers
City Hall
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

A Proclamation

Whereas: On June 19, 1865 in Galveston, Texas, Major General Gordon Granger of the United States Army issued General Order No. 3 that read,

“The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor;” and

Whereas: That General Order finally extended the intention of the 1863 Thirteenth Amendment to free all Africans still held in bondage in the states; and

Whereas African-American communities, including in Portsmouth, have celebrated “Juneteenth” or “Emancipation Day” for decades; and

Whereas: In 2013, NH State Senator Martha Fuller Clark sponsored the legislation for New Hampshire to declare Juneteenth as a holiday and picked the bill up off the table in 2017 so our representatives could continue to push for state recognition of Juneteenth which was declared a federal holiday in 2021; and

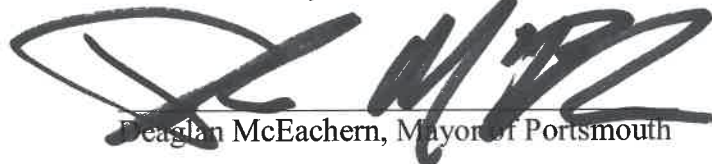
Whereas In Portsmouth, we recognize Juneteenth to remember a critical part of American history and pay tribute to the achievements and deeply-rooted culture of the Black community in our city and rededicate ourselves to our commitment to being a Racial Justice Municipality.

Now, therefore, I, Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, on behalf of the members of the City Council and the citizens of Portsmouth, do hereby proclaim

Juneteenth 2022 in Portsmouth

and urge all members of the community to learn more about the Emancipation Proclamation and the history behind this holiday and to join in celebrations, commemorations and other programs and tributes organized by community members such as the Black Heritage Trail of NH, the Seacoast African American Cultural Center and Black Lives Matter Seacoast.

Given with my hand and the
Seal of the City of Portsmouth,
on this 19th day of June 2022.


Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of Portsmouth

