

**The Council Chambers
City Hall
Portsmouth, New Hampshire**

A Proclamation

Whereas:

The celebration of Black History in America was created by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926 as a week-long commemoration that has become Black History Month. Dr. Woodson chose the second week in February because it contained the birthdays of two major influences in Black life at the time: Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and Frederick Douglass (February 14); and

Whereas:

February is observed throughout the nation as Black History Month with special programs and events; and

Whereas:

The stories of African and African-American residents are woven deep in the fabric that is Portsmouth: since the first African was brought here in 1645, through those who were buried in the African Burying Ground in the 1700s and 1800s; and through to the robust African-American community of today; and

Whereas:

In June 15, 2020, the Portsmouth City Council passed a Resolution which declared Portsmouth to be a Racial Justice Municipality; and

Whereas:

We stand proudly with the Seacoast NAACP, the Seacoast African American Cultural Center, the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire, BIPOC and many others who celebrate the deep history of Africans and African-Americans in Portsmouth; and

Whereas:

We are resolved “to affirm the City's commitment by hosting resources, providing helpful pathways to additional resources, alerting employees and board/commission members to training opportunities, and identifying ways to advance dialogues with stakeholders for racial justice.”

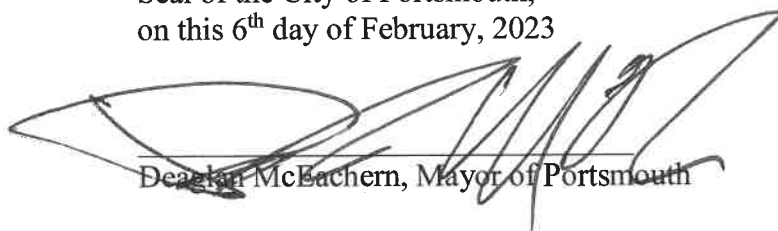
Now, therefore, I, Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, on behalf of the members of the City Council and the citizens of Portsmouth, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2023 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire as

Black History Month

and urge all citizens to improve our record of equity and inclusion and be welcoming of diversity throughout our community.

Given with my hand and the
Seal of the City of Portsmouth,
on this 6th day of February, 2023




Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of Portsmouth