

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

**A Proclamation**

- Whereas:** April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), a time that is set aside to raise awareness and draw attention to the prevalence of sexual violence in our state and across the nation; and
- Whereas:** HAVEN, the Southeastern New Hampshire's confidential support network for anyone impacted by sexual and domestic violence and stalking reminds us that in New Hampshire, sexual assault is a serious crime, where 1 in 4 women and 1 in 20 men have reported experiencing some form of sexual violence in their lifetimes; and
- Whereas:** We know that every 68 seconds someone in America is sexually assaulted, and that every nine minutes, that victim is a child; that 41% of the most recent sexual assaults reported in New Hampshire occurred when the victim was 18 or younger and 83% before they were 25; and one out of every six American women and one in 33 American men have been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in their lifetimes; and
- Whereas:** In the state of New Hampshire, just 13 out of 344 sexual assault offenders – 88% of whom were someone the victim knew or were even part of the victim's household – were convicted or pled guilty, while often scarring their victims for life; and
- Whereas:** According to the report from Research Committee of the Governor's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence in conjunction with the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, New Hampshire lacks a consistent and uniform means of tracking sexual assault cases through the criminal justice system, and supports a public awareness campaign so that citizens recognize the realities of sexual assault in our state and are better prepared to advocate for its victims and for reforms; and
- Whereas:** Here in Portsmouth, our social services agencies such as Haven and Operation Blessing, our hospitals and our Police Department, struggle daily trying to help the victims of sexual assault pick up the pieces; and
- Whereas:** We take this opportunity to remind us all that confidential, local help is available, 24 hours a day, at the HAVEN Violence Prevention and Support Hotline: 603-994-SAFE.

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

**Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

and call upon the residents of Portsmouth to learn more about this problem, the help available to victims and how to be part of the solution to ending this tragedy.

Given with my hand and the  
Seal of the City of Portsmouth,  
on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2023



Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of Portsmouth