

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

A Proclamation

Whereas: Jewish American Heritage Month was created in 2006 and, since 2007, Presidents Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden have all issued proclamations which celebrate Jewish Americans and encourage all Americans to learn more about Jewish heritage and contributions to the United States; and

Whereas: The American Jewish community dates back to 1654 when a group of 23 Jews fleeing persecution at the hands of the Portuguese Inquisition found refuge in New Amsterdam (now New York); and

Whereas: According to local history, the City's first Jewish family – Abraham and Rachel Isaac – settled in Portsmouth around 1780 after arriving in America from Prussia; and

Whereas: One of the oldest continuing Jewish congregations in NH was founded in Portsmouth in 1905, after the Russian-Jewish community had welcomed Russian diplomats attending the Portsmouth Peace Treaty negotiations despite the pogroms at home that had driven their families to flee to the US; and

Whereas: During the City's 400th anniversary, Portsmouth is reaffirming the motto, "The City of the Open Door," first adopted in 1923 at a time of social unrest and discriminatory nationalist movements including the rise of the KKK, but a time the community thought it important to proclaim Portsmouth to be a place where all were welcome; and

Whereas: Today, in the face of similar nationalist threats, the City Council more than once has made formal statements opposing hate and the community has declared together that "Love Blooms Here;" and

Whereas: A recent survey found that 89% of Jewish respondents believe antisemitism is a problem in the U.S., and four in ten American Jews reported changing their behavior out of fear of antisemitism

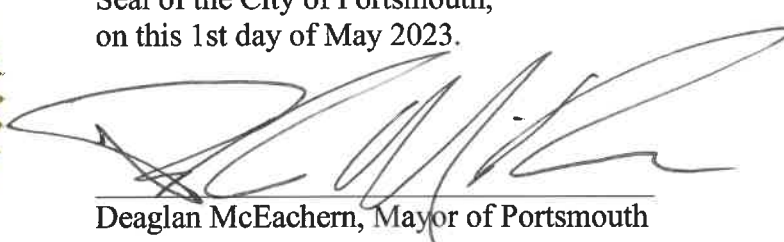
Now, therefore, I, Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, on behalf of the members of the City Council and the citizens of Portsmouth, do hereby proclaim May 2023

Jewish American Heritage Month

And call upon our community to reaffirm our conviction that the strength of a society can be measured by how we protect our minority populations and celebrate their contributions. I encourage all citizens and residents to learn more about the heritage and contributions of Jewish Americans and to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies.



Given with my hand and the
Seal of the City of Portsmouth,
on this 1st day of May 2023.


Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of Portsmouth