

The Council Chambers
City Hall
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

A Proclamation

- Whereas:** The tragic death of Jessica Smith in 1999 from ice blowing off a tractor trailer and then a box truck in front of her prompted the passage of legislation in New Hampshire in 2002 known as Jessica's Law that requires vehicle operators to clear ice and snow off the tops of their vehicles before driving; and
- Whereas:** Drivers who violate the law face fines of \$250 to \$500 for a first offense and \$500 to \$1,000 for subsequent offenses; and
- Whereas:** The law is based on the legal concept of negligence which generally consists of actions, but can also consist of omissions when there is some duty to act; and
- Whereas:** We see snow-covered cars almost daily, despite the law and the Police Department reminds us that this impedes visibility for the safe operation of vehicles, putting other drivers and pedestrians at additional risk; and
- Whereas:** Local advocates remind us that the responsibility to comply with and spread awareness of the law lies with Portsmouth residents and surrounding communities, and that not taking the time to clear your car can cause irreparable damage to others' lives.

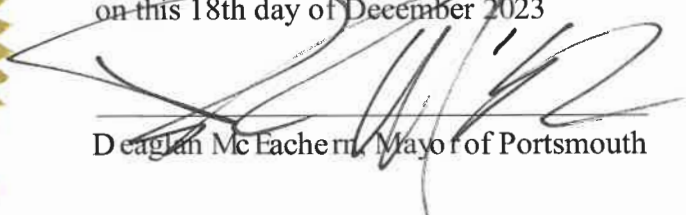
Now, therefore, I, Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, on behalf of the members of the City Council and citizens of Portsmouth, do hereby join in proclaiming the next 30 days for

Jessica's Law Awareness in Portsmouth

and call upon our fellow citizens to take the extra minute to clear snow and ice from their cars for the protection of us all.



Given with my hand and the
Seal of the City of Portsmouth,
on this 18th day of December 2023


Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of Portsmouth