

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

A Proclamation

Whereas: Dr. Carter G. Woodson created the week-long commemoration in 1926 that has become Black History Month, selecting 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 now observed throughout the nation as Black History Month with special programs and events; and

Whereas: In Portsmouth, the stories of African and African-American residents are woven deep in the fabric of our City. From 1645 when the first enslaved Africans were brought here, to the experiences of the members of our community who were buried in the African Burying Ground in the 1700s and 1800s; to the celebration of the vibrant communities of today; and

Whereas: In 2020, the Portsmouth City Council passed a Resolution which declared Portsmouth to be a Racial Justice Municipality and then upheld that resolve when challenged in 2023 by proclaiming that hate has no place in our City; and

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

Whereas: We are resolved to affirm the City's commitment by hosting events, providing helpful pathways to additional resources, alerting employees and board and 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 2024 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire as

Black History Month

and urge all citizens to champion our commitment to racial equity and inclusion and to sustain the open door of diversity throughout our community.



Given with my hand and the
Seal of the City of Portsmouth,
on this 5th day of February 2024

Handwritten signature of Deaglan McEachern.
Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of Portsmouth