

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

A Proclamation

Whereas: Portsmouth has a particularly proud and distinctive record of women in leadership positions. Mary Carey Dondero began this legacy when she was elected as Portsmouth's first female City Councilor in 1940 and was then subsequently elected as our first female Mayor in 1945. Her daughter, Eileen Dondero Foley, followed her as Mayor in 1968. Mayor Foley holds the record as the longest-serving Mayor in Portsmouth history, serving our community for eight distinguished terms between the years of 1968 and 1997. Mayor Foley was succeeded in this esteemed position by Mayor Mary McEachern Keenan and Mayor Evelyn Sirrell; and

Whereas: As of Inauguration Day 2026, Portsmouth is ably and effectively served by a female majority Council with Assistant Mayor JoAnna Kelley and City Councilors Kate Cook, Beth Moreau, Michelle Flynn and Annie Hopkins. These distinguished public servants are entrusted by the residents of Portsmouth to work tirelessly for all of us while the City is skillfully led by our first woman City Manager Karen Conard. Women continue to inspire us with their leadership as the chairs and members of City Boards and Commissions and as professional staff across City departments; and

Whereas: Every year since 1987, the month of March is designated "Women's History Month" to celebrate the contributions women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made to the growth and strength of the United States, and to recognize the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history, including serving as leaders at the forefront of the suffrage, abolitionist, emancipation, labor, and civil rights movements; and

Whereas: We are resolved to affirm the City's Mission "to foster a diverse, fiscally sound and harmonious community which offers a full range of housing, business, cultural and recreational opportunities for *all* of its residents, businesses and visitors."

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 March 2026 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire as

Women's History Month

and urge all citizens to learn about and celebrate the essential contributions of women to the past, present, and future of Portsmouth.



Given with my hand and the
Seal of the City of Portsmouth,
on this 16th day of March, 2026

Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of Portsmouth

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deaglan McEachern", is written over the printed name and extends across the text.