

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

A Proclamation

Whereas: In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson created the week-long commemoration 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, this year commemorating a century of celebrations; and

Whereas: As we are reminded by vibrant celebrations in Portsmouth of Dr. Martin Luther King Day, Juneteenth, and the New England BIPOC Festival, the stories of African and African-American residents are woven deep in the fabric of our City. Black citizens throughout our history remind us of the shadows of enslaved residents as early as 1645 and the 1779 Petition for Freedom etched in the African Burying Ground Memorial. They remind us as well of the civic contributions of our early free Black residents and their descendants and successors; and

Whereas: In 2020, the Portsmouth City Council passed a Resolution which declared Portsmouth to be a Racial Justice Municipality. We continue to 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 2026 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire as

Black History Month

and urge all citizens to champion – now more than ever – 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 2nd day of February, 2026.


Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of Portsmouth