

The Council Chambers
City Hall
Portsmouth, New Hampshire
A Proclamation

- Whereas:** On October 23, 1956, hundreds of thousands of Hungarians from all walks of life joined university students in a peaceful call for democracy and an end to the oppressive, Soviet-dominated Hungarian Communist government; and
- Whereas:** Students and workers, men, women, and children rose up against impossible odds and risked their lives for freedom, and their revolutionary government released political prisoners, including major church leaders; took steps toward a multiparty democracy; called for the withdrawal of all Soviet troops; announced Hungary's withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact; and asked the United Nations to help establish Hungarian neutrality; and
- Whereas:** The Soviet Union answered with a massive military intervention, and Hungarian Freedom Fighters resisted for 19 days; and
- Whereas:** Prime Minister Imre Nagy sought asylum in the Yugoslav Embassy in Budapest, was promised safe passage to leave, and was instead seized by Soviet security forces, taken to Romania, and later executed; and
- Whereas:** Thousands of Hungarians were arrested, tortured, and executed by the post-1956 Hungarian government, and more than 200,000 Hungarians, about 2 percent of the population, fled their country; and
- Whereas:** More than 47,000 of those refugees settled in the United States, where they have contributed to the country's intellectual and economic strength and to its cultural diversity; and
- Whereas:** The 1956 uprising confirmed the strength of popular support for democratic principles and the right of the Hungarian people to determine their own national destiny, and it contributed significantly to the collapse of Communism across Central and Eastern Europe in 1989, including in Hungary.

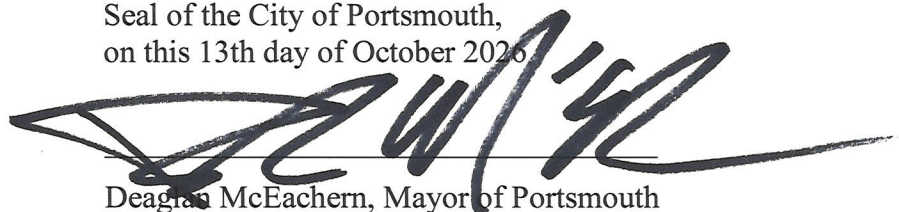
Now, therefore, I, Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, on behalf of the members of the City Council and the citizens of Portsmouth, do hereby proclaim October 23, 2026, as

Hungarian Freedom and Democracy Day

in Portsmouth and commend the people of Hungary as they mark the 70th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. Portsmouth will light Memorial Bridge red, white, and green, the colors of the Hungarian flag, honoring those lives lost and displaced, and we encourage all residents to learn about the revolution, its impacts, and to remember that freedom is not free.



Given with my hand and the
Seal of the City of Portsmouth,
on this 13th day of October 2026


Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of Portsmouth

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