

The Council Chambers
City Hall
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

A Proclamation

- Whereas:** April was declared National Sexual Assault Awareness Month in 2001 because sexual assault is prevalent in every community and affects all people regardless of age, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality; and
- Whereas:** Nearly 1 in 5 women in America experiences a rape or attempted rape, and nearly 44 percent of women and about 25 percent of all men experience some form of sexual violence in their lifetime; and
- Whereas:** Sexual assault can upend the lives of victims and their families, and can lead to depression, anxiety, PTSD, and other physical and emotional wounds; and
- Whereas:** The Violence Against Women Act became federal law in 1994 and has been reauthorized in 2000, 2005, 2013 and 2022 which strengthened rape prevention education, crisis center support, training to law enforcement and frontline workers, and provided additional resources to victims; and
- Whereas:** The City of Portsmouth has employed a Victim Witness Advocate since 1999 with funding from the Violence Against Women Act to work with the Portsmouth Police Department to support victims of sexual assault; and
- Whereas:** The City works with Haven, one of twelve crisis centers across the state to provide 24/7 support to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, sexual harassment, and stalking; and
- Whereas:** The City reminds everyone that confidential, local help is available, 24 hours a day, at the HAVEN Violence Prevention and Support Hotline: 603-994-SAFE; and
- Whereas:** The City of Portsmouth stands with all New Hampshire Prosecutors as sentries on the front lines, advocating on behalf of victims of sexual assault; and

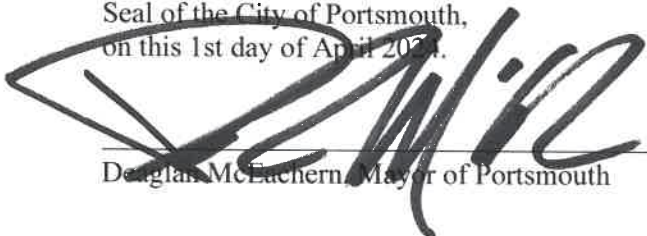
Now, therefore, I, Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, on behalf of the members of the City Council and citizens of Portsmouth, do hereby proclaim April 2024 in Portsmouth as

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

and call on our citizens to come together to reaffirm our commitment to ending sexual assault and supporting survivors.



Given with my hand and the
Seal of the City of Portsmouth,
on this 1st day of April 2024.


Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of Portsmouth