

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

A Proclamation

- Whereas:** The idea of an organization affirming people-to-people connections among Americans and citizens from other nations around the world was initiated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and formalized at the White House Conference on Citizen Diplomacy just eleven years after the end of World War II; and
- Whereas:** That organization, Sister Cities International, is now composed of 400 member cities, counties and states and relationships with 1,800 communities in 138 countries on six continents; and
- Whereas:** In the wake of the pandemic, we revived the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Sister Cities to sustain our Sister and Friendship City relationships and the educational, economic, cultural, municipal and humanitarian assistance exchange programs that are mutually beneficial to us all; and
- Whereas:** Portsmouth counts nine municipalities as our Sister or Friendship Cities, starting in 1985 with Nichinan, Japan, birthplace of Baron Jutaro Komura who led the Japanese delegation to Portsmouth in 1905 to negotiate an end to the Russo-Japanese War, and the relationship now celebrates the role of local people who used citizen diplomacy to create an atmosphere for peace that resulted in the historic Portsmouth Peace Treaty; and
- Whereas:** Delegations from both Nichinan and our newest Friendship City, Santarcangelo di Romagna in Italy – the birthplace of members of dozens of Portsmouth families who emigrated from there to our North End – will be visiting Portsmouth over the next two weeks; and
- Whereas:** Sister Cities International Day is a fitting occasion to commemorate the impact that this organization and everyone supporting the program and our friendships in Japan, Italy, Estonia, Morocco, Ghana, Russia, Hungary, Northern Ireland and England have made in building bridges across nations, cities and communities around the globe in order to create and sustain world peace; and
- Whereas:** October 14 -- President Eisenhower's birthday -- is the day Sister Cities International has chosen to celebrate the birthday of the modern Sister Cities program.

Now therefore I, Deaglan McEachern Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, on behalf of the City Council and the citizens of Portsmouth do hereby proclaim October 14, 2024 as

Sister Cities International Day in the City of Portsmouth

And call upon the community to come together to celebrate our historic record of citizen diplomacy and our continued commitment to supporting a more peaceful and prosperous future through continued people-to-people exchanges.



Given with my hand and the
Seal of the City of Portsmouth
on this 7th day of October 2024.


Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of Portsmouth