

The Council Chambers
City Hall
Portsmouth, New Hampshire
A Proclamation

- Whereas:** January was declared National Stalking Awareness Month in 2011 because of the continuing prevalence of stalking in every community and its effect on all people regardless of age, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality; and
- Whereas:** One in every three women and one in every six men are victims of stalking in their lifetimes; and
- Whereas:** Stalking has long-lasting negative effects that can upend the lives of victims and their families, forcing them to make tough decisions including changing jobs, relocating homes or even hiding their addresses through state-offered programs to protect themselves and their families; and
- Whereas:** In 2024, President Biden called on all Americans to speak out against stalking and to support the efforts of advocates, courts, service providers and law enforcement to help those who are targeted and send the message to perpetrators that these crimes will not go unpunished; and
- Whereas:** Here in Portsmouth, since 2015 when A Safe Place and Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS) officially merged as the single nonprofit HAVEN, that organization has provided support services and preventative education to those impacted by stalking, domestic violence, and sexual violence; 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 and the City's Legal Department Prosecutors to support victims of 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 other New Hampshire Prosecutors and Law Enforcement as sentries on the front lines, advocating on behalf of victims of stalking.

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 January 2025 in Portsmouth as

Stalking Awareness Month

And call on our citizens to come together to reaffirm our commitment to ending stalking and supporting survivors.

