

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

A Proclamation

- Whereas:** Since 1987 the country has observed October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month because of the continuing prevalence of domestic violence in every community and its affect 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 four men are victims of domestic violence in their lifetimes and millions of Americans live in daily, silent fear within their own homes; and
- Whereas:** Domestic violence has long-lasting negative effects that impact every person within a home, particularly children's who suffer damage to their emotional well-being, their social development and their academic performance; and
- Whereas:** Here in Portsmouth, since 2015 when A Safe Place and Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS) officially merged as a single nonprofit, that organization HAVEN has provided support services and prevention education to those impacted by domestic 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 to support domestic violence victims under RSA 173-B New Hampshire's Protection of Persons from Domestic Violence statute; and
- Whereas:** In 2023 the City incorporated the Victim Witness Advocate into the City's Legal Department to support domestic violence victims and to help identify and prosecute domestic violence offenders together with our police department, schools and health care providers; 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 domestic violence.

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 October 2024 in Portsmouth as

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

And call on our citizens to come together to reaffirm our commitment to ending domestic violence and supporting its survivors.



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

Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of Portsmouth