

**TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH, RI
RESOLUTION # 2019-08-13 B**

EARTH DAY 2020 CELEBRATION

WHEREAS, all species play a unique role in the complex web of life and contribute to the ecosystem services on which all life on Earth depends, and hence, protecting our species is crucial to the survival of this planet and its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, wild animal populations have declined on average by more than half and the Earth is facing an era of mass extinction; and

WHEREAS, the loss of species is for the most part a result of human activity, including degradation of ecosystems, deforestation, pollution, and climate change; and

WHEREAS, by 2050, between 60-70% of all people will live in cities and species provide important services to city dwellers, such as generating oxygen and purifying the air, controlling animals considered pests or that spread disease, pollinating plants and crops, providing recreation opportunities and well-being, etc.; and

WHEREAS, many plants, wild animals, and pollinators live in urbanized landscapes, and cities thereby have a responsibility to examine the ecological impacts of expanding urban areas and how to protect biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, it is understood that sustainability will only be achieved by meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations; and

WHEREAS, it is more important than ever to cooperate locally and internationally to defend the environmental progress that has been heretofore gained; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to expand and diversify the global environmental movement to achieve maximum progress; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day is an annual reminder of the constant need for environmental activism, stewardship commitments and sustainability efforts; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day was founded in 1970 and celebrated by over 190 countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, Clean Ocean Access commits to taking on a leadership role to make this a success; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Portsmouth Town Council declares the week of April 18, 2019 to April 25, 2019 a week-long celebration of the 50th Birthday of Earth Day and supports an island-wide effort to share in the celebration of environmental protection and conservation of natural resources.

AND, requests that the administration put forth effort to engage the entire community of Portsmouth and neighboring communities of Newport and Middletown to join the effort to create the week-long celebration of the 50th Birthday of Earth Day.

LET IT BE KNOWN, this resolution was passed and adopted by the Portsmouth Town Council on 13th day of August 2019.

Kevin Aguiar, President
Portsmouth Town Council

ATTEST: _____
Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk