

**ORDINANCE NO. 02024.43**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMPE, ARIZONA, AMENDING CHAPTER 22, TEMPE CITY CODE, RELATING TO OFFENSES - MISCELLANEOUS BY AMENDING ARTICLE I - GENERAL, BY ADDING SECTION 22-18 PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION OF BRASS KNUCKLES.**

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WHEREAS, the Tempe City Council seeks to address all behaviors that threaten the peace, health, safety or welfare of members of the general public; and

WHEREAS, brass knuckles, or any device made of metal, plastic, or any hard material designed to fit over and around the knuckles of the human hand to enhance the power of a punch, are used mainly, if not solely, for aggressive fighting with the intent to cause injury; and

WHEREAS, the prevention of violence through the prohibition of sale, gift, or possession by minors is in the best interest of the residents of the City of Tempe and aimed at reducing and preventing teen violence.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMPE, ARIZONA, as follows:

**Section 1.** That Chapter 22, Article 1, Section 22-18 of the Tempe City Code is hereby added to read as follows:

SEC. 22-18. BRASS KNUCKLES.

- (A) IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL TO KNOWINGLY POSSESS BRASS KNUCKLES WHILE ON PUBLIC PROPERTY, PROPERTY THAT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC OR IN A PLACE OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION.
- (B) IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON TO SELL, BARTER, LEND, GIVE AWAY, KNOWINGLY DELIVER TO OR TO HAVE IN THEIR POSSESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF SELLING, BARTERING, LENDING, GIVING AWAY, OR KNOWINGLY DELIVERING TO OR TO DISPLAY FOR SALE OR GIVING AWAY ANY BRASS KNUCKLES TO A MINOR.
- (C) VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION IS A CLASS 1 MISDEMEANOR.
- (D) THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS SHALL APPLY TO SUBSECTIONS (A), (B), AND (C).
  - (1) *BRASS KNUCKLES* MEANS ANY DEVICE MADE OF METAL, PLASTIC, WOOD, BONE, COMPOSITE OR ANY HARD MATERIAL DESIGNED TO FIT OVER AND/OR AROUND ONE OR MORE OF THE KNUCKLES OR FINGERS OF THE

HUMAN HAND TO ENHANCE THE POWER, DAMAGE, IMPACT, OR INJURY OF A PUNCH, BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE GLOVES WORN FOR PROTECTION WHILE RIDING A MOTORCYCLE OR WORN BY LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE COURSE OF DUTY.

(2) MINOR MEANS ANY PERSON UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE.

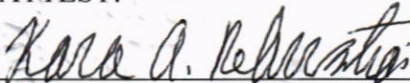
Section 2. Pursuant to the Tempe City Charter, Section 2.12, ordinances are effective thirty (30) days after adoption or at any later date specified therein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMPE, ARIZONA, this 5th day of September, 2024.



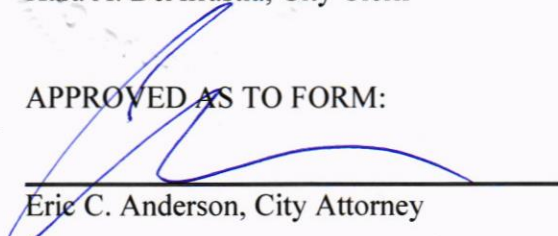
\_\_\_\_\_  
Corey D. Woods, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Kara A. DeArrastia, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



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Eric C. Anderson, City Attorney