

QUANG NGUYEN
1700 WEST WASHINGTON, SUITE H
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007-2844
CAPITOL PHONE: (602) 926-3258
TOLL FREE: 1-800-352-8404
qnguyen@azleg.gov



COMMITTEES:
JUDICIARY
APPROPRIATIONS
PUBLIC SAFETY & LAW ENFORCEMENT

DISTRICT 1

Arizona House of Representatives
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

September 3, 2025

Via Email and U.S. Mail

Councilcommunicator@tempe.gov

Hon. Corey D. Woods and Tempe City Council Members

City of Tempe

31 E 5th St

Tempe, AZ 85281

Re: Ordinance O2024.43

Dear Mayor Wood and Members of the Tempe City Council,

I am writing to express concerns regarding the recently adopted Ordinance No. 02024.43, which prohibits the possession of brass knuckles and similar devices on public property and restricts their sale to minors. I appreciate the City's commitment to promoting public safety and reducing violence, but the Ordinance, as currently written, may infringe upon important constitutional rights and unintentionally impose restrictions on certain individuals contrary to state law.

The Ordinance's broad definition of "brass knuckles" as 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" risks criminalizing commonly used self-defense tools that do not inherently pose an aggressive threat but serve a protective purpose. This definition raises concerns under Arizonans' constitutional rights to self-defense.

The Ordinance could be interpreted to prohibit knives that incorporate brass knuckles as part of their design. Some individuals legally carry such knives for legitimate self-defense or utility purposes, for example, women who wear plastic self-defense rings for personal safety. Additionally, many commonly-available pocket knives feature a "retention ring" which would fall within the Ordinance's definition of "brass knuckles." Because a blanket ban may infringe upon the lawful possession of tools intended for personal protection and utility, the Ordinance potentially violates A.R.S. § 13-3120.

I respectfully urge the City Council to reconsider the ordinance to ensure it does not inadvertently criminalize lawful self-defense tools or infringe on constitutional protections. It is critical that public safety measures balance the prevention of violence with the protection of individual rights.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I welcome any opportunity to discuss these concerns further and collaborate on solutions that protect all members of our community while respecting constitutional rights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Quang Nguyen".
Representative Quang Nguyen