



**\*\*\*ITEM REVISED (SEE ATTACHED MEMO AND ATTACHMENT)\*\*\* Proposed Safe Medical Care in City Parks Ordinance (Ordinance G-7467) - Citywide**

Request City Council approval of proposed changes to the City Code adding new Section 23-45 relating to safe medical care in City parks.

**Summary**

The mission of the Parks and Recreation Department (Parks) is to build healthy communities through parks, programs and partnerships, and make Phoenix a better place to live, visit, and play. The City has one of the largest parks systems in the nation that provides residents and visitors more than 41,000 acres of desert parks and mountain preserves that have more than 200 miles of trails; 189 parks; and much more. Parks provide open space and opportunities for recreation and the Department remains steadfast in its commitment to enhance park safety and continues to use a variety of methods to address and reduce negative behaviors and security concerns.

**Proposed Ordinance**

The proposed Ordinance G-7467 (**Attachment A**) would add a new Sec. 23-45, Safe Medical Care in Parks. This ordinance prohibits events designed to provide medical treatment or care to the public, the sale or exchange of syringes and needles, and the sale or distribution of harm reduction kits in City parks and mountain preserves, as defined by Chapter 24 of the Phoenix City Code. The new ordinance does not apply to first responders, family members administering aid to another family member, or a person rendering aid to another person experiencing an emergency, including an emergency that requires the administering of Naloxone. The prohibition does not apply to the distribution of Naloxone in either a non-emergency or emergency situation.

**Responsible Department**

This item is submitted by Deputy City Manager David Mathews and the Parks and Recreation Department.



## City of Phoenix

**To:** David Mathews  
Deputy City Manager

**Date:** December 16, 2025

**From:** Cynthia Aguilar  
Parks and Recreation Director

**Subject:** REQUEST TO REVISE ITEM 46, PROPOSED SAFE MEDICAL CARE IN CITY PARKS ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE G-7467) – CITYWIDE FROM THE DECEMBER 17, 2025, FORMAL AGENDA

FOR REVISION: The Parks and Recreation Department requests approval to revise Item 46, ORDINANCE G-7467, PROPOSED SAFE MEDICAL CARE IN CITY PARKS ORDINANCE, from the December 17, 2025, formal agenda.

Revise title of the item from: "Proposed Safe Medical Care in City Parks Ordinance (Ordinance G-7467) – Citywide" to "Proposed Safe Medical Treatment in City Parks Ordinance (Ordinance G-7467) – Citywide. This change was made to replace "medical care" with "medical treatment."

Further clarify that events or activities designed to provide medical treatment to the public that are sponsored or otherwise authorized by the City are authorized by approval through established City processes.

Add the following definition of medical treatment. "For purposes of this section, medical treatment is defined as any act aimed at diagnosis, cure or treatment of disease, injury, illness or wound, and does not include providing information, information sharing, providing connection to services, or transportation to a medical facility."

Further clarify that this section of the code does not apply to a person rendering aid to another person experiencing an emergency.

Approved:   
David Mathews  
Deputy City Manager

12/16/25  
Date

Attachment:

Revised Proposed Ordinance G-7467 An Ordinance Amending Phoenix City Code Chapter 24 Parks and Recreation to Add New Section Relating to Safe Medical Treatment

**ATTACHMENT A - Revised**

**THIS IS A DRAFT COPY ONLY AND IS NOT THE OFFICIAL COPY OF THE  
FINAL, ADOPTED ORDINANCE**

ORDINANCE G-7467

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PHOENIX CITY CODE  
CHAPTER 24 PARKS AND RECREATION TO ADD NEW  
SECTION RELATING TO SAFE MEDICAL TREATMENT.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHOENIX as  
follows:

SECTION 1. Phoenix City Code, Chapter 24, is amended as follows:

SEC. 24-45 SAFE MEDICAL TREATMENT IN PARKS

- A. THIS SECTION APPLIES TO PARKS AS DEFINED IN PHOENIX CITY CODE CHAPTER 24.
- B. THE FOLLOWING ARE PROHIBITED:
  - 1. FOR ANY PERSON, GROUP OR ORGANIZATION TO INVITE, PROMOTE, ADVERTISE, SPONSOR, ORGANIZE, OR CONDUCT AN EVENT OR ACTIVITY DESIGNED TO PROVIDE MEDICAL TREATMENT TO THE PUBLIC IN A PARK, UNLESS SUCH EVENT OR ACTIVITY IS SPONSORED BY OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY THE CITY BY APPROVAL THROUGH ESTABLISHED CITY PROCESSES. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, MEDICAL TREATMENT IS DEFINED AS ANY ACT AIMED AT DIAGNOSIS, CURE OR TREATMENT OF DISEASE, INJURY, ILLNESS, OR WOUND, AND DOES NOT INCLUDE PROVIDING INFORMATION, INFORMATION SHARING, PROVIDING CONNECTION TO SERVICES, OR TRANSPORTATION TO A MEDICAL FACILITY.
  - 2. FOR ANY PERSON, GROUP OR ORGANIZATION TO INVITE, PROMOTE, ADVERTISE, SPONSOR, ORGANIZE OR CONDUCT THE SALE OR EXCHANGE OF SYRINGES AND NEEDLES OR ORGANIZE OR CONDUCT A NEEDLE EXCHANGE OR A NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

3. FOR ANY PERSON, GROUP OR ORGANIZATION TO INVITE, PROMOTE, ADVERTISE, SPONSOR, ORGANIZE OR CONDUCT THE SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF HARM REDUCTION KITS, INCLUDING ANY EVENT ORGANIZED PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 36-798.51. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, A "HARM REDUCTION KIT" IS ANY COLLECTION OF PARAPHERNALIA USED TO SAVE THE LIFE OR PROTECT THE HEALTH OF A PERSON OR THE COMMUNITY FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF DRUG USE. THIS COLLECTION MAY CONTAIN, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, STERILE SYRINGES, ALCOHOL CLEANING WIPES, OR TESTING KITS.

C. EXCEPTIONS. THIS SECTION OF THE CODE DOES NOT APPLY TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. FIRST RESPONDERS, INCLUDING FIREFIGHTER, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, PARAMEDIC, EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN, OR OTHER INDIVIDUAL (INCLUDING AN EMPLOYEE OF A LEGALLY ORGANIZED AND RECOGNIZED VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION, WHETHER COMPENSATED OR NOT), WHO, IN THE COURSE OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL DUTIES, RESPONDS TO FIRE, MEDICAL, HAZARDOUS MATERIAL, OR OTHER SIMILAR EMERGENCIES.
2. FAMILY MEMBERS ADMINISTERING AID TO ANOTHER FAMILY MEMBER.
3. A PERSON RENDERING AID TO ANOTHER PERSON EXPERIENCING AN EMERGENCY, INCLUDING AN EMERGENCY THAT REQUIRES THE ADMINISTERING OF NALOXONE.
4. THE DISTRIBUTION OF NALOXONE IN NON-EMERGENCY OR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

D. VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION IS A CLASS 1 MISDEMEANOR.

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PASSED by the City Council of the City of Phoenix this 17th day of

December 2025.

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MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Denise Archibald, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Julie M. Kriegh, City Attorney

By: Jennifer Vega DSC  
Jennifer Vega

REVIEWED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ed Zuercher, City Manager

DSC:phs:(LF25-2602);12/17/25:4919-8421-0048

## ATTACHMENT A

### ORDINANCE G-

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PHOENIX CITY CODE  
CHAPTER 24 PARKS AND RECREATION TO ADD NEW  
SECTION RELATING TO SAFE MEDICAL CARE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHOENIX as  
follows:

SECTION 1. Phoenix City Code, Chapter 24, is amended as follows:

#### SEC. 24-45 SAFE MEDICAL CARE IN PARKS

- A. THIS SECTION APPLIES TO PARKS AS DEFINED IN PHOENIX CITY CODE CHAPTER 24.
- B. THE FOLLOWING ARE PROHIBITED:
  1. FOR ANY PERSON, GROUP OR ORGANIZATION TO INVITE, PROMOTE, ADVERTISE, SPONSOR, ORGANIZE, OR CONDUCT AN EVENT DESIGNED TO PROVIDE MEDICAL TREATMENT OR CARE TO THE PUBLIC, UNLESS SUCH ACTIVITY IS SPONSORED BY OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY THE CITY.
  2. FOR ANY PERSON, GROUP OR ORGANIZATION TO INVITE, PROMOTE, ADVERTISE, SPONSOR, ORGANIZE OR CONDUCT THE SALE OR EXCHANGE OF SYRINGES AND NEEDLES OR ORGANIZE OR CONDUCT A NEEDLE EXCHANGE OR A NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

3. FOR ANY PERSON, GROUP OR ORGANIZATION TO INVITE, PROMOTE, ADVERTISE, SPONSOR, ORGANIZE OR CONDUCT THE SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF HARM REDUCTION KITS, INCLUDING ANY EVENT ORGANIZED PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 36-798.51. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, A "HARM REDUCTION KIT" IS ANY COLLECTION OF PARAPHERNALIA USED TO SAVE THE LIFE OR PROTECT THE HEALTH OF A PERSON OR THE COMMUNITY FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF DRUG USE. THIS COLLECTION MAY CONTAIN, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, STERILE SYRINGES, ALCOHOL CLEANING WIPES, OR TESTING KITS.

C. EXCEPTIONS. THIS SECTION OF THE CODE DOES NOT APPLY TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. FIRST RESPONDERS, INCLUDING FIREFIGHTER, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, PARAMEDIC, EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN, OR OTHER INDIVIDUAL (INCLUDING AN EMPLOYEE OF A LEGALLY ORGANIZED AND RECOGNIZED VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION, WHETHER COMPENSATED OR NOT), WHO, IN THE COURSE OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL DUTIES, RESPONDS TO FIRE, MEDICAL, HAZARDOUS MATERIAL, OR OTHER SIMILAR EMERGENCIES.
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4. THE DISTRIBUTION OF NALOXONE IN NON-EMERGENCY OR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

D. VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION IS A CLASS 1 MISDEMEANOR.

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PASSED by the City Council of the City of Phoenix this 17th day of  
December 2025.

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MAYOR  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Denise Archibald, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Julie M. Kriegh, City Attorney

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
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REVIEWED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ed Zuercher, City Manager

DSC:phs:(LF25-2602);12/17/25:4919-8421-0048