

ORDINANCE NO.

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 1- 2026

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JANUARY 21, 2026

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AN ORDINANCE

Amending the 2026 Grant Fund budget to accept Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) in grant funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies through Johns Hopkins University for the Love Your Block Grant.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN:

SECTION ONE: That City Council authorizes a supplemental revenue appropriation of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to:

005-00-0000-0000-45240-	Other Grants & Misc	\$50,000.00
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SECTION TWO: That City Council authorizes a supplemental expenditure appropriation of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) as follows:

005-01-0201-0087-50004-	Temporary Wages	\$46,175.00
005-01-0201-0087-50012-	FICA	\$3,825.00
TOTAL		\$50,000.00

SECTION THREE: That this Ordinance will take effect ten (10) days after final passage.

SECTION FOUR: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

- What department or bureau is this bill originating from?

The bill originates from the Mayor's Office of Civic Innovation, specifically through the Love Your Block Program. This initiative is part of a larger community engagement and revitalization effort supported by grant funds, aimed at addressing issues of blight and neighborhood revitalization.

- Summary and facts of the bill.

This ordinance seeks to appropriate the second-round appropriation of \$50,000 from Resolution No. 30844, R68-2024 and an additional \$60,000 in new funding from the Love Your Block Grant, which was awarded by Bloomberg Philanthropies through Johns Hopkins University. The funds will be directed toward neighborhood improvement projects, particularly focused on supporting small-scale revitalization efforts, such as minor home repairs, clean-ups, and public space beautification projects. These efforts are designed to increase community engagement, improve neighborhood stability, and improve neighborhood gathering spaces. Additionally, the funds will support a part-time Fellow to manage the program.

- Purpose of the bill.

The bill aims to allocate resources for Love Your Block projects that will:

- Engage residents in neighborhood improvement through volunteer activities.
- Mitigate blight through minor repairs, trash collection, and beautification.
- Foster a sense of community pride and ownership by supporting residents' ability to directly impact their neighborhoods.

- a. What are the benefits of doing this?

This bill will enhance neighborhood conditions, reduce blight, increase safety, and encourage residents to take pride in and responsibility for their communities. These projects can lead to long-term positive impacts by fostering neighborhood stability and increasing community cohesion.

- b. How does this bill relate to the City's vision/mission/priorities?

This bill supports the city's mission to create a vibrant and resilient community by supporting community-led improvement efforts and promoting equity and well-being. It aligns with the city's priority of improving quality of life and strengthening community engagement.

- Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:

- a. Cost (initial and ongoing)

There is no General Fund match requirement for this program. The revenue and associated expenses are allocated to the Grant Fund. This is the second of two revenue distributions of \$50,000. The full grant award of \$100,000 was approved by Resolution No. 30844, R68-2024 which was approved unanimously by council on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

An additional \$60,000 is being awarded to the City in December 2025 for program staffing support.

- b. Benefits (initial and ongoing)

Initial Benefits: Immediate improvements to neighborhood conditions, including reduction of blight and increased property appeal.

Ongoing Benefits: Enhanced community pride, increased resident engagement, and potentially higher property values and neighborhood stability due to sustained community investment and participation.

- Funding Sources – Please include the following in your explanation:

- a. If transferring funds, please make sure to give specific account names and numbers. If appropriating funds from a grant, please list the agency awarding the grant.

The second appropriation of \$50,000, fully funded by the Love Your Block grant, with no additional or ongoing city funding required should be:

Revenue:

005-00-0000-0000-45240- Other Grants & Misc	\$50,000.00
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Expense:

005-01-0201-0087-50004- Temp Wages	\$30,013.75
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005-01-0201-0087-50012- FICA	\$2,486.25
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005-01-0201-0087-50026- Printing	\$500.00
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005-01-0201-0087-50046- Other Contracted Services	\$2,000.00
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005-01-0201-0087-50068- Operating Materials & Supplies	\$15,000.00
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The new \$60,000 allocation is limited by the award to be used only to fund the “Love Your Block” staffing support and will be:

Revenue:

005-00-0000-0000-45240- Other Grants & Misc	\$60,000.00
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Expense:

005-01-0201-0087-50004- Temp Wages	\$55,410.00
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005-01-0201-0087-50012- FICA

\$4,590.00

- Priority status – Are there deadlines to be aware of?

The revenue was received by the City in November & December of 2025 and should be appropriated in the budget in a timely manner.

- Why should Council unanimously support this bill?

Council should unanimously support this ordinance as it provides an immediate opportunity to increase neighborhood safety and appeal, and support community-led projects. By approving this appropriation, the city can foster a healthier and more resilient community, empower residents, and promote long-term neighborhood stability—all of which align with the city’s vision and strategic priorities.