

ORDINANCE NO.

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 113 2024

NOVEMBER 20, 2024

AN ORDINANCE

Amending the 2024 Grant Fund budget to accept Fifty-Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) 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 page 469 of the Grant Fund budget be amended by appropriating the \$50,000 received from the Love Your Block Grant as follows:

005-01-5201-0006-04	Temporary Wages	\$29,600.00
005-01-5201-0006-46	Other Contract Services	\$20,000.00
005-01-5201-0006-34	Training & Prof. Develop	\$400.00
	TOTAL	\$50,000.00

SECTION TWO: That City Council authorizes a supplemental appropriation of Fifty-Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to the below revenue account:

005-2400	Deferred Revenue	\$50,000.00
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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SECTION FOUR: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.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? Where did the initiative for the bill originate?

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 \$50,000 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 reduce blight. Additionally, the funds will support a part-time Fellow to manage the program.

- Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:
 - a. What does the bill do? What are the specific goals or tasks the bill seeks to accomplish?

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.

- b. 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.

- c. 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 addressing blight, supporting community-led improvement efforts, and promoting equity and well-being. It aligns with the city’s priority of improving quality of life and enhancing neighborhood stability.

- Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:
 - a. Cost (initial and ongoing)

The initial cost is \$50,000, fully funded by the Love Your Block grant, with no additional or ongoing city funding required for this appropriation. An additional \$50,000 will be received in year 2 of the program.

- b. Benefits (initial and ongoing)

Immediate improvements to neighborhood conditions, including reduction of blight and increased property appeal. Additional benefits include 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 initial cost is \$50,000, fully funded by the Love Your Block grant, with no additional or ongoing city funding required for this appropriation.

\$29,600 to 005-01-5201-0006-04 to fund the “Love Your Block Fellow” positions
\$20,000 to 005-01-5201-0006-46 to fund a Mini-Grant program to be administered by a partner nonprofit
\$400 to 005-01-5201-0006-34 to cover training for LYB Fellow

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

Except for the \$400 for training, this funding will all be in service to projects in 2025, and should be rolled over accordingly.

- Why should Council unanimously support this bill?

Council should unanimously support this ordinance as it provides an immediate opportunity to address blight, 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.