

ORDINANCE NO.

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 3 - 2026

JANUARY 21, 2026

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SECTION FOUR: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

FV Please post this template on your Department channel on the Legislation-Team

- **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 the second-round appropriation of \$50,000 from Resolution No. 30844, R68-2024 for the Love Your Block Grant, which was awarded by Bloomberg Philanthropies through Johns Hopkins University. The funds will be directed towards a part-time Fellow to continue to manage 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.

- **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? What are the drawbacks?**

Benefits: 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.

Drawbacks: Potential drawbacks include the need for sustained funding for long-term change, as these grants only support immediate improvements, and the reliance on continued community participation for the program's success.

- 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 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 1st, 2024.

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	\$46,175.00
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005-01-0201-0087-50012- FICA	\$3,825.00
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- **Priority status – Are there any deadlines to be aware of?**

The revenue was received by the City in late November 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.