

Department Source: Housing & Neighborhood Services

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: February 16, 2026

Re: Authorizing a subaward agreement with Johns Hopkins University for Love Your Block

Impacted Ward: Multiple Wards

### Executive Summary

Staff is asking Council to consider an ordinance authorizing approval of an additional agreement with Johns Hopkins University to provide an additional \$60,000 to support the Love Your Block program. Love Your Block provides support for neighborhood activities focused in areas of the First and Third Wards.

### Discussion

The City of Columbia is one of 16 cities in the nation in this cohort of Love Your Block, a grant from the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University. The original grant provided \$100,000 over two years for mini-grants to support neighborhood projects and fund the hiring of a Love Your Block Fellow. This agreement provides an additional \$60,000 to fund a second Love Your Block fellow to support the program.

In 2025, Love Your Block funded 11 mini-grant projects in central Columbia. The 2026 Love Your Block mini-grant application period opens February 14 with applications accepted through March 15. Winners will be announced in early April; projects must be completed by August 31. Neighborhoods in parts of central and northeast Columbia are the focus areas for this program. The grant includes \$20,000 in 2026 for neighborhood projects.

The Love Your Block grant will conclude on October 31, 2026.

### Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$60,000

Long-Term Impact: None

### Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

#### [Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Safe Community, Secondary Impact: Inclusive and Equitable Community,

Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

#### [Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Environmental Management, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

## Legislative History

Date	Action
2-3-2025	R18-25 Authorizing the City Manager to enter into “Love Your Block” grant agreements to support neighborhood activities and minor home repair.
9-3-2024	B208-24 Authorizing a subaward agreement with Johns Hopkins University associated with the design and implementation of the Love Your Block program so support activities in central neighborhoods; amending the FY 2024 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.

## Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute the Love Your Block Grant agreement and appropriate the funds.