

STAFF REPORT

Date: April 24, 2024

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Acceptance of the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins Love Your Block Grant Award to the City of Reno Housing and Neighborhood Development Department in the amount of \$100,000 to expand neighborhood community cleanups.

From: Ciera Lindsay, Management Assistant

Department: City Manager’s Office – Housing & Neighborhood Development

Summary:

The City of Reno Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) Department is seeking approval for the acceptance of the Love Your Block Grant Award from the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation (BCPI) at Johns Hopkins. The grant, totaling \$100,000 over two years, will expand the current community cleanup program and support blight remediation efforts directly in City of Reno neighborhoods.

Consent Review	Yes	No
1. Is this item an annual or standard item that comes before Council for regular approval?		X
2. Is this item an agreement required based on an item previously approved by Council?		X
3. Is this item included in the current budget approved and adopted by Council?		X
Other Considerations		
What percent of the total City budget does this item represent?		0%

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Economic and Community Development

Previous Council Action:

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

Background:

HAND assumed responsibility for the Community Cleanup Program in Spring 2023. Throughout the year, HAND conducted 12 cleanups across all wards, serving approximately 1,971 households by discarding their hazardous, electronic, and unwanted waste. While successful for many residents, the cleanups revealed a significant barrier for elderly and disabled residents who faced challenges transporting their waste to the central cleanup locations. This insight fueled staff to find innovative solutions to directly impact low-to-moderate income neighborhoods with their blight concerns while simultaneously addressing transportation challenges.

Discussion:

HAND recently identified and applied for a grant opportunity through BCPI known as Love Your Block. Staff was notified that the City of Reno was awarded the grant in the amount of \$100,000 for participation in the upcoming 2024 to 2026 cohort, which presents an exciting opportunity for the HAND department to make significant strides in addressing neighborhood blight concerns impacting residents. By working directly in neighborhoods to assist residents with their unwanted items, overgrown vegetation, and other blight concerns, staff hope to eliminate the barriers for elderly and disabled residents. In addition to the financial support, the grant award includes an extensive civic engagement curriculum developed by BCPI and the Urban Institute and a dedicated BCPI mentor to ensure program goals are aligned with best practices in community development and civic engagement and that we remain accountable for achieving meaningful outcomes throughout the duration of the grant period.

Financial Implications:

This grant does not require a match. No financial implications.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council accept the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins Love Your Block Grant Award to the City of Reno Housing and Neighborhood Development Department in the amount of \$100,000 to expand neighborhood community cleanups and authorize the City Manager and/or Mayor to sign the necessary documents.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments: