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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

Check this box to indicate that a transaction was made pursuant to a contract, instruction or written plan for the purchase or sale of equity securities of the issuer that is intended to satisfy the affirmative defense conditions of Rule 10b5-1(c). See Instruction 10.

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * <u>Fleitas Armando</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>220 ALHAMBRA CIRCLE</u>  (Street) <u>CORAL GABLES FL</u> <u>33134</u>  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>Amerant Bancorp Inc. [ AMTB ]</u>  3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>02/17/2026</u>  4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  Director 10% Owner X Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>EVP, Chief Accounting Officer</u>  6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)  X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
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Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Class A Common Stock	02/17/2026		M		1,667	A	\$0 <sup>(1)</sup>	9,085.74 <sup>(2)</sup>	D	
Class A Common Stock	02/17/2026		F		495 <sup>(3)</sup>	D	\$22.73	8,590.74	D	

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
Restricted Stock Units LTI 2023	\$0 <sup>(1)</sup>	02/17/2026		M			834	(4)	(4)	Class A Common Stock	834	\$0	0	D	
Restricted Stock Units LTI 2024	\$0 <sup>(1)</sup>	02/17/2026		M			833	(5)	(5)	Class A Common Stock	833	\$0	834	D	
Restricted Stock Units LTI 2026	\$0 <sup>(1)</sup>	02/17/2026		A		2,500		(6)	(6)	Class A Common Stock	2,500	\$0	2,500	D	

Explanation of Responses:

1. Each restricted stock unit ("RSU") is the economic equivalent of one share of Class A Common Stock.
2. Includes 87.24 and 88.65 shares acquired under the Amerant Bancorp Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan on May 30, 2025 and November 28, 2025, respectively.
3. Reflects the shares of Class A Common Stock that were surrendered in order to satisfy the reporting person's tax withholding obligation upon the vesting of RSUs.
4. On February 16, 2023, Mr. Fleitas was awarded 2,500 RSUs, each representing the right to receive, following vesting, one share of Class A Common Stock. The award vests in substantially equal installments on each of the first three anniversaries of the date of grant, provided that Mr. Fleitas remains in the continuous service of the Company or a subsidiary through each such date. Since the anniversary of the date of grant was on Monday, February 16, 2026, a federal holiday, the vesting occurred on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, the next business day.
5. On February 16, 2024, Mr. Fleitas was awarded 2,500 RSUs, each representing the right to receive, following vesting, one share of Class A Common Stock. The award vests in substantially equal installments on each of the first three anniversaries of the date of grant, provided that Mr. Fleitas remains in the continuous service of the Company or a subsidiary through each such date. Since the anniversary of the date of grant was on Monday, February 16, 2026, a federal holiday, the vesting occurred on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, the next business day.
6. On February 17, 2026, Mr. Fleitas was awarded 2,500 RSUs, each representing the right to receive, following vesting, one share of Class A Common Stock. The award vests in substantially equal installments on each of the first three anniversaries of the date of grant, provided that Mr. Fleitas remains in the continuous service of the Company or a subsidiary through each such date.

Remarks:

/s/ Julio V. Pena, as Attorney-in-Fact for Armando Fleitas  
02/19/2026  
\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4 (b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.**