The Ventura-Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan was originally adopted on February 16, 1991, over 25 years ago. The Plan was drafted to help guide development along what is the commercial heart of the San Fernando Valley, and specifically address the concerns of the residents most impacted by development along Ventura Boulevard. The plan has served the communities within the Plan boundaries by addressing many of the issues that arise where commercial activity interacts with low density residential neighborhoods.

Though the Specific Plan initially addressed many issues along the corridor, the document has become stagnant and unresponsive to changes in community and business needs, design guidelines, commercial economics, and development. The Plan has also been unable to cope with changing housing and transportation policy at the local and state level. Finally, inelastic requirements for addressing transportation mitigations have also resulted as the plan has aged and priorities have changed.

The protections that were put in place by the plan to address community concerns are an important component, and it is important that they are updated, enhanced, and balanced with the changing economics that are effecting the boulevard.

On August 4, 2016 the Plan Review Board for the specific plan voted to recommend that City Council revise or amend the Ventura-Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan. Before this process can be undertaken, a debate must take place over the best procedure and funding mechanism to accomplish this goal.

It is important that any revision of the Specific Plan be done in coordination with the overdue and necessary updates to the Community Plans that serve this area, and that a robust public participation element be crafted to make this effort open and community-oriented.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Department of City Planning, with the assistance of the Department of Transportation, City Administrative Officer (CAO), and the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), to prepare a report in 60 days that identifies options for amending, supplementing, overlaying by neighborhood, or revising the Ventura-Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan, including information on the costs, staffing needs, and timeline for each option as well as the identification of funding sources to meet those options.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the Department of City Planning, with assistance from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, to report back on options for creating a robust public participation process that will allow each of the six neighborhoods within it to robustly contribute on an continual basis throughout.