RESOLUTION NO. 2016–68

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CERRITO REQUESTING THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT (“BART”) BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO ADVANCE DEVELOPMENT AT THE EL CERRITO PLAZA BART STATION AND TO DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH BART TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT AND A POTENTIAL NEW LIBRARY AT THE EL CERRITO PLAZA BART STATION

WHEREAS, the City of El Cerrito supports transit-oriented development; and

WHEREAS, the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station as identified in the City’s San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan is located in Downtown El Cerrito, the City’s entertainment/theater and shopping district that serves as the southern gateway to the City; and

WHEREAS, transit-oriented development at the El Cerrito Plaza BART station would help fulfill objectives identified in various City planning documents including the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan, Climate Action Plan, Updated Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, development at the El Cerrito Plaza Station would deepen a sense of place and community identity, strengthen the City’s partnership with BART, promote the everyday use of transit, and serve as a catalyst to attract private investment to El Cerrito; and

WHEREAS, staff from the City and BART would work together proactively to complete a feasibility study to consider transit-oriented development opportunities that would be supportive of transit service, offer a mix of commercial uses and housing for various income levels, maximize the value of the BART-own parcels, and contribute to the vitality of El Cerrito; and

WHEREAS, the study would also evaluate if a site suitable for a new safe, modern El Cerrito Library could be incorporated into the development to replace the current El Cerrito library facility; and

WHEREAS, the City supports transit-oriented development, reduced parking requirements, and affordable housing at the El Cerrito Plaza BART station as soon as possible, regardless if it includes a site for a new safe, modern El Cerrito Library.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of El Cerrito authorizes the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BART to study and pursue Transit-Oriented Development opportunities and a new library at the El Cerrito Plaza station.
I CERTIFY that at the regular meeting on August 16, 2016 the El Cerrito City Council passed this resolution by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Abelson, Bridges, Friedman, Quinto and Mayor Lyman
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

IN WITNESS of this action, I sign this document and affix the corporate seal of the City of El Cerrito on August 17, 2016.

Cheryl Morse, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Gregory B. Lyman, Mayor