

## Gautho, Julia

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**From:** Goldstein, Jamie (jgoldstein@ci.capitola.ca.us)  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 18, 2024 2:16 PM  
**To:** Gautho, Julia  
**Cc:** Dally, Andrew (adally@ci.capitola.ca.us)  
**Subject:** FW: SUESD Supt Comments on Dogs / Monterey Park

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please see below correspondence related to the item on the coming agenda regarding regulations for dogs in parks.

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**From:** Scott Turnbull <sturnbull@suesd.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 18, 2024 9:30 AM  
**To:** Goldstein, Jamie (jgoldstein@ci.capitola.ca.us) <jgoldstein@ci.capitola.ca.us>  
**Subject:** SUESD Supt Comments on Dogs / Monterey Park

July 18, 2024

Dear Capitola City Council Members,

As the Superintendent of Soquel Union Elementary School District (SUESD) for eight years, I am eternally grateful for our partnership with the City of Capitola. From support with after-school childcare, the Equity Swim Program, an incredibly responsive police department, and much more, I could not be more appreciative for working with the City of Capitola as a community partner. I am writing about an upcoming item on your agenda in which you are considering a request to create a dog off-leash area at Monterey Park. This is a challenging message for me to write because I have been a dog owner and lover all my life. Despite my love of dogs, I am expressing my opinion **against** allowing a dog off-leash area at Monterey Park. Previously, when this came before the council in 2022, city staff noted the following regarding current park uses and any potential changes to rules related to dogs: "Based on these existing park uses, and the difficulty in creating a new area isolated from these uses, staff recommends the existing rules requiring dogs on-leash remain in place." I concur with those sentiments. Although I realize such an area would only be in use during certain hours, common sense would still dictate that the worst place for dogs to be off leash would be adjacent to a school (in this case, New Brighton Middle School, NBMS). Most dog owners are responsible for picking up after their pets, but there is no way to ensure and enforce that **all** dog owners pick up their dogs' waste. There are already days when our Physical Education Teachers have to start their day picking up dog waste so that their students don't come into contact with it. This is not the way a teacher should have to start their day. Having an off-leash area would only increase the likelihood of dog waste being left behind for our teachers and students to have to deal with. The robust programs, including after-school sports, often run well into the late afternoon or early evening. I respectfully request that you maintain existing rules requiring dogs to remain on leash at Monterey Park at all times due to existing park uses. Thank you for your consideration and all you do to support our community's schools.

Sincerely,



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