


## Support for Melinda Orbach

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**From** Matt Miller <millerneary@gmail.com>

**Date** Wed 9/24/2025 11:04 AM

**To** City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

 1 attachment (15 KB)

Melinda Orbach Support Letter 9.24.25.docx;

Hello Capitola City Council,

Please find the support letter for Council Member Melinda Orbach attached.

Thank you for considering,

Matt Miller

Dear Capitola City Council,

I write today with bewilderment and disappointment that the Council has allowed a baseless complaint to rise to the level of a public agenda item. To place Councilmember Melinda Orbach, your fellow peer in serving the Capitola community, on public trial for speaking openly about harassment and intimidation is its own form of disrespect and sets a harmful precedent against a leaders who stand up for civil discourse, safety, and respect.

Councilmember Orbach has served in her role with incredible integrity, tenacity, clarity, and clear purpose to support the community of Capitola. She has demonstrated energetic, creative, and future focused leadership. On the particulars of this instance, she has already acknowledged that naming an individual was a mistake she will not repeat, but her comments on April 17 were rooted in truth, transparency, and a mother's instinct to protect her family. She has demonstrated integrity by taking personal accountability, going above and beyond by continuing to seek peace and understanding through mediation multiple times through the Conflict Resolution Center, and she continues to show restraint in the face of relentless personal attacks. Instead of rewarding good-faith efforts at resolution, this Council is legitimizing harassment by agendizing a code of conduct complaint that has no merit, nor does it create trust from our community members.

The facts are clear: Councilmember Orbach described threatening behaviors accurately. She did not engage in name-calling, slander, or personal attacks, she simply set boundaries that any public servant has the right to establish. For that, she has been met with months of online vitriol, threats of litigation, and political intimidation. The Capitola community should not have to watch their representatives be silenced or driven out by those who would rather bully than engage in dialogue.

I urge you to dismiss this claim outright on September 25. Capitola needs leaders who protect truth and principle and stand up for what's right, not those who make space for intimidation. To punish Councilmember Orbach for demanding civility is to send the message that harassment works. I stand with Melinda, and I ask you to do the same.