
ATTN: Public Comment - Council Agenda Item 9B

From Emeline Nguyen <emelinen.gov@gmail.com>

Date Wed 9/24/2025 8:19 PM

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

Good evening, Mayor Clarke and Councilmembers,

As a Capitola resident who cares deeply about our community, I am writing regarding Item 9B on the September 25 agenda.

Serving in local government is an act of service and sacrifice. For Councilmembers, it is volunteer work that involves constant pressure from all sides, including community members with diverse perspectives, colleagues with competing priorities, and the personal responsibility of both decision-maker and role model. I want to start by acknowledging the challenges of this work and the commitment required to serve as a voice for the community, including those who may not otherwise be heard.

In this environment, it is more crucial than ever that the Council's process remains transparent, consistent, and fair. Even the perception that one member is being treated differently, regardless of intention, can erode trust. The Code of Conduct should serve to reinforce civility and accountability, not to divide or discourage those willing to serve.

I also understand that mediation between the parties is in progress. Given that, I respectfully ask whether moving forward to a full public hearing at this point is the most effective course of action. Public hearings can escalate conflicts, consume considerable time and resources, and further inflame an already tense civic atmosphere. A resolution through mediation could allow the Council to demonstrate both accountability and compassion, while preserving resources to address the urgent issues facing Capitola, such as housing, climate resilience, fiscal sustainability, and community safety.

At the same time, I recognize the importance of taking complaints seriously and upholding standards of conduct. I encourage the Council to find a balance: protect the integrity of the Code, ensure fairness in its enforcement, and prioritize reconciliation when possible.

The way this situation is handled will set an example not only for today's civic culture but also for future generations who look to their leaders as role models. Our community needs strength, hope, unity, and compromise. We need leaders who can disagree respectfully, restore trust, and focus their efforts on the issues that shape our shared future.

Thank you for your service during these challenging times and for your dedication to fairness, transparency, and the long-term well-being of Capitola.

Respectfully,

Emeline N.