

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** Caitlin Brune <cmb rune@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 22, 2025 4:44 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Item 9B: code of conduct complaint

Dear Capitola City Council members and Mayor Joe Clarke,  
My name is Caitlin Brune and I am a County resident who celebrates and works to sustain the wellbeing of the growing number of women in public office. I do so because data indicates that women consistently elevate issues tied to **health, education, family wellbeing, and social safety**, all of which feel extremely important to our overall community vitality. Additionally, the presence of women in elected bodies correlates with **lower levels of corruption**, greater investments in public goods, and stronger emphasis on **long-term sustainability**.

In supporting Councilmember Melinda Orbach through her campaign, I consistently saw her come back to core values of inclusivity, respect, willingness to listen, and concern for the needs and experiences of those historically marginalized in public processes, including working class individuals and families.

Melinda Orbach has brought compassion and enthusiasm and a very high ethic of responsibility and accountability to her constituents in fulfilling her role. She does her homework and speaks from factual, observable data when performing her duties. She also serves as an example to other women trying to find their voice in the public sphere to advocate for conditions that facilitate safety and wellbeing for every resident.

**I am writing to ask that you dismiss the code of conduct complaint filed against Councilmember Orbach and take no further action.**

We live in times where day-to-day living places extraordinary calls on our energy, especially for working parents raising young children. The role of public servant these days demands an especially high degree of maturity, discernment, and clear-headedness, which I have seen Melinda Orbach demonstrate time and again. As residents, we are invited to respect the hard work, intellectual and emotional labor, ethic of service, and faithfulness to constituents each Council member brings. Councilmember Orbach has identified and named conditions that would constitute harassment and bullying in most contexts. She has requested that her personal boundaries for safety and privacy be respected. Please act in good faith as her peers in defining and upholding conditions that allow her to perform the demanding role each of you fulfills free from undue fear and stress - the factors that previously led to the resignation of one of your peers on the Council. **Please dismiss the code of conduct complaint and take no further action.**

Respectfully,  
Caitlin Brune

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*Caitlin M. Brune (she/her/hers)*

*We plant seeds that will flower as results in our lives, so best to remove the weeds of anger, avarice, envy and doubt, that peace and abundance may manifest for all. ~ Dorothy Day*

**Schedule with me here:** <https://calendly.com/caitlinbrune>

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**1901** \*\* <https://www.homeconsulting.me> \*\* <https://lovingtheworld.substack.com/>

*I live on the occupied unceded territory of the Awaswas-speaking Uypi Tribe. The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, descendants of indigenous people taken to missions Santa Cruz & San Juan Bautista during Spanish colonization of the Central Coast, is working hard today to restore traditional stewardship practices on these lands and heal from historical trauma. I recognize that I benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland and affirm their sovereign rights as First Peoples.*

Please note: my working day may not be your working day. Please don't feel obligated to respond to my emails outside of your working hours.