

Gautho, Julia

From: Amie Forest <amie.forest@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 10:03 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Strong Opposition to Item 9B – Support for Councilmember Melinda Orbach

Dear Mayor and Members of the Capitola City Council,

I am writing to express my deep concern and outrage that Item 9B has even been added to your 9/25/25 agenda. The attempt to pursue a code of conduct complaint against Councilmember Melinda Orbach is not only unjust, it is a dangerous misuse of process that undermines the very principles of democracy, public service, and civil discourse that this council is meant to uphold.

Councilmember Orbach has shown nothing but integrity, courage, and dedication in her service to our community under extremely difficult circumstances. Her comments on April 17 were made in good faith, in response to threatening behavior that no public servant—or their family—should ever have to endure. She spoke truthfully, factually, and with a clear purpose: to set healthy boundaries and protect her family from intimidation. To suggest that this constitutes a code of conduct violation is absurd and insulting, especially given her repeated efforts to resolve the conflict through mediation.

It is unacceptable that the council is considering punishing one of its own members for defending herself against harassment. By moving forward with this complaint, the council sends a chilling message: that those who speak openly about harassment will be silenced, while those who engage in intimidation tactics will be emboldened. Capitola deserves better. Our country deserves better, too.

I urge you in the strongest terms to dismiss this complaint immediately and not allow Item 9B to be used as a political weapon. The residents of Capitola elected Councilmember Orbach to bring her voice, her values, and her leadership to the council. She should be supported, not subjected to public trial for doing what any responsible person would do—standing up for herself and her family.

I am deeply disappointed in the Councilmembers who have voted to validate this complaint from Mr. Maguire, this is setting a very dangerous precedent, letting the bully rewrite the story as the victim. Please do what is right. Vote to dismiss this claim and put an end to this baseless and destructive effort.

Thank you,

Amie Forest,

516 Oak Drive, Capitola