

Gautho, Julia

From: Scott Farmer <s.farmer82@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 1:29 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Item 9B Code of Conduct Complaint

Dear Capitola City Council,

The public servants and families of Capitola are watching closely. No matter the issue or our individual political views, we strive to elect leaders who stand with women when they speak their truth, who value integrity over intimidation, and who protect the right to safety and respect in public life.

Capitola has a long history of effective civil discourse. We are grateful to those who have chosen to lead this City. It is a wonderful place to live and play. We believe each member of the Council is committed to making it a better place. We are glad Council members have differing views. We understand differing views cause tension. This is the bedrock of our political system. True leaders work to find common ground within disagreement. The best results are derived from hard-earned compromise.

We are hopeful the Council will choose to be models of effective civil discourse. Instead of disciplining Councilmember Orbach for insisting on civility, please take the higher road. We urge you to dismiss the Code of Conduct complaint and commit to open and constructive dialogue with each other and the public.

In a political environment where women are too often silenced or minimized, Councilmember Orbach did what strong women do - she spoke up. Councilmember Orbach has already acknowledged that naming an individual was a mistake she will not repeat. We know Councilmember Orbach has endured threats, online intimidation, and relentless personal attacks. This Council risks legitimizing this type of harassment by entertaining the Code of Conduct complaint.

Please carefully consider the example you are setting and do what is best for the public servants and families of Capitola. Please make the decision that best ensures a safe and effective environment for City leadership.

Respectfully,

Scott Farmer