
Letter of support for Melinda Orbach

From Ben Breen <breen85@gmail.com>

Date Thu 9/25/2025 11:05 AM

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

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing to express my strong support for Melinda Orbach. In my interactions with her (our kids went to preschool together) she is a thoughtful, principled, and dedicated person.

I urge you to dismiss the Code of Conduct complaint against her. Melinda strikes me as someone who is honest, respectful, and committed to civil discourse. In other words, exactly the sort of person I want in local government.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Breen

Benjamin Breen

Associate Professor of History
University of California, Santa Cruz

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Books: [*Tripping on Utopia: Margaret Mead, the Cold War, and the Troubled Birth of Psychedelic Science*](#) (2024) and [*The Age of Intoxication: Origins of the Global Drug Trade*](#) (2019)