

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** Matt Farrell <mattfarrell922@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 22, 2025 10:03 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 9B Comment Letter on Code of Conduct Complaint

Mayor Clarke and Councilmembers,

I am writing to oppose the scheduling of a public hearing regarding the code of conduct complaint filed against Councilmember Melinda Orbach.

At the April 17 Capitola City Council meeting, Councilmember Orbach commented on harassment and threats made against her by Capitola neighbors. She named the complainant who has filed this complaint as one of those who had harassed her; and who had visited her neighborhood, asking her neighbors where she lived. Regardless of his intent, the complainant's actions caused Ms. Orbach to fear for the safety of herself and her family. She used the only means of defending herself and her family: her voice. She called for respect and civility in discourse and behavior.

Apparently naming a complainant at a city council meeting is contrary to city policy. For this reason, at the June 26 Council meeting, Councilmember Orbach publicly apologized for naming the complainant during the meeting; and stated that she would not do this again.

Councilmember Orbach has been proactive in working to engage in mediation with the complainant; and has made herself available to meet and start engaging in this process. This meeting, facilitated by the Conflict Resolution Center, is scheduled for October.

The best solution to this situation is conflict resolution; and both parties are engaged in this process. Holding a public hearing on this complaint undermines the ongoing conflict resolution process, short circuiting a process which has already started.

I urge the Council to dismiss this complaint; and allow the resolution process to proceed.

Matt Farrell