
Concern Regarding Council Functionality and Harassment

From Michael Gutiérrez <mdgutierrez@gmail.com>

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

Mayor and Members of the City Council,

As a resident of Capitola for nearly 25 years, I am writing to express my profound concern regarding the recent actions of a small, focused group within our community. These actions are having a detrimental effect on the integrity and functionality of our City Council, which is a cause for significant alarm for me as a voter and a citizen.

I am particularly disturbed by the ongoing pattern of targeting and harassment directed at individual council members. The resignation of one member and the continued targeting of others indicate a deliberate effort to disrupt our city's governance and deter duly elected officials from serving the public. The repeated scrutiny of council members' personal lives, the exaggeration of minor issues, and the relentless pursuit of new grievances, even after previous allegations have been formally disproven, appear to be tactics aimed at political intimidation rather than genuine accountability.

The recent request for the City Council to adopt a policy requiring hearings for allegations even without legal merit is especially troubling. Such a policy would not promote transparency or public trust; instead, it would weaponize the Council's own procedures against its members. This would create a system that enables the harassment of public servants and consumes valuable city resources with unfounded, politically motivated disputes.

I am concerned that this behavior, if allowed to continue, will discourage qualified and dedicated individuals from running for office and will undermine the democratic process. Our city's progress depends on a City Council that can focus on the important work of governance without being sidetracked by campaigns of personal and political intimidation.

I urge you to resist any policies that would enable these disruptive tactics. I also encourage you to find ways to support our elected officials so they can fulfill their duties without fear of harassment. Your commitment to a fair and functional government is essential for the well-being and future of our city. Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical matter.

Sincerely,
Michael Gutierrez
Longtime Capitola Resident