
Item 9b code of conduct complaint

From Justine Pawliuk <justinepawliuk@gmail.com>

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

Dear Capitola City Council,

I am writing to express strong concern about the Council's decision to agendize a code of conduct complaint against Councilmember Melinda Orbach. This action sets a troubling precedent for how the City responds to conflicts.

We all know the current political climate is tense, divisive, and often hostile. Public servants at every level face constant criticism, intimidation, and personal attacks. I would hope that Capitola would rise above this rhetoric and let mediation work, rather than making a public spectacle of this issue. I would also hope that Capitola would value the safety of all of its residents, council members included, and support/respect when someone sets a boundary.

As a parent, I want my daughter to know that her voice has the power to create positive change, to speak out against injustice, and to demand that her boundaries be respected. This hearing sends her the opposite message: that when women speak up, they will be silenced, criticized, or punished. That is not the lesson we should be modeling as a community.

I strongly urge the Council to dismiss this complaint on September 25. Capitola deserves leaders who prioritize fairness, safety, and mediation—not those who turn conflict into a public spectacle that undermines trust and accountability.

Respectfully,
Justine Pawliuk
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