

Gautho, Julia

From: Amanda Jackson Miller <amandajacksonmiller@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 12:44 PM
To: City Council
Subject: item 9b on 9/25/25 agenda

Dear Capitola City Council,

I am writing to express deep concern regarding the Council's decision to agendize a code of conduct complaint against Councilmember Melinda Orbach. This move risks setting a troubling precedent for how the City responds to conflicts of this nature.

I speak not only as a concerned community member, but also as a woman and mother who has served as a locally elected school board member since 2014. When I first took office, my children were just 2, 9, and 12 years old. I know firsthand the anxiety that arises when public service intersects with personal safety—especially during times of heightened tension and eroding civility.

I also recall the challenges of being new to public office, and how easily missteps can occur. These moments should be treated as opportunities for learning, reflection, and growth—not just for the individual, but for the entire governance team. This situation calls for mutual support and a recommitment to shared norms and protocols, not a punitive process that isolates one member.

I urge the Council to allow the parties involved to resolve this matter through mediation—a process designed for healing and understanding—rather than through public censure or adjudication. I respectfully request that the Council dismiss this complaint outright on September 25.

To penalize Councilmember Orbach for advocating for civility sends a dangerous message: that harassment is effective, and that those who raise legitimate concerns about personal safety may be punished for doing so. This not only undermines the integrity of our public institutions, but discourages future leaders—especially women and parents—from stepping forward to serve.

Respectfully, and with appreciation for your service,

Amanda Jackson Miller