
Item 9B Code of Conduct Complaint

From Jennifer Barnette <jennifer.barnette@gmail.com>

Date Wed 9/24/2025 8:52 AM

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

Dear Council members,

I'm writing as a concerned member of the community to urge you to drop the Code of Conduct complaint against Councilmember Orbach.

Our community thrives when elected representatives encourage diverse viewpoints, engage in respectful dialogue, and make decisions with openness and fairness. Melinda Orbach's comments at the April 17 meeting called for nothing more than civility and respect. Despite being the target of harassment and intimidation, she in no way engaged in abusive conduct herself, instead politely requesting that citizens respect personal boundaries of elected officials and use appropriate forums to express disagreement. How such a request can be construed as a potential code of conduct violation is nonsensical.

Please remain committed to fostering an environment where all members and constituents feel safe and respected, even amidst disagreement. That is the foundation of good governance and a healthy civic culture. I urge you to 1) dismiss the code of conduct complaint against Councilmember Orbach, 2) call for standards of civility and respect at all council meetings and forums of public discourse and 3) strongly condemn physically threatening behavior and intimidation tactics that undermine the safety of our community and elected representatives. This kind of abusive behavior has no place in our community.

Sincerely,

Jen Barnette