

Gautho, Julia

From: Ernesto Anguiano <ernestoanguiano2222@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 10:13 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Item 9B Code of Conduct Complaint

Dear Capitola City Council,

I am writing to express my support for Councilmember Melinda Orbach and to urge you to act with fairness and integrity as you consider the Code of Conduct complaint against her.

In recent months, Councilmember Orbach and her family have faced significant threats and intimidation stemming from her policy positions, particularly from those associated with the anti-transit organization Greenway. This behavior not only undermines the values of respectful discourse and public safety but also threatens the democratic principles of our community.

Councilmember Orbach has bravely acknowledged that naming an individual was a mistake, a misstep she is committed to not repeating. Nonetheless, acknowledging individual actions should not be conflated with "abusive conduct" when the heart of her statements was to highlight and counteract threatening behavior against her and her family.

Elevating the complaint to a public hearing not only poses a risk of reinforcing negative precedents but could silence necessary conversations, especially those initiated by women in public service. Every woman, and indeed every community member who values honesty and integrity, is affected by these proceedings. Their right to safety, civility, and a fair chance at voicing concerns without fear of retaliation must be protected.

Councilmember Orbach has persistently reached out in good faith for mediation through the Conflict Resolution Center. Unfortunately, these efforts have been met with increased hostility. This response highlights the retaliatory nature of the complaint rather than any legitimate grievance about conduct.

Please show your support for a respectful and inclusive community by dismissing the complaint. Ensuring that our community leaders can operate without undue fear or intimidation is crucial to maintaining the fabric of our society. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Thank you,