

[PDF] Item 9B on The September 25, 2025 agenda re: Melinda Orbach

From Carla <ccchrist@aol.com>

Date Thu 9/25/2025 2:59 PM

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

 1 attachment (24 KB)

Letter to the Capitola City Council.pdf;

Letter to the Capitola City Council

From: Carla Christensen

Date Sent: September 25, 2025

Subject: Item 9B, September 25, 2505 Capitola Council Meeting Agenda; Code of Conduct Violation

Honorable City Council Members,

I work with Soquel Creek Water District as a Board Member but I am speaking as a concerned 30-year resident and citizen of Capitola.

I am submitting this letter about the Code of Conduct Violation charge made against your fellow council member, Melinda Orbach. While the Council has the right to review the tort charge, I urge the Council to take a longer view on this matter.

It is true that instead of calling out the person who appeared to be threatening her in her neighborhood by name at a Council meeting she could have pursued a restraining order. However, Councilwoman Orbach did apologize to the person in question publicly and immediately and reached out with an offer to meet with a mediator to clarify the issue with the citizen. This conciliatory path does not appear to have been taken by the complainant. Melinda Orbach did not violate any laws, so this is not a legal matter but a Capitola administrative policy question.

While Mr. McGuire has the right to make negative comments about Orbach, particularly comments about her votes in Council meetings, he went far beyond this when he went into her neighborhood appearing to threaten her and her family.

I urge the Council to support Councilwoman Orbach's right to self-protection and dismiss this complaint. In over 30 years of residence in Capitola I have never seen a Council demonstrate this lack of support for a council member before.

Be strong in standing for respectful discourse and fairness as well as for the safety of our public officials. Please avoid trying to make this a black and white issue that could come back to haunt the City.

Thank you