

Gautho, Julia

From: Anya Curtis <anyaacurtis@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 6:37 PM
To: City Council
Subject: [PDF] item 9B code of conduct complaint
Attachments: Item 9B Code of Conduct Complaint.pdf

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

Please find my attached letter regarding Item 9B on the September 25 agenda. I urge you to dismiss the code of conduct complaint against Councilmember Orbach.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anya Curtis

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing as a community member who is deeply concerned about the treatment of Councilmember Melinda Orbach. What is happening here is not just about one complaint — it is about whether Capitola values honesty, fairness, and the safety of those who step up to serve.

When Councilmember Orbach spoke on April 17, she did not engage in name-calling or personal attacks. She described what had happened to her and asked for basic respect and boundaries. As a mother, a nurse practitioner, and a neighbor, she did what any of us would do: she spoke out when she felt threatened. That is not a violation of the Code of Conduct — that is common sense and courage.

She has already acknowledged that naming an individual was not the best choice and has reached out multiple times to resolve the issue through mediation. That willingness to own mistakes and work toward reconciliation is exactly the kind of leadership we should want on our Council.

To move this complaint forward now would send a damaging message — that speaking honestly about harassment can be twisted into “misconduct,” and that those in power will not back colleagues who set boundaries. It risks discouraging good people, especially women and young people, from ever considering public service in Capitola.

I urge you to dismiss this complaint on September 25 and allow our Council to focus on the real issues facing our community. Councilmember Orbach deserves support, not punishment, for showing integrity and standing up for herself, her family and her community.

Respectfully,
Anya Curtis