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**Fwd: Public Comment for Item 9B**

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**From** Jenni Veitch-Olson <jveitcholson@gmail.com>

**Date** Wed 9/24/2025 9:33 AM

**To** Gautho, Julia <jGautho@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Hello City Clerk Gautho,

I submitted a public comment for item 9B on Monday, Sept 22 at 4:20 PM (included below). I received an acknowledgement email from a Council Member. However, I do not see my comment posted on the website under Comments Received. I wanted to make sure that my comment was indeed recorded and included. Please let me know. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,  
Jenni Veitch-Olson

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Jenni Veitch-Olson** <[jveitcholson@gmail.com](mailto:jveitcholson@gmail.com)>

**Date:** Mon, Sep 22, 2025 at 4:20 PM

**Subject:** Public Comment for Item 9B

**To:** <[citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us](mailto:citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us)>

Dear  
Capitola City Council,

I  
am writing to express strong concern about the Council's decision to agendize a code of conduct complaint against Councilmember Melinda Orbach. This action sets a troubling precedent for how the City responds to conflicts between council members and creates unnecessary risk for the city and its residents.

I  
am also an elected leader in our County and work for an organization that recruits and trains women to run for and win elections to local and state offices. I care deeply about building a more just and equitable California, and that depends on having more women in all levels of elected office.

This  
complaint brought against Councilmember Orbach is not novel or isolated, but rather is part and parcel of the disproportionate hostility that women candidates and elected officials across the US face every day. Consider the following findings from the report, "Analyzing the Mental Health Impacts of Hostility Women Face Pursuing Political Office in California," published in 2023:

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Nearly two-thirds of women (65%) experienced harassment during their campaigns, compared to 50% of men

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42% of all women experienced stalking, 55% of women of color experienced stalking and 53% of LGBTQ+ women

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Nearly half of women in elected office have had to change their activities of daily living due to concerns about their safety and well-being

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Women are 3.4 times more likely to be the targets of harassment and threats than men

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California has the highest amount of unique incidents of threat or harassment against women local officials with 64 filed incidents in 2022 alone

This  
current political culture is unacceptable.

California  
needs more women in elected office, we need more council members like Melinda Orbach. When women are elected, they pass on average twice as many bills, and they legislate intersectionally because they legislate with everyone in mind. Women pass bills that effectively address issues impacting women, people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, service workers, immigrants and mixed status families, tenants, and the next generation to name a few. Councilmember Orbach is doing this work.

I  
strongly urge the Council to dismiss this complaint. Capitola deserves leaders who prioritize building a stronger, more equitable, and resilient community.

Sincerely,

Jenni  
Veitch-Olson