

Gautho, Julia

From: Cea Kelley <cs.book.kelley@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 8:06 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Public Comment – Dismissing the Code of Conduct Claim

Dear Mayor and Members of the Capitola City Council,

As a public servant myself, I understand the high standard we are held to. With that standard should also come recognition that public service is demanding, emotional, and often carried out under extraordinary pressure. Mistakes will happen, but when they are made sincerely and with dignity, they should be met with understanding, not punishment.

Councilmember Orbach's comments were made in good faith, in an effort to draw boundaries against threatening behavior. She has acknowledged her error in naming an individual and has taken proactive steps toward resolution through mediation. These are not the actions of someone who disregards the code of conduct, but of someone trying to balance duty, safety, and the very real pressures of intimidation.

Fear and harassment can push any of us to speak more directly than intended. What matters is whether we respond with integrity, and Councilmember Orbach has done exactly that. Moving forward with this complaint risks validating intimidation as a political tactic, which would silence diverse and younger voices. The very voices Capitola needs most.

I urge you to dismiss this claim and stand firmly for respectful discourse, fairness, and the safety of our public officials.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Kelley