

[PDF] Letter about 9B

From Thomas Pedersen <thomas@ignitenexus.co>

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

 1 attachment (34 KB)

Letter agenda 9_25.pdf;

My stance on agenda item 9B about Melinda Orbach.

I'm writing with deep disappointment that the Council has allowed a baseless complaint to make it onto the public agenda. To put Councilmember Melinda Orbach on trial for speaking honestly about harassment and intimidation is not only absurd — it's an insult to every resident who expects their leaders to stand up for civil discourse, safety, and respect.

Councilmember Orbach has already acknowledged that naming an individual was a mistake she won't repeat. But her comments on April 17 came from a place of truth, transparency, and a mother's instinct to protect her family. She has shown integrity by offering mediation through the Conflict Resolution Center multiple times, and she continues to show restraint in the face of relentless personal attacks. Instead of honoring her good-faith efforts to resolve conflict, this Council is giving legitimacy to harassment by agendizing a complaint that has no merit. This does not build trust in our community — it erodes it.

The facts are straightforward: Councilmember Orbach described threatening behavior accurately. She did not engage in name-calling or personal attacks — she set boundaries, as any public servant has the right to do. For that, she has endured months of online vitriol, threats of litigation, and political intimidation. Capitola residents should not have to watch their representatives be silenced or bullied out of public service.

I urge you to dismiss this complaint outright on September 25. Capitola needs leaders who protect truth and principle, not leaders who bow to intimidation. To punish Councilmember Orbach for demanding civility sends the message that harassment wins. That is not the Capitola I believe in — and I stand firmly with her.

Thomas Sage Pedersen
Resident/local business owner