

Gautho, Julia

From: Paula Bradley [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 2:54 PM
To: City Council; Gautho, Julia; Ryan, Sarah (sryan@ci.capitola.ca.us)
Subject: [PDF] Council meeting 9/2/25,Item 9B
Attachments: CC Item 9B.docx Melinda 9-25-25.pdf

Please forward attached public comments letter and redact my email address.
Please confirm receipt,
Thank you!

Paula Bradley (she/her)
P. O. Box 1146 Capitola CA 95010

Subject: Item 9B – Code of Conduct Complaint

Dear Mayor Clarke and Council Members,

Please dismiss Kevin McGuire's claims against Melinda Orbach and do not discuss this matter further in the public arena (hearing). His claims are unfounded. At the infamous 4/17/25 blue dot lynch mob meeting against Alex Pederson, Melinda firmly tried to firmly set some boundaries after McGuire continued to cross the line of decency. For months he had verbally attacked her credibility, actions, threatened a recall, on and on. McGuire would not be inquiring about her residence to deliver her flowers; he was inappropriate and threatening just like he would seem to anyone else. Melinda did not violate decorum such as engage in abusive conduct, personal charges, or verbal attacks on the motives of others. The Code of Conduct is subjective, vague and allows interpretation.

McGuire on social media has demonstrated threats, intimidation, bullying and relentless trolling of Council member Orbach and her three predecessors, along with several others on Next Door for the last two years.

Instead of being ashamed of himself for what he did (Kevin was also the one who called Alex Pederson's work trying to get him fired which is shameful and wrong), he has continued to escalate his claims even though there have been efforts to mediate. Since mediation was offered why is this item being brought to a public hearing? Apparently, McGuire wants some kind of public reprimand. A normal person who felt any shame for their behavior would back off and hope it goes away, but not Kevin.

It is a mistake to give a bully like McGuire more attention by discussing his claims at a public hearing and let him think he will get some kind of public vindication for bullying & harassing people, particularly public officials. Given the increasing hostility and violence toward public officials serving their community, the Council needs to show strong leadership, stand together on principal, not bow to intimidation and set boundaries for public behavior in public meetings. The public who attended the 4/17/25 lynch mob meeting did not feel welcome or safe. Legislative decisions should not be made in response to an angry mob, which is not the intent of freedom of expression. It was good idea to move the Police Chief to sit in front of the podium to observe the public's behavior more easily for threats to safety. If the Council vindicates McGuire, it rewards and encourages bullies like him to ramp it up. The City has more important business on the agenda than assuage this man's bruised ego. He is obviously not thin-skinned, or he wouldn't be such a presence on Next Door which has become toxic.

Keep in mind this is all about the Rail Trail and the anti-rail vocal minority continue to go after council persons or SCCRTC members who support the rail trail. These bad actors are trying to get Melinda to resign and have threatened a recall. Their MO is to relentlessly attack anyone who disagrees with their viewpoint, not to have public discourse. Anyone else who dares to disagree with them, will be similarly subject to their vitriol and disrespectful behavior.

Paula Bradley, Capitola resident