
Dismiss the Complaint – Protect Honest Leadership in Capitola

From McPeak, Susan <susan@thedalessgroup.com>

Date Wed 9/24/2025 2:00 PM

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

Dear Capitola City Council,

I am writing as a Capitola resident and supporter of open, honest governance to urge you to dismiss the code of conduct complaint against Councilmember Melinda Orbach.

Councilmember Orbach has done what any responsible leader and parent should do when faced with intimidation: she spoke the truth. Naming the person whose actions caused her and her family to feel unsafe was not an act of malice, but a statement of fact and a call for civility. Unlike the hostile political attacks we too often see on the national stage, her words were measured, rooted in reality, and motivated by her duty to protect her family and her community.

It is unacceptable that an elected official in Capitola—or anywhere—should be punished for setting boundaries against threatening behavior. Walking through someone's neighborhood searching for where they live is not political discourse, it is intimidation. To say so publicly is not a violation of decorum, it is leadership.

Over the past months, Councilmember Orbach has demonstrated integrity and restraint. She has acknowledged that naming an individual directly is something she would handle differently in the future, yet she has stood by the truth of her experience. She has offered mediation multiple times, showing a willingness to resolve conflict constructively, even while continuing to endure personal attacks, online vitriol, threats of litigation, and political intimidation. Capitola residents should see this for what it is: an attempt to silence a progressive voice and drive out an elected leader through harassment rather than dialogue.

Councilmember Orbach's comments were not abusive. They were not slander. They were a mother's instinct, a public servant's duty, and a woman's right to demand respect. To punish her for this is to send a chilling message that residents and leaders alike cannot safely call out harassment when it happens. That is not the Capitola I know and love.

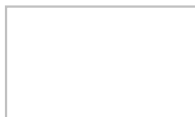
I urge the Council to dismiss this complaint on September 25. Capitola needs leaders who defend truth, protect their families, and insist on civil discourse—not those who enable intimidation by agendizing meritless claims. Councilmember Orbach deserves our support, and I stand firmly with her.

Respectfully,

Susan McPeak

--

Susan McPeak
Direct Line: 517 214 4681



Susan McPeak
Principal, Creative Director
Marketing, PR, Web