
Item 9B Code of Conduct Complaint

From Martine Watkins <tines63@gmail.com>

Date Wed 9/24/2025 4:04 PM

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

To the Capitola City Council,

As a former mayor and councilmember, I understand that serving in local government can come with challenging dynamics and moments of disagreement. I believe we can all agree that, even when we don't share the same politics, there are lines that should not be crossed.

I want to express my support for Councilmember Melinda Orbach, both for her willingness to speak candidly about her experience and for her efforts to address it responsibly. It's not always easy to name discomfort or set boundaries in public service, and doing so deserves understanding.

I believe that at the local level, we all serve because we care about our communities and what we can do for the people we represent. I thank each of you for your service and trust that the Council can move forward in a way that centers the important work ahead for Capitola and fosters a climate of mutual respect and professionalism. I hope, in that spirit, the Council will choose not to advance the complaint further.

Sincerely,

Martine Watkins
Former Mayor and Councilmember, City of Santa Cruz