
Item 9B Code of Conduct Complaint

From Melissa Ha <mha817@gmail.com>

Date Tue 9/23/2025 7:18 PM

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

Dear Capitola City Council,

I am writing as someone who knew Councilmember Orbach from a prior community, and I want to share what I know of her character. Her service has always been tied to dedicating herself to the community, from high school volunteering to her career in healthcare, working for a nonprofit clinic. She has always been a person of integrity. She is someone who listens, leads with compassion, and speaks up when it matters. That is exactly what she did.

Councilmember Orbach is a dedicated and empathetic professional who is still new to this role. I believe it's an important aspect to be taken into account. She has apologized for naming an individual and has repeatedly sought mediation, despite continuing to face personal attacks. To punish her now would not only be unfair, but it would also send the wrong message that certain individuals should remain silent rather than speak their truth.

Capitola deserves leaders who value fairness, civility, and a growth mindset, not a process that deepens division or silences a person who has always led with honesty and courage. I believe she will keep leading with the same passion and genuine care she has always shown.

Respectfully,

Melissa H.