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(No subject)

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From Rachel Williams <rachelaw619@gmail.com>

Date Wed 9/24/2025 4:48 PM

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

**Dear Capitola City Council,**

As a concerned Santa Cruz County resident, I write to express my deep disappointment that the Council has allowed a baseless complaint to rise to the level of a public agenda item. To place Councilmember Melinda Orbach on trial for speaking openly about harassment and intimidation is not only absurd—it is an insult to anyone who expects local leaders to uphold civil discourse, safety, and respect.

Councilmember Orbach has already acknowledged that naming an individual was a mistake she will not repeat. Even so, her comments on April 17 were rooted in truth, transparency, and a mother's instinct to protect her family. She has demonstrated integrity by offering mediation multiple times through the Conflict Resolution Center and continues to show restraint in the face of ongoing personal attacks. Rather than supporting these efforts at resolution, this Council is instead legitimizing harassment by agendizing a code of conduct complaint that lacks merit and undermines community trust.

I urge you to dismiss this complaint outright at the September 25 meeting. Capitola—and the wider county community that watches and engages with your work—needs leaders who protect truth and principle, not those who yield to pressure and fear. To punish Councilmember Orbach or any member for standing up for civility is to send a message that harassment is an effective tool.

Sincerely,

Rachel Williams