


MELINDA

From Rebecca Garcia <rebecca95076@gmail.com>

Date Wed 9/17/2025 8:08 AM

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

 1 attachment (8 KB)

Melinda 2.docx;

Please share the attached letter with all the Council Members before your council meeting on September 25th. Thank you.

Rebecca J. García

September 17, 2025

Dear Council Members,

I write this letter in support of Melinda Orback in the Code of Conduct Violation made against her. Freedom of speech and freedom of assembly are giving to us in the First Amendment in our Constitution. However those freedoms are given only when there is no cause of harm to others. It appears that Mr. Maguire who has accused Melinda of a violation of the Code was showing harm to her and her family.

Because of the First Amendment Mr. Maguire had a right to make negative comments about Melinda on social media and online. He was able to threaten a recall campaign against her. He also issued threats of litigation and made ultimatums. He has a right to do all those. However, when he went into Melinda's neighborhood and starting asking neighbors where she lived that is cause for harm and his freedom of assembly is no longer a right.

Melinda's comments at the City Council on April 17, 2025 was her freedom of speech in attempt to protect herself and her family. She viewed Mr. Maguire's assembly in her neighborhood as one of threat and intimidation. She wanted to set boundaries to his behavior against her. That is her right to wanting to protect herself and her family.

I was on the Watsonville City Council for eight years and one year as Mayor. I am very familiar with the acceptable conduct of city council members. Melinda's comments at the City Council meeting was acceptable conduct. Furthermore, Melinda's attempt to have mediation through the Conflict Resolution Center illustrates that she is committed to respect and collaboration. I encourage you to do the right thing and vote no on the Code Violation.

Respectfully,

Rebecca J. García

Former City Council and Mayor of Watsonville