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## Condemnation of Council Inaction & Demand to Dismiss the Code of Conduct Complaint

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From Vanessa Quiroz <vanessa.quiroz@watsonville.gov>

Date Tue 9/23/2025 6:43 PM

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

Dear Members of the Capitola City Council,

I am writing to express my deep disappointment and concern regarding the way this Council has responded to the ongoing harassment and intimidation directed at one of your own members — and more disturbingly, your collective failure to stand with her in the face of it.

It is unacceptable that, rather than offering public solidarity or institutional support, the majority of this Council appears more interested in legitimizing a bad-faith complaint by a member of the public who has engaged in behavior that borders on stalking and harassment. The comments made by Councilmember Orbach on April 17, 2025, were not attacks. They were a clear and courageous attempt to establish boundaries — boundaries that any public servant, and frankly, any person, has a right to assert.

The facts speak for themselves:

- A community member by the name of Kevin Maguire attempted to locate where a Councilmember lives.
- He has waged a sustained campaign of pressure, threats, and public shaming since then.
- In response to this, the Councilmember offered dialogue, engaged a mediator, and worked through proper channels in good faith.
- Mr. Maguire escalated the matter by filing both a code of conduct complaint and a tort claim.

And yet, instead of dismissing this complaint for what it clearly is, a retaliatory action intended to silence and intimidate, this Council is entertaining the possibility of a public hearing, further subjecting your colleague to scrutiny and humiliation for having the courage to speak the truth.

Let's be absolutely clear: This is not about decorum. This is about power. It is about the silencing of the only progressive voice on the Capitola City Council, one who is a mother, a woman of color, a nurse, and a person trying to make a difference in her community, through tactics that should never be tolerated in any democratic institution. This Council should be protecting that voice, not joining the chorus attempting to drown it out.

The parallels between this case and the recent resignation of Councilmember Pedersen are impossible to ignore. Capitola cannot afford to lose another representative because this Council is too timid to call out harassment when it happens — even when it's directed internally.

You were not elected to enable public intimidation. You were elected to lead.

If you let this go to a public hearing, you are signaling that truth-telling, boundary-setting, and emotional honesty are punishable offenses — especially when they come from women in leadership. You are also sending a message to future candidates that serving on this Council comes with no protection from coordinated attacks — even when those attacks threaten the safety of one's home and family.

I urge you to do what is right:

- **Dismiss the Code of Conduct complaint immediately**
- **Condemn the harassment that your colleague has endured**
- **Reaffirm your commitment to fostering a respectful, safe, and inclusive environment for all members of the Council — and the public**

This Council's integrity is on the line. The entire Santa Cruz County community is watching.

Best,

Vanessa

Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Council Member District 2  
Former Watsonville Mayor (2023-2024)  
vanessa.quiroz@watsonville.gov  
Office: 768-3008  
Cell: (831) 235-8152



[How to pronounce my name](#)

“Caminante, no hay puentes, se hace puentes al andar.  
(Voyager, there are no bridges, one builds them as one walks.) ” — Gloria E. Anzaldúa