

Gautho, Julia

From: Lora Lee Martin <loraleemartin@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2025 2:45 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Dismiss Item 9B - Support letter for Councilmember Orbach

Re: Support for Melinda Orbach- dismissal of Item 9B , September 25th Council Meeting

Dear Capitola City Council,

The decision the Council makes regarding Item 9B on your September 25th Council meeting agenda is being watched across Santa Cruz County. The issue of intimidation and harassment of a council member, any council member, should not be tolerated in our community.

You have a choice before you. Will you encourage discourse and civil behavior or will you condone intimidation and harassment of elected and appointed officials in our community? As the nation goes is NOT how a community in our County should go.

A review of the facts, what was said and what actions of intimidation took place, should be straightforward for this Council. Councilmember Orbach respectfully raised a serious issue at the Council meetings. She has acknowledged that naming the individual was a mistake. She has attempted to schedule a sit-down mediation with the individual which has now been scheduled for October (delayed by that individual).

I appreciate that a claim was filed by the person in question and that the City is compelled to take this up as a public agenda item. I urge you to acknowledge the importance of civility of discourse and protection of our public servants. **Dismiss this claim and make a public statement about what level of behaviors are acceptable in our community.** It is one thing to disagree on issues; it is another to use scare tactics and intimidation. The national dysfunction should not be allowed in our community.

Thank you for the service you all perform. Imagine. This could easily have been someone trying to learn where you and your children lived. You have the responsibility to condemn this sort of behavior, not encourage it.

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