

Gautho, Julia

From: REBECCA GALVAN <wren42742@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2025 8:20 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Melinda Orbach

Dear Capitola City Council,

You MUST dismiss the complaint against Councilmember Orbach. I have read the article and heard from sources what occurred and can only summarize that in the face of intimidation, Councilmember Orbach used the only tool she had to defend herself - her voice. It is documented that she has already apologized for naming this individual and is now in mediation. Having a public hearing about this will undermine that process and demoralize support for this counsel.

We all know the current political climate is tense, divisive, and often hostile. Public servants at every level face constant criticism, intimidation, and personal attacks. Serving on council is already demanding and stressful; to add weaponized complaints on top of that makes it harder for good people — especially women and especially ESPECIALLY women of color — to step up and lead. Capitola and its counsel should be making public service more sustainable, not more punishing.

This hearing sends the message: that when women speak up, they will be silenced, criticized, or punished.
That is not the lesson we should be modeling as a community.

I urge you to dismiss the complaint tonight, on September 25, and let mediation work.

Respectfully,
Rebecca Galván -local resident of 45 years and hoping for better community and examples shown to her own children.

Sent from my iPhone