

Gautho, Julia

From: Manuel Castro <manuelecastro97@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 9:19 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Public comment for Agenda Item 9B tomorrow 3/25

Good Evening City Council and community members,

First and foremost please accept my apologies for not being able to attend tonight's meeting in person. As a Teacher at New Brighton Middle School, I am currently hosting our school's Open House, an event that highlights the very reason I am seeking this appointment: my deep commitment to the families and future of our community.

I am writing to formally express my enthusiasm for representing the City of Capitola on the Community Action Board (CAB). Having lived in Capitola for seven years and worked previously for our City's Recreation Department, I have a profound respect for the values of our residents. I believe I bring a unique and necessary perspective to this board for several reasons:

- **Professional Governance:** In my role as a negotiator for CSEA at SUESD, I have extensive experience in fiscal oversight, contract negotiation, and collective bargaining. I understand the administrative and legal responsibility that comes with board-level decision-making.
- **Linguistic & Cultural Competence:** As a first-generation Mexican-American and a fluent Spanish speaker, I can serve as a direct bridge between CAB and the diverse populations it serves. I am committed to ensuring that all residents have equitable access to the resources CAB provides especially their ALCANCE program which specializes in providing under-resourced youth and adults with education and mentoring services.
- **A Voice for Capitolians:** My current role as an educator allows me to see the social and economic needs of our population firsthand. I am ready to translate that insight into advocacy at the county level, ensuring that Capitola remains a proactive and effective partner in social equity initiatives.

My goal is to ensure that Capitola remains a proactive partner in eliminating poverty and advocating for social equity across Santa Cruz County. I am ready to bring my energy, my professional experience, and my bilingual skills to this role.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our city

Sincerely,

Manuel E. Castro

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