



01.09.2025 agenda item 8.C

From Katherine Harasz <katherine.harasz@gmail.com>

Date Wed 1/8/2025 10:48 AM

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

The Council has an important decision to make regarding an appointment versus special election to fill the current vacancy. I advocate for the appointment of Enrique Dolmo.

First and foremost, from my chair, it appears that the older, white Capitola resident perspective is well-represented on this council. And, I will throw in business interests, as this demographic seems to align with business interests.

Second, Mr. Dolmo is not retired or semi-retired. He is a working man very much in touch with another important demographic in our community: the youth. Through his employment he understands the current behavior, habits and trends of our youth. I think this is a perspective that is needed in improving pedestrian and bicycle paths, addressing the dangers of e-bikes, and addressing other current youth issues that I am not aware of as a person with adult children.

Third, as a working man, although Mr. Dolmo may not have the luxury of time to volunteer and glad-hand the predominant demographic in our community at various local festivals, he has volunteer hours with the Racial Justice Task Force and Police Chief's Advisory Committee. He has a unique perspective as a person of color, and we need that on our Council.

Melinda Orbach made an astute observation when launching her campaign: that the west side is not represented because Capitola does not have district elections, which would allow for neighborhood interests to be better represented. This same barrier prevents people like Mr. Dolmo from ever being elected. This appointment would not only save money, but achieve an equity that, in my opinion, is long overdue in this City absent the establishment of district elections.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Katherine Harasz
Capitola Resident