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## Capitola City Council vacancies-Agenda Item 8-C

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**From** Concerned Citizens Of Capitola <concernedcitizensofcapitola@gmail.com>

**Date** Wed 1/8/2025 9:57 AM

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

**Cc** Welch, Troy (TJ) (nowworries4TJ@mac.com) <nowworries4TJ@mac.com>; Gautho, Julia <jGautho@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Council Members,

Proper representation for Capitola residents by our City Council is now at stake with the vacancy created by the resignation of Council Member Yvette Brooks. Concerned Citizens of Capitola is requesting that the Council find a fair and transparent process that involves community input to select the new Council Member. Options include an appointment process that includes residents, or a special election.

**Appointing the new Council Member from the last election**-There has been some public discussion that the City Council is considering the appointment of past city council member Margaux Morgan simply because she placed third in the recent council election. Placing third however says a lot more than just a ranking. As an incumbent she lost by 775 votes to a first time candidate. The 775 vote gap for an incumbent in a Capitola election, is really a mandate from the residents that they have lost faith in her ability to appropriately represent our community. To appoint Enrique Dolmo would only further exacerbate the situation. The election was for two members only, and the community did not choose candidates Morgan or Dolmo.

**Appointing a member of the community**-Any outside appointment without community input at this time would likely not have the full support by the community. The lack of transparency would further the lack of trust that already exist. Any selection by appointment should include respected community members.

**Special Election**-While a special election is the fairest, we recognize there is a substantial cost to the City and an extended timeframe. However, Concerned Citizens of Capitola believe a special election would be fair to all, as well as help to improve trust and reduce potential legal recourse.

Respectfully,

TJ Welch on behalf of

Concerned Citizens of Capitola