



City Council Vacancy

From Meghan D Morrissey <mdmorrissey@sbcglobal.net>

Date Tue 1/7/2025 10:08 AM

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

Cc Capitola Morrissey <morrisseycapitola@gmail.com>

Dear Capitola City Council Members-

We are writing in support of the proposal made by Heidi Kellison to establish a process by which the Capitola community can actively participate in the selection process for the open city council seat vacated by the resignation of Yvette Brooks.

A special election would be the most democratic way to proceed in filling this open seat. Unfortunately, the expense and general election fatigue makes this option less attractive. We are very opposed to an immediate appointment by the existing four members of the city council as it's the least open and community-inclusive manner to select an individual to fill this critical position.

In our view, transparency, integrity and community involvement/oversight are the critical priorities for filling this seat. An open, efficient and community-based process is the optimal way to help the Capitola community rally around an individual of merit, purpose and commitment to fill this vacant seat.

We should not prioritize speed over transparency and community oversight. The lack of transparency and process displayed by the previous city council has left many long-term residents on the sidelines, actively questioning key governance decisions made by the previous city council that are in direct conflict with the will of Capitola's citizens, based on unequivocal election results, and simple safety concerns for the well being of current and future residents.

We need to dramatically improve our governance practices and now have the opportunity to add a new member that can work in a truly collaborative fashion with the council, city staff and community to help restore trust and help rebuild Capitola for the decades ahead of us.

The proposal submitted by Heidi Kellison is well constructed and detailed in a step-by-step manner that is based on community-involvement and transparency from the outset. Let's seize the moment and come together as a community to embrace this process and use it as a model for how we solve important problems as a community, now and in the future.

Finally, we strongly urge the Capitola City Council to immediately amend the agenda for Thursday's city council meeting to postpone the Monte Foundation fireworks topic to a later time when the new Capitola City Council is reconstituted. The fireworks topic is simply a much lower priority than the absolute mission-critical nature of defining a process to select a new council member. We acknowledge the area residents who have sent letters to share their concerns about these annual fireworks and they should have a public forum to voice their opinions. However, we

count on the Capitola City Council to have the strategic oversight and clarity of vision to prioritize topics for discussion/decisions and hope they'll use the opportunity on Thursday to focus the topic on the single most important issue facing Capitola today.

Thanks - we look forward to sharing our views publicly Thursday at the meeting.

Meghan and Michael Morrissey
Capitola