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City of Houston  
Attn: Jackie Schuessler-Kimsey (MHHA)  
901 Bagby, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Houston, TX 77002

Re: 2024 Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Awards – Nomination- Lifetime Achievement Award-  
**Irma Diaz-Gonzalez, President/CEO Employment & Training Centers, Inc.**

It is my distinct honor to nominate Irma Diaz-Gonzalez, for the prestigious **Lifetime Achievement Award** in recognition of her amazing personal and professional trajectory.

I have known Irma since I relocated to Houston over twenty years ago. Even then, Irma was already a shining star, distinguishing herself as one of the few Latinas to lead her own successful company. I served on her Executive team during her tenure as Chair of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She led this organization with high ethics and moral values that exemplified not only our Hispanic culture but also set a high standard for the broader business community. Her leadership in the search for a new CEO/Executive Director, along with other Latino leaders, brought much needed stability for the Chamber and has helped elevate the organization to incredible heights.

Most recently, I have witnessed Irma's leadership in her role as a service provider for Workforce Solutions – Houston-Galveston Area Council, a relationship that lasted 21 years in a high compliance environment, consistently delivering results. Irma's pride in her company and the work they do is well-founded. Under her leadership, the company has been consistently recognized by both the Houston Chronicle and the Houston Business Journal as one of the Best Places to Work. This achievement reflects not only her business acumen, but also her commitment to creating a positive and supportive work environment, where employees feel valued and motivated.

She has generously offered her leadership skills, time and resources to numerous organizations including some dear to my heart, such as the Houston Symphony Hispanic Leadership Advisory Board. Her inclusive nature and commitment to empowering others are truly commendable. She is inclusive and shines a light on others to join and participate

and provides opportunities for others to gain knowledge and expertise both personally and professionally.

My most vivid recollection of her generous spirit is when she held her annual “tamalada” at her house where she and her husband, Roberto, would open their home to make and enjoy tamales to raise funds for the PART (Pan American Round Table) scholarship funds for low income Latinas, an event she held for 18 years. This is just one example of the countless ways she gives back to the community.

While her bio reflects many of her contributions, it does not capture the challenges and sacrifices she has made to achieve a lifetime of servant leadership. She may regard her most valued contribution as the way she and her husband have raised their daughters to follow in their footsteps of giving back to the community. She is an exemplary role model, a leader, and a mentor to many.

Please consider Irma Diaz-Gonzalez for this prestigious award. She is truly deserving of this recognition, and I am confident that her character and contributions will continue to inspire others for years to come.

Sincerely,

M. Helen Cavazos  
Mayor’s Hispanic Advisory Board  
Education Sub-Committee Chair