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ANA HERNANDEZ

HOUSE DISTRICT 143

September 6, 2024

City of Houston
Attn: Jackie Schuessler-Kimsey (MHHA)
901 Bagby, 3rd floor
Houston, TX 77002

Dear Ms. Schuessler-Kimsey,

It is my pleasure to recommend Mr. Juan Hernandez as a nominee for the Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Hernandez served our city for 35 years with the Houston Fire Department, reaching the rank of Captain before his retirement. His service in the community continues as a small business owner and advocate for the Denver Harbor community. His years of service in our community exemplifies selfless leadership and dedication deserving of this lifetime achievement award.

For the past 18 years, Juan and his wife Anna have owned and operated a beloved restaurant in the East End, Dona Maria's, which is often referred to as a "mom-and-pop shop" where they serve authentic Mexican cuisine. Dona Maria's is frequented for its authentic Mexican cuisine and has become a central meeting place for community leaders to establish networks and build relationships with people from all backgrounds.

Mr. Hernandez embodies the values of resilience, commitment, and civic pride that the Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Awards celebrate. His selfless contributions to our community have enriched our neighborhood and set a high standard for community advocacy. His exemplary service and tireless efforts make him an ideal candidate for this honor.

Thank you for considering Mr. Juan Hernandez for the Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (713) 675-8596.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ana Hernandez".

Ana Hernandez