

**From:** Tamara Canedo <senseitamara1@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 12, 2025 3:16 PM

**To:** Francia Alonso <falonso@sanluisaz.gov>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Alejandra Payan

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Dear Francia,

Thank you so much for taking the time to speak with me. As I mentioned earlier, while I'm not Alejandra's personal Sensei, I've had the privilege of witnessing her journey firsthand — and I couldn't be prouder of what she's accomplished.

Alejandra began Para-Karate at a very young age. In those early days, she was shy and often overwhelmed, sometimes brought to tears before entering the ring. But what's unfolded over the years is nothing short of remarkable. With the unwavering guidance of her Sensei, Enrique Partida, Alejandra has transformed into a fierce, focused, and resilient competitor. This year alone, she won Gold at the USA Open and brought home a Bronze medal from the Pan American Championship. She is now officially a member of Team USA and is training rigorously for the upcoming National Championship in July.

Francia, it would mean so much if the Mayor and city council could recognize Alejandra's achievements in a special way. She represents the very best of our community — not just through her medals, but through her perseverance, spirit, and the hope she inspires in others. Alejandra is living proof that individuals with disabilities are capable of extraordinary greatness when given the chance. In my experience, athletes with disabilities often work harder than anyone else, and their victories carry with them stories of immense courage and resilience.

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge Sensei Enrique Partida. His work with special needs children goes far beyond martial arts — he's helping families build confidence, purpose, and belonging. He is changing lives quietly and powerfully, and I'm not sure if the city is fully aware of the impact he's making.

What he does is truly God's work, and it deserves to be seen and celebrated.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. I hope this can be the beginning of something beautiful for Alejandra, Sensei Enrique, and all the remarkable athletes who are redefining what's possible.

Warm regards,

Sensei Tamara Canedo-Lifschutz