

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

RESOLUTION 2024 –

WHEREAS, JOSE “CHELO” ALONZO, born in Newark, New Jersey, was sent to Aguadilla, Puerto Rico at the age of 7 after missing his uncle who had recently moved there to be with Chelo’s great grandfather. Upon arriving in Puerto Rico, he found himself involved in constant fights with the neighborhood boys. He was not welcomed and was treated as an outsider. Frustrated with Chelo’s frequent altercations, his great grandfather had a discussion with Chelo’s uncle and instructed his uncle to either take Chelo to the boxing gym or send him back to New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, due to a change in family circumstances, Chelo and his family relocated to Spring Hill, Florida in 1990. A few years later, Chelo had a fateful encounter that would shape his future. In 1993, he won the Florida State Golden Gloves, fueling his passion for boxing and pushing him to strive for more. However, it was in 1998 that Chelo’s destiny took a transformative turn. Thanks to the support of Henry Rolan, a local news caster and promoter, Chelo had the opportunity to meet the legendary Latin trainer, Don Kahn. During their first encounter, Don Kahn asked Chelo a crucial question that would define his journey: "Why do you want to be a fighter?" This inquiry challenged Chelo to reflect on his motivations and aspirations. With determination in his eyes, Chelo responded, "Because I want to become a champion"; and

WHEREAS, Don Kahn then challenged him to spar with a heavyweight boxer the very next day, disregarding his 185-pound frame at the time. With a fire burning inside him, he arrived early and stepped into the ring, feeling the weight of the world on his shoulders. The first round was a study, analyzing his opponent's moves, and in the second, he made a powerful statement by knocking him down. Don Kahn’s subtle smirk spoke volumes, signaling his acceptance into the world of boxing. It was no longer just something he did; it became an integral part of who he was. Four years of relentless training and dedication culminated in his victory in the World Boxing Association Fedecentro Championship against Alberto Albaladejo in Tampa, Florida; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious title, exclusively for Latin Boxers, was sealed with an eighth-round knockout using a three-punch combination. In that moment, he etched his name in history as the first Hernando County, Florida resident to hold a professional boxing title. However, fate can be a fickle companion, and just three weeks after his triumph, he suffered a debilitating setback and broke his right ankle, forcing him to step away from boxing; and

WHEREAS, eight long years passed, and his children Jose Jr., Nyasia and little brother Adrian encouraged Chelo to return to the sport. In 2010, he embarked on a remarkable comeback journey, and a mere nine months later, through sheer determination and relentless effort, he secured the title of Florida State Super Middleweight Champion, defeating Adam Jaco by split decision, all at the age of 34; and

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2012, marked the end of his boxing career with Fight Night Productions, concluding with an impressive record of 13-1-7 Knockout. The taxing toll boxing exacts on one's body, combined with a lingering neck injury, prompted his decision to retire. Retiring from boxing was not an easy choice, as the sport had become ingrained in his identity. However, he knew that preserving his long-term health and well-being was paramount. Chelo had achieved more than he could have ever imagined, leaving an indelible mark on the sport and his community; and

WHEREAS, JOSE “CHELO” ALONZO wasn’t sure what he would do career-wise, but then he realized God had another plan for him in that he could use his knowledge of conditioning, nutrition, and self-motivation to help others become the champions that they are. He became a National Academy of Sports Medicine Certified Personal Trainer, gaining many certifications. Health and fitness became Chelo new passion, and he dedicated his life to it; and

WHEREAS, JOSE “CHELO” ALONZO’s incredible journey furthermore has allowed him to give back to his community, not only inside the boxing ring but also outside the boxing ring. Through his boxing career, Chelo learned invaluable qualities such as discipline, commitment, integrity, respect, and humility. These qualities have become an integral part of his daily life, shaping him into the person he is today. Chelo will forever be grateful for the opportunity that was given to him by Don Khan on that fateful day; the chance to become a boxing champion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Board of County Commissioners hereby proclaim Jose “Chelo” Alonzo as the first Hernando County athlete inducted into the Florida Boxing Hall of Fame.

SECTION 2. The Board of County Commissioners hereby applauds **JOSE “CHELO” ALONZO** on his drive, achievements, and dedication in becoming the first Hernando County athlete inducted into the Florida Boxing Hall of Fame.

ADOPTED in Regular Session this 25th day of June 2024, A.D.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Attest:

Douglas A. Chorvat, Jr.
Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller

Elizabeth Narverud
Chairperson

John Allocco
Commissioner

Brian Hawkins
Vice Chairman

Steve Champion
Commissioner

Jerry Campbell
Second Vice Chairman