

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria government is committed to its values of respect, responsibility, teamwork, communication, diversity and leadership and has instituted a City Stars! Award to honor individual employees or groups of employees who exemplify the City's value; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to recognize Ricardo G. Drumond, an employee in the Department of Human Services, for his exemplary work and high level of professionalism while helping City residents and workers who are recent immigrants to adjust to their new country by connecting with available services and teaching them life skills through his innovative teaching style; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Drumond, a native of Bolivia and a graduate of the University of Sao Paulo, began working for the City in 1986 as a Temporary, Part-time Outreach Worker Aide focusing on the nutritional needs of the residents of Arlandria with a special emphasis on the Hispanic community, and on a small budget funded by a short-term grant, through hard work and his individual efforts transformed the position so that eventually he oversaw a dozen community programs involving gang prevention, domestic violence, and homeownership, among others; and

WHEREAS, in July 1993, the City changed Ricardo's job duties to a Volunteer Coordinator for the City's Hispanic Orientation and Education Program (HOEP), and as the only paid staff for HOEP, with little or no funds, he recruits and trains all volunteers to teach classes and present workshops, and he also coordinates the citizenship, ESL, literacy, GED classes and acculturation workshops and has helped more than 7,000 Spanish-speaking immigrants receive essential services or learn needed skills such as English classes, health screenings, parenting workshops, obtaining a drivers license, becoming a citizen, improving consumer credit, and overcoming addictions; and

WHEREAS, his entire career with the City exemplifies the Spanish proverb: Hay mas felicidad en dar que en recibir – It's more blessed to give than to receive;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim that a CityStars! Award be bestowed on:

"RICARDO G. DRUMOND"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 13th day of February 2007.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR
*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk