

**PROCLAMATION**

*WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria government is committed to its values of respect, responsibility, teamwork, communication, diversity and leadership and has instituted an employee of the month award to honor individual employees or groups of employees who exemplify the City's values; and*

*WHEREAS, the City wishes to recognize Mike Hatfield, the Disability Empowerment Coordinator in the Alexandria Office of Human Rights, for his outstanding work in providing competent, consistent service to employees and citizens – those with and without disabilities; and*

*WHEREAS, Mike is a dedicated public servant who started his employment with the City of Alexandria on April 4, 2005, and who is committed to ensuring that persons with disabilities share equally in Alexandria's quality of life; and*

*WHEREAS, Mike is knowledgeable about legal protections for those seeking reasonable accommodations or access to facilities and services but never lets the law limit his creativity in finding solutions; and*

*WHEREAS, his plate is always full -- with staffing the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities, being an on-call source of referral information for the public, and an in-house resource for City departments; and*

*WHEREAS, last summer he created an Alexandria version of a service animal wallet card so people with visual impairments can use guide dogs. Other service animals are trained to alert a person who is deaf to sounds, to alert an individual with seizure disorder to an oncoming seizure, to carry and pick up things for someone who uses a wheelchair, or to help with balance; and*

*WHEREAS, Mike has collaborated with the Department of Personnel Services on training departmental ADA coordinators and mentoring students; with T&ES on transportation issues; with Code Enforcement on accessibility issues and requirements for developers; and with almost every department in City government on reasonable accommodation requests; and*

*WHEREAS, he is quietly tenacious about providing our City communications in alternative formats and about posting everywhere the City's commitment to striving for compliance with the ADA and the City's Human Rights Code; and*

*WHEREAS, Mike's determined efforts on behalf of the disabled community have contributed to the nomination of the City of Alexandria as a finalist in the 2007 Accessible America Competition by the National Organization on Disability; and*

*WHEREAS, realizing that his efforts have been so instrumental in delivering the goal of the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities of "equality, dignity and independence" for everyone;*

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

**"MIKE HATFIELD,  
DISABILITY EMPOWERMENT COORDINATOR,  
OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS"**

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 2008.*

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

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk