

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 values; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to recognize Bonita L. Copeland, a lifelong resident of the City of Alexandria who has served the residents of the City for more than ten years as a foster parent, a companion provider to seniors and now as a caseworker in the DHS Office of Aging and Adult Services; and

WHEREAS, in her job as a caseworker she makes quarterly visits to over 100 clients who receive companion services, including updating their records and alerting social workers to any issues needing immediate attention; she visits and updates records on about 10-15 Meals on Wheels clients each month; and she also helps with organizing training and recertifying the 100 or more companion providers in DHS, and obtaining necessary paperwork from new companions; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Copeland, in addition to her heavy regular workload, served in a second job as the interim Companion Services Coordinator in the Office of Aging and Adult Services, coordinating the work of 150 companion providers; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Copeland never hesitates to tackle tough challenges that would overwhelm others, including a bedbug infestation at one of the senior high-rise buildings in the City where Ms. Copeland not only coordinated the work of the companion providers in that effort, but rolled up her sleeves to wash and bag clothing, clean furniture, change mattresses and scrub walls all for the benefit of some of our most vulnerable citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Copeland, in her humble, quiet and steady manner, has provided a safe haven for foster children, has been a mentor to parents as they try to overcome personal struggles and regain custody of their children, and a kind and respectful companion to Alexandria's seniors; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Copeland has shared with her coworkers her support, her wealth of insight and depth of commitment to this community that is an inspiration to all who know her; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Copeland embodies the spirit of public service, exemplifying teamwork, respect and unyielding dedication to the City she calls home;

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:

"BONITA COPELAND"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 27th day of May 2008.

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

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk