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Senator McCrory Applauds Program To Assist Small Businesses And Nonprofits Impacted By COVID-19



State Senator Doug McCrory joins Governor Ned Lamont, Deputy Commissioner Glendowyn Thames of the Dept of Economic and Community Development (DECD); Congressman John Larson; state elected officials; and Andre Lilly, owner of Lilly's Soul Food, announcing the creation of the grant program of Connecticut CARES Small Business

HARTFORD, CT: State Senator Doug McCrory (D-Hartford) joined Governor Ned Lamont to announce the creation of the Connecticut CARES Small Business Grant Program that will assist small businesses and nonprofits impacted by the ongoing

COVID-19 pandemic. The program available to eligible Connecticut businesses and nonprofits with fewer than 20 employees or a 2019 payroll of less than \$1.5 million, and will provide a one-time grant of \$5,000.

The announcement was made at Lilly's Soul Food in

Windsor. "Our state's small businesses greatly need this support as they continue to weather the economic effects caused by the coronavirus," said Sen. McCrory. "Even more, this program will provide much-needed relief to minority-owned small businesses, which have been especially hit hard and have

faced challenges in accessing other business support programs.

I applaud the foresight to include a focus on providing grants to businesses in underserved areas as we cannot allow any businesses to be left behind as we continue to navigate the impact of the pandemic and chart a path forward for our

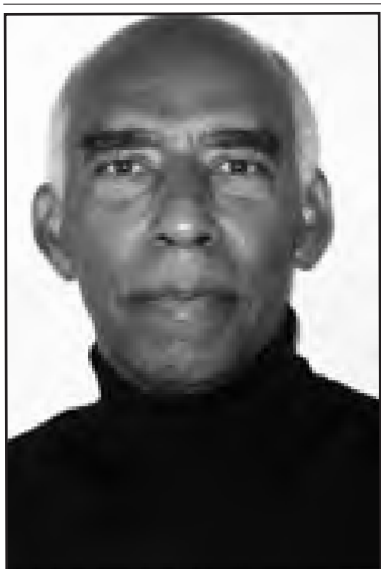
state's economy to recover."

Sen. McCrory and Governor Lamont were joined for the announcement by Deputy Commissioner Glendowyn Thames of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD); Congressman John Larson; state Representatives Brandon L. McGee, Jane Garibay and Caroline Simmons; and Lilly's Soul Food owner Andre Lilly with managers Krystin and Kayla Lilly.

The grants can be used toward payroll, rent, utilities, inventory, purchase of machinery or equipment, or costs associated with compliance of the ongoing Reopen Connecticut Business Sector Rules. DECD must commit half of the available funds to small businesses and nonprofits located in cities and towns designated as "distressed municipalities," which includes Hartford.

DECD estimates it will begin accepting online applications the week of November 9, and funds are expected to be distributed by December 30. More information on the program and eligibility requirements will be posted on Connecticut's business portal, business.ct.gov.

The assistance program will be administered by DECD with \$50 million from the state's Coronavirus Relief Fund, which uses federal CARES Act funding.



Jim Z. Daniels

Two simultaneous events have the attention of the international community and the government of the United States at this moment. Right now, the nation of Belarus in eastern Europe is dealing with a leader, a president, who has been in office 26 years and proclaimed himself the winner in the last election with 80 percent of the eligible votes. It is a known and accepted fraud, a lie. Thousands of the

Core Values, Principles Supporting President Trump's Actions Are Elusive

citizens of Belarus have marched in protest. He says he's not giving up his "victory." We are not necessarily surprised; this region of the world has a long record of instability and hostilities. There is an ongoing struggle to institutionalize democratic principles.

The United States is passing through a time of instability and cultural upheaval fomented by a president who has given no assurances that he will demit from the White House if he loses this election.

We have no history of a president refusing to surrender the Office of the President on January 20, a frequent Third World occurrence. The mere discussion of this issue as a possibility lends credence to how far Trump has vandalized the office he holds.

It is clear that in both men, Donald Trump and Alexander Lukashenko, questions arise regarding what core values guide them. We are concerned with Trump's core values and the principles that undergird his beliefs. We have had two presidential debates and it has been revelatory on several levels. Joe Biden has made a valiant effort to present as cohesive a plan as he believes the American people would welcome.

He tried strenuously to convey as much as he was allowed to during his debate with President Trump and framed it in the context of uniting this divided country. His desire to move us toward greater understanding and acceptance of who we are as a diverse people saw him declare that he would be the president of all the people--of those

who did and those who did not support him.

In the first debate President Trump launched a relentless personal and disruptive attack on Biden and it was of such a personal nature that many who watched said they turned off their TV. It was clear that the president intended to humiliate his adversary because he had and has had no unified or visionary plan of his own for the nation.

Everything he has done has been transactional and soaked in a relentless attempt to erase the contributions and the good name of President Obama.

From the day he came down the escalator in Trump Tower where he proclaimed a

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Trump: Elusive Values, Principles

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monstrous lie and that he was running for President of the United States, he has been captivated and controlled by a torrent of lies and deceptions.

He has taken great pride in injecting himself into places and issues that have denigrated the high esteem and awe with which the Office of the President has been

held. His singular most relentless strategy has been the use of humiliation and shame to silence his antagonists. Fear has crippled many and silenced others, powerful in their own right, who dared to negatively, even if very mildly, comment on anything he has said, done or proposed.

Trump has saturated himself in the realization that shaming, and

humiliation always involve an attack on the victims honor. Even more, they explicitly aim to undermine the respect others have of that person. The more humiliated the victim the greater the perpetrator's feeling of power. The list of such individuals might begin with former Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson an immensely successful executive who was, "dumb as a brick."

As a nation of successful and accomplished individuals we all have seen the flaunting of huge egos across a wide array of styles and endeavors. There is however a palpable level of intolerance by Trump for anyone who would dare to dim his hyper-bright spotlight. He would pursue any end over any period of time to take down such an individual. How and why he does it is the disturbing aspect of his character.

It is overwhelmingly plausible that this self-obsessed affliction

must have its roots in childhood experiences and in all probability indicates a certain set of values displayed in his home growing up. It translates into his inability to empathize, to commiserate, regardless of the circumstance.

The failure of Donald Trump is not only his self-obsessive paralysis, it more profoundly is his inability to learn; to grasp the inherent unifying dimensions of the office he holds.

After four years as president he has proven himself incapable of leveraging the institutional awesomeness of the office he occupies. He is not expected to change so we the people must seek out another more honorable occupier of the Office of President of the United States.

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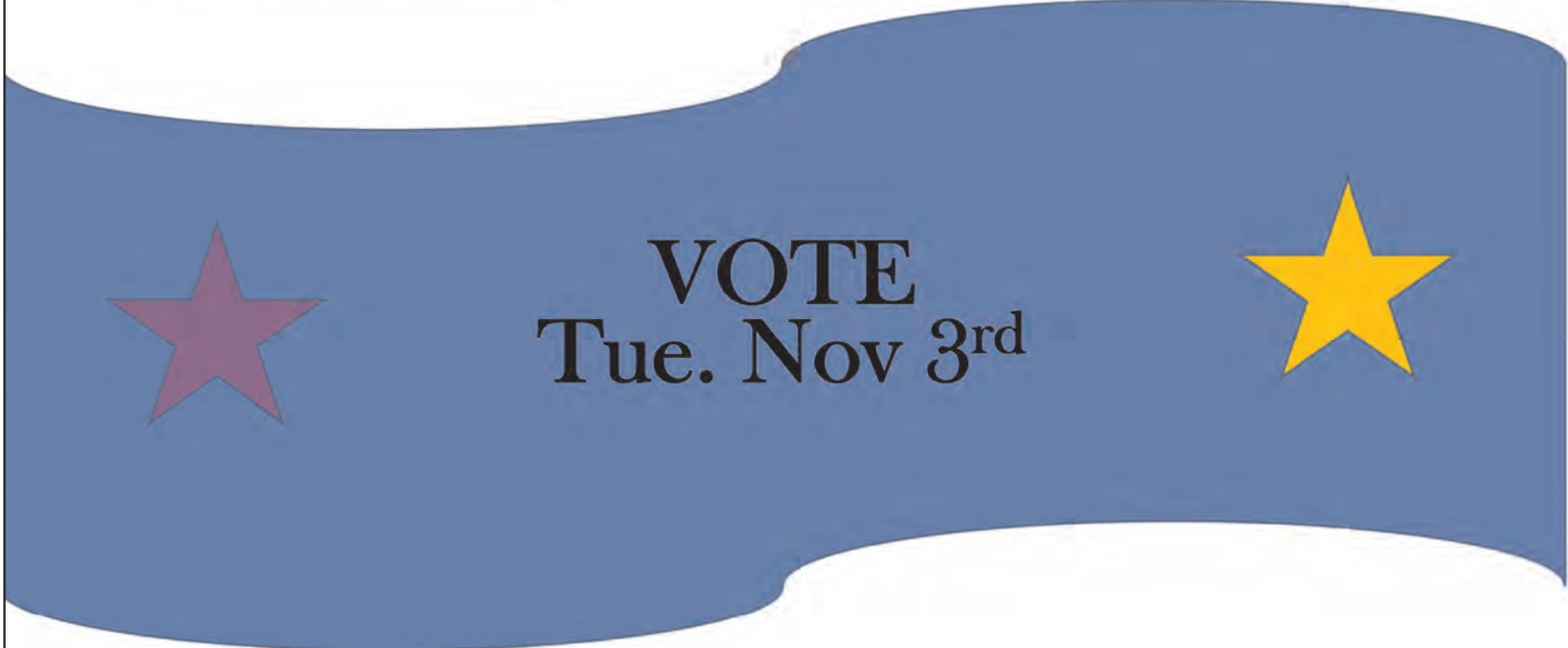
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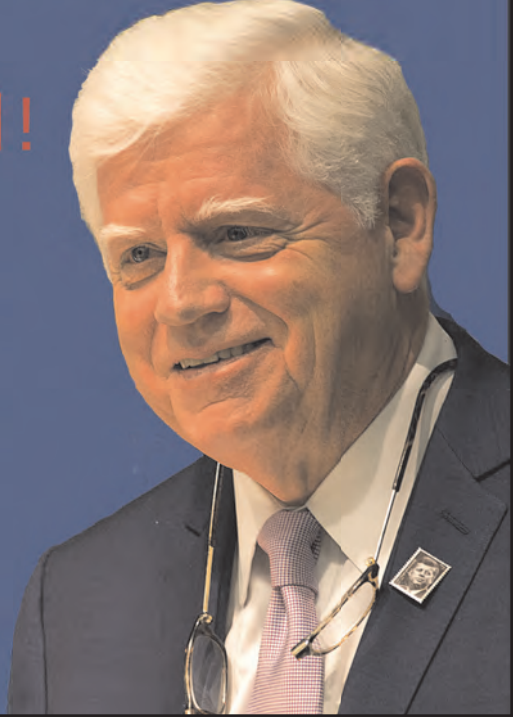
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