



## Talking About It

I hosted a community conversation in Hartford with the NAACP, the Hartford Police Department and

the state Board of Pardons & Paroles. The event was an important occasion to address issues and opportunities in our neighborhoods and to empower the community by bringing people together. By focusing on issues like increased legal services for the poor, recruiting and promoting more minorities in law enforcement, and eliminating mandatory minimum prison sentences for nonviolent drug possession, we can make our communities better places to live and work.

## Protecting Domestic Violence Victims

I worked on a critical new law that will help protect victims from their abusers immediately following the service of a temporary restraining order. Current law is the weakest at the most dangerous moments for domestic violence victims. This change will allow the removal of firearms from the equation during the most critical time in a victim's life—the seven days between the filing of the restraining order and the hearing to make the order permanent.



## Recruiting Minority Teachers

Forty-one percent of Connecticut high school students are people of color, but only 7 percent of our teachers are, and only two percent of school administrators. This disparity has been a concern of mine and my constituents for some time—so much so that they helped me lobby for passage of a bill that will increase minority teacher recruitment and advancement efforts in Connecticut. I am happy to say that this bill passed on a unanimous and bipartisan basis this year.

YOUR STATE SENATOR

# ERIC COLEMAN

Representing Bloomfield,  
Hartford & Windsor

## FAIRNESS & EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW



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# Fairness & Equality Under the Law



I spoke at "Beyond Ferguson, Baltimore and Charleston: Race, Class and the Journey to Justice," an event held by the University of Hartford's Black History Committee. The panel discussion explored race relations in Connecticut and focused on the ways in which mobilization efforts around social justice issues can be translated into policy recommendations and institutional change in the state.

## EXPANDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

I am always working to make our justice system more fair, equitable and just. This year, I helped lead the effort to continue reforming the system for both juveniles and adults. Courts can no longer lock up youth before trial unless they committed a new crime or are a risk to public safety. This reform is expected to cut the number of incarcerated juveniles in half. In addition, youth will now receive more pre-trial programs such as substance abuse treatment and anger management.

There will now be more oversight of family support judges that establish and enforce child and spousal support orders. The time between pre-trial appearances for juveniles will be cut in half to seven days. We also increased funding for legal services for the poor and created a task force to study unmet legal needs and the right to an attorney in civil cases.

### Creating Jobs for the New Innovation Economy

This year I championed a law to focus on the new innovation economy so we are building jobs for the next generation. From the Industrial Revolution to the modern jet engine and the financial industry, our state has been at the forefront of the nation's economy. But as the business world changes we must once again reinvent our economy to continue to lead. This new law uses our economic strengths—a highly educated and productive workforce, top-tier universities and existing businesses—to capture future job growth at startups and expansion-ready companies.

- ▶ Develops and attracts entrepreneurs who create new startups and jobs and helps grow successful startups into larger firms
- ▶ Establishes 'Innovation Places'—dense, local networks of innovators and entrepreneurs—where new businesses can grow faster together
- ▶ Connects colleges and universities with the private sector to convert research into new businesses
- ▶ Attracts more private funding to support growing companies



### Protecting Core Services



Despite a budget deficit, I worked hard to consolidate state government in a smart way in order to protect core services. We protected funding for seniors and people with disabilities, continued a strong level of local and higher education funding, maintained a commitment of investment in our hospitals, and dedicated state funding to every town in the state to hold down property taxes.

Town	Funding Increase	Total Funding This Year
Hartford	\$9.3 million (3.6%)	\$262.7 million
Bloomfield	\$270,000 (2.9%)	\$9.2 million
Windsor	\$266,000 (1.8%)	\$14.9 million

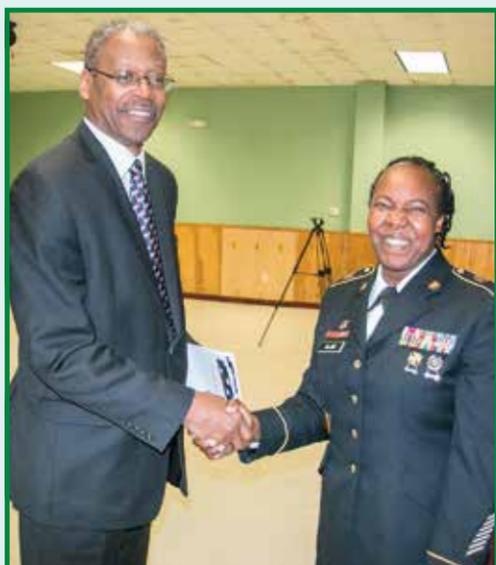
### Cutting Hartford's Car Taxes

The most frequent concern that families, seniors and small-business owners express to me is about property and car taxes. I am helping lead the charge to provide Hartford and other municipalities with the resources needed to limit these crippling taxes. As we move forward, the state will dedicate a portion of its sales tax revenue to cities and towns to help alleviate pressure on the property tax. Car taxes will also now be capped at 37 mills, which means a savings of 50 percent on your car tax bill given Hartford's current mill rate of 74.2.



### Supporting Veteran-Owned Small Businesses

As policymakers, we must improve the lives of our veterans and ensure they earn a good living and contribute to our economy. Under a new law that I supported this year, veteran-owned small businesses will now receive additional preferences that will make it easier for veterans to start and grow businesses. This new policy is a continuation of my multi-year focus on improving the lives of our veterans and supporting them in every way possible.



***"The Chamber is grateful to Senate leadership for its support of this initiative, which is vital to our more than 40,000 veteran-owned businesses"***

Andrew S. DiSilvestro Jr., Executive VP  
CT Veterans Chamber of Commerce

### Promoting the Success of Small, Minority-Owned Businesses

Since the Great Recession, Connecticut began offering programs that provide funding and other assistance to small businesses. This year I focused on a new law to ensure that small, minority-owned businesses receive funding through programs to maintain their growth and success in our underserved communities. Specifically, this law establishes new loan funds for eligible small, minority-owned businesses. The Department of Economic and Community Development will also be required to support the growth of minority-owned businesses.

