

Dulos estate owes \$2M, judge says

Mother-in-law to receive repayment after loans were used for divorce, vacations

By EDMUND H. MAHONY

A judge hit Fotis Dulos' estate and his construction company with a nearly \$2 million bill Monday, finding that the accused wife killer borrowed the money from his father-in-law, ostensibly as business loans, but spent much of it on his divorce and a succession of pricey, globe-trotting vacations with his girlfriend.

The decision by Superior Court Judge Cesar A. Noble and the two lawsuits that led up to it suggest Dulos, a would-be builder of high-end homes, was playing fast and loose with finances during the period in which he is his accused of killing his wife, Jennifer Farber Dulos, and eventually killing himself. Dulos claimed he was innocent right up to his suicide in January. His wife's body has not been found.

The decision orders the estate of Dulos to repay \$1.9 million to his wife's mother.

For a decade or more Dulos, through his company, the Fore Group, borrowed as much as \$2.5 million from his father-in-law, Hilliard Farber. Most of the money was loaned informally, by oral agreement.

There was an additional \$500,000 based on a written note signed by Dulos and Jennifer.

After Jennifer Farber Dulos disappeared, Gloria Farber, widow of Hilliard Farber, brought two suits against Dulos and the Fore Group for collection as administrator of her husband's estate.

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STATE BUDGET

\$619.9M deficit tied to closures, job losses

By DANIELA ALTIMARI

Citing pandemic-related job losses and business closures, state Comptroller Kevin Lembo is predicting a \$619.9 million deficit for the fiscal year that ends on June 30.

"Revenue doesn't come in when people aren't at work," Lembo said. "We are in, to use an over-used phrase, uncharted territory. I don't know where the bottom is ... I don't know when the rebound comes."

In his monthly financial update to Gov. Ned Lamont, Lembo, the state's fiscal guardian, charts the impact of the public health crisis on Connecticut's economy.

"A clearer picture is emerging of the economic toll of the COVID-19 pandemic, although uncertainty remains about its duration," Lembo said in his letter to Lamont. "In the months ahead, my office will continue to monitor the economic and budget situation closely and update these projections as needed."

Many sectors the state relies on for revenue, from restaurants to real estate, have been closed or sharply curtailed for nearly three months. Receipts from both the sales tax and the income tax are down, and the delayed filing date for income taxes has added another measure of uncertainty to budget projections.

"Many people in Connecticut are hurting as the pandemic continues to impact every sector of the economy," Lembo said. "It will take a tremendous amount of work to make sure the job losses we're experiencing are temporary while continuing broad measures to protect public health."

He notes that new home listings are down more than 56% and job losses in the hospitality industry have topped 50% since the stay-at-home order took effect in March.

The picture could have been far gloomier, Lembo said. The deficit projection is an improvement of \$314.2 million from the April figure, due to the

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BRAD HERRIGAN/HARTFORD COURANT PHOTOS

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

ITCHING FOR A CUT

Barbershops in Connecticut reopened Monday, and barbers and clients alike found relief

By SHAWN MCFARLAND

Like so many hamstrung by the closure of barbershops due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chris Buccini chose to cut his own hair. His wife offered to do the job for him, but he opted to do it himself.

"It didn't end up well for me," Buccini, of Wethersfield, said.

After shaving it all off and "starting from scratch," he was finally able to stop in and see his barber on Monday, the first day barbershops and salons were allowed to return to business as part of the state's reopening plan following the coronavirus outbreak. Nick Dell'Aera has been cutting Buccini's hair for 10 years at Tommy Ray's Barbershop in West Hartford, and for both parties, Monday's reopening was a welcome

sight.

"It just feels like we're getting a little more back to normal," said Buccini. "It's just one of those routine things you take for granted. To get back here, it was something to look forward to, honestly."

"It just felt like a piece of normal life we haven't had for a while."

Tommy Ray's was one of many barbershops across the state to open its doors once again. Some salons chose to open, though many continued to keep their doors closed and are opting to weather the storm for a little bit longer. Mitchell Westcott, a barber at Tommy Ray's, said the shop had planned to reopen May 20, and the staff was even in the shop the day before, sanitizing and preparing to get back to work before Gov. Ned Lamont extended the

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Top: Angel Torres cuts hair while wearing a face shield and a mask at Harrison's House of Styles. Harrison's also hung plastic sheeting between barbers' chairs.

Middle: Rebecca Thomas cuts Guy Camarca Jr.'s hair at MC Barber in Wethersfield on Monday, the first day barbershops were allowed to open.

Bottom: Hamza Cecunjanin, 15, takes a customer's temperature as he enters MC Barber in Wethersfield on Monday, the first day barbershops were allowed to open in Gov. Ned Lamont's phased commercial reopening.

GEORGE FLOYD DEATH PROTESTS

'Turning point' for local officers

Connecticut police chiefs respond to Minneapolis killing, nationwide protests, discuss what comes next

By MICHAEL HAMAD
AND STEVEN GOODE

For Milford Chief of Police Keith L. Mello the death of George Floyd is certainly a turning point for the nation, but it is also "a turning point in law enforcement."

"I think people sometimes forget that we're also human beings, said Mello, who is also the president of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association. "We think about our own family and our own children, and we realize that there's so much work that needs to be done. ... It's disgusting. It's not something that that any of us as human beings can understand. I hope I speak for most, and certainly I'm including police officers in that."

In the wake of Floyd's death and amid protests in scores of cities across Connecticut and the nation, current and former police chiefs in Connecticut are expressing anger, frustration and sadness while outlining the need for community policing reforms.

"We're disgusted that anyone wearing a police uniform would do what we all saw in that video," said James C. Rovella, commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in a statement released Monday.

"We're angry that the actions of a few will affect all of us. If you wear a badge and aren't appalled by that what you saw, please turn it in and find a new profession; we don't need you. For the sake of the community, for the sake of good law enforcement officers everywhere and for the sake of our country, enough is enough."

On Monday, hundreds of Hartford protesters blocked I-84 in the city. Over the weekend, protesters closed down major Connecticut highways, including I-95 in New Haven, Route 8 in Bridgeport and I-84 in Waterbury. Demonstrations continued Monday, including one at Keney Park in Hartford and in Bristol. For the most part, protests have remained peaceful.

"You can't be in the spectator stands because the community needs to know

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Lawmakers looking into toughening police laws

By CHRISTOPHER KEATING

HARTFORD – State lawmakers are calling for renewed police accountability legislation in the wake of the high-profile death of George Floyd in Minneapolis that has sparked protests in Connecticut and around the nation.

After a sweeping bill on police accountability was signed into law last year, some legislators say the General Assembly still must go further with more changes that could include increased use of police body cameras and heightened penalties for use of excessive force by police.

House Majority Leader Matt Ritter of Hartford said he needs to talk with members of both the House and Senate in the coming days and weeks because no final decisions have been made on a special session that could be held in late June or early July to address police use of force and other issues.

"In this day and age in 2020, you have a camera on your phone and you can have a video camera on your front door," Ritter said. "I don't see any reason why every officer is not equipped with a camera at this point in time."

"The push back a couple of years ago was money, and the state put in grants to help subsidize it. If we need to put in more money, we should do that immediately."

Concerning increased penalties on the use of force, Ritter said, "My instinct is to tell you yes, but I have a lot of

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