



PRESS RELEASE

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Local Business Owner Creates a New Chamber of Commerce for Trump Supporters.

The BEAN on 41 Coffee Shop made a special announcement on Christmas Day that it is moving forward with plans to launch a unique chamber of commerce aimed specifically at supporters of President Donald J. Trump. Thomas Watson, owner of The Bean, is spearheading the movement, which he describes as “efficient business networking principles in action.” The official launch date is slated for Martin Luther King Day (January 18th).

“It is fitting that we launch this enterprise on Martin Luther King Day,” said Watson. “It was one year ago in celebration of the pursuit of our dream, we announced that our coffee shop is proud supporter of Donald Trump. We lost a few customers but we gained hundreds and hundreds more. Coming out as a Trump supportive business was one of the best business decisions I've made in my entire career.”

Watson says he was inspired by the director of the Punta Gorda Chamber to go through with the notion of transforming The Bean into a themed Trump Shop in November of 2019. “I threw out the idea casually to John Wright that I was planning to start selling Trump themed souvenirs at my coffee shop,” Watson recalled. He said, “Well *that* ought to kill your business in a hurry.” That response from the local chamber director only fueled Watson’s resolve to openly support the President through our business. “I was planning to actively attract Trumpie

customers. Now I had the added incentive of proving to the Chamber Director that it would save my business, not kill it. I could have taken his advice. I am glad I didn't."

The move paid off. The BEAN more than tripled in sales over its previous years. The Trump Shop theme within the shop in Towles Plaza was a hit and the word of mouth spread quickly. "We've become the happiest place between the bridges," Watson delights. He also asserts The Bean would have made a fine candidate for Punta Gorda Chamber Business of the Year, but he ended his membership when the China virus hit.

"I have always been actively supportive of both local chambers of commerce," said Watson citing his Small Business of the Year Award in 2018 from the Charlotte County Chamber.

"However, I realized that both chambers' directors, much like the U.S. Chamber, are not at all supportive president Donald J Trump. That's when we decided to start our own Trumpies' chamber of commerce. We want to actively support Trump-lovers' businesses, and we want to find a way for people to discover Trump-supportive businesses."

Watson says he plans to model the most effective elements of traditional chambers, but instead streamline processes to more efficiently create real and documentable business for its members. "The whole point of joining a chamber of commerce is to get your name out there and make business connections. People join the Rotary club, the Kiwanis club, the women's professional group, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, BNI, and all sorts of lead referral clubs. The most successful business owners in Charlotte County understand that *'your network is your net-worth.'* Trumpies would rather network with other Trumpies. We are going to streamline the process to help Trump-supporters to find like-minded Trump-supporters in business. No matter who gets inaugurated on January 20, we will attract the sharpest and

most focused success-minded individuals in the area. We will develop the model in Charlotte County and take the concept to the rest of Florida and beyond so that all may enjoy our style of networking.”

Watson says the group plans to schedule two major networking events per month, as well as other surprise activities to keep interest high. “Our members will become sharper as they connect with the other members. No wasted time, no wasted money,” he claims. “Success-minded business people get things done. Donald Trump is an icon of success to many business owners. Now we can come together as a like-minded group of master networkers, and create new opportunities for commerce for the next four years.

Mr. Watson is available for media interviews regarding Trump Supporters Chamber.

The BEAN on 41 Coffee Shop is located at 2705 Tamiami Trail in Punta Gorda just south of Airport Road. www.thebeanon41coffeeshop.com. Phone: 941.769.2398.

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