U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Immigrant Investor Program
Mailstop 2235
Washington, DC 20529



April 27, 2015

Arun K Agarwal White Lotus Group Regional Center 105 North 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Omaha NE 68131

Application:

Form I-924, Application for Regional Center under the Immigrant Investor Pilot

Program

Applicant(s):

White Lotus Group Regional Center

Re:

Initial Regional Center Designation White Lotus Group Regional Center RCW1413351755 / ID1413351755

This notice is in reference to the Form I-924, Application for Regional Center Under the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program that was filed by the applicant with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS") on May 13, 2014. The Form I-924 application was filed to request approval of initial regional center designation under the Immigrant Investor Program. The Immigrant Investor Program was established under § 610 of the Department of Commerce, Justice and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1993 (Pub. L. 102-395, Oct. 6, 1992, 106 Stat. 1874).

In addition to the Form I-924, the applicant submitted a completed exemplar Form I-526, Immigrant Petition by Alien Entrepreneur, seeking USCIS review and approval of an actual project supported by a comprehensive business plan as contemplated in <u>Matter of Ho</u>, 22 I. & N. Dec. 206 (Assoc. Comm'r 1998).

### I. Executive Summary of Adjudication

Effective the date of this notice, USCIS approves the Form I-924 request to designate White Lotus Group Regional Center as a qualifying participant in the Immigrant Investor Program.

1. Effective the date of this notice, USCIS approves the 30 Metropolitan Place project based on the evidence submitted with the exemplar Form I-526.

## II. Regional Center Designation

USCIS approves the applicant's request to focus, promote economic growth, and offer capital investment opportunities in the following geographic area and industry categories:

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A. Geographic Area

State	Counties	
Nebraska	Douglas, Sarpy, Lancaster and Cass	
Iowa	Pottawattamie, Mills	

B. Industry Categories<sup>1</sup>

2362	Nonresidential Buildings Construction
2361	Residential Buildings Construction
7211	Accommodations
53112	Lessors of Nonresidential Building (except mini-warehouses)
53111	Lessors of Residential Building

# III. The Project

Effective the date of this notice, USCIS approves the applicant's request to include the following actual capital investment project supported by an exemplar Form I-526.

Project	Type of Project	Organization Documents	Date of Document	
30 Metropolitan Actual		Certificate of Organization	Dated 04/15/2014	
Place	Form	Operating Agreement	Submitted 05/13/2014	
	I-526	Subscription Agreement/ Investor		
Geographic Location:	Petition	Questionnaire	Submitted 05/13/2014	
Omaha NE	Project	Escrow Agreement	Submitted 05/13/2014	
		PPM	Submitted 05/13/2014	
Focus of Investment:		Business Plan	Submitted 05/13/2014	
loan, equity		Economic Analysis by:		
		Impact Econometrics LLC	Dated 04/21/2014	

Note: If changes to this project and its supporting documents are found in subsequent Form I-526 or Form I-829 petitions, USCIS will review the supporting documents once more to ensure compliance with EB-5 program requirements.

The proposal identifies the new commercial enterprise ("NCE") of the project as TBD, which was formed in the State of Nebraska on TBD. The project is located at 5319 North 30<sup>th</sup> Street in the City of, Omaha, Nebraska. 15 immigrant investors will subscribe to the NCE as limited partners in exchange for capital contributions of \$500,000 each and an aggregate of \$7.5 million.

The NCE will loan the \$7.5 million of EB-5 capital to a third-party entity, 30 Metropolitan Place. The EB-5 capital loan proceeds will be used ["to finance the construction of 30 Metropolitan Place will be a mixed use facility that will include commercial space including, retail health care, day care and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> USCIS issued a Policy Memorandum (PM-602-0083) on the subject of "EB-5 Adjudication Policy," dated May 30, 2013, stating that formal amendments to the regional center designation are no longer required when a regional center changes its industries of focus or geographic boundaries. A regional center may still elect to pursue a formal amendment by filing Form I-924 if it seeks certainty in advance that changes in the industries or the geographic area will be permissible prior to filing Form I-526 petitions.

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multifamily housing, along with public access on two sides, common lobby, roof top decks, outdoor green space and patio areas. The development involves the construction of a real estate development that will include 75 multifamily residential apartment s and approximately 25,000 square feet of retail space. The projected total cost of the project is \$13.5 million. The project will take less than two (2) years to complete and will generate approximately 185.4 jobs.

#### A. Job Creation

USCIS approves the geographic area and industry categories noted above based on the economic impact analysis presented and reviewed in conjunction with the adjudication of this capital investment project. The job creation methodology presented in the economic impact analysis and underlying business plan is found to be reasonable based on the following inputs, when applying the RIMS II economic model:

NAICS Industry Name	Direct Jobs	Indirect & Induced Jobs	Jobs	
Hard construction	\$8,727,000 (deflated to 2010\$)	0	81.7	81.7
A&E fees	\$320,000 (deflated to 2010\$)	0	3.0	30
Office space	MCC	8	3.7	11.7
Office space	Deeb Realty	10	6.5	16.5
Restaurant	Little King Sub	8	3.0	11.0
Restaurant	Egg & I	8	3.7	11.7
Restaurant	Dunkin Donuts	9.0	3.0	12.0
Health Care	Charles Drew Health Center	12.0	14.0	26.0
Child Daycare	Purposely Created Child Care	80.	2.9	10.9
	Total Jobs	63.0	121.5	184.5

The approval of this Form I-924 application supported by an exemplar Form I-526 petition is based upon the assumptions and estimates used as inputs in the business plan for job creation. Please refer to the input and multiplier analysis table above.

When an actual project is specifically named in this notice and the critical inputs remain materially unchanged, USCIS will give deference to the job creation methodology when adjudicating Forms I-526 associated with the named project. The same business plan and the same reasonable job creation methodology and projected inputs must be submitted when the individual investor's Form I-526 is filed in order to receive deference.

It will be the responsibility of the individual investor to demonstrate that the assumptions and estimates presented as inputs to the job creation methodology remain materially unchanged when he or she files a Form I-526. When filing Form I-829 for removal of conditional status, the individual investor has the burden of demonstrating that the assumptions and estimates presented as inputs to the job creation methodology have not materially changed and have been realized (or can be expected to be realized within a reasonable time).

If the job creation estimated in the business plan materially changes or will not be realized, then it will be the responsibility of the EB-5 investor to notify USCIS of an agreed upon methodology to allocate job creation among eligible investors.

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# IV. Guidelines for Filing Form I-526 Petitions Based on the NCE project

Each individual petition, in order to demonstrate that it is affiliated with the White Lotus Group Regional Center, in conjunction with addressing all the requirements for an individual immigrant investor petition, shall also contain the following:

- 1. A copy of this regional center approval notice and designation letter including all subsequent amendment approval letters (if applicable).
- 2. An economic impact analysis which reflects a job creation methodology required at 8 CFR § 204.6 (j)(4)(iii) and shows how the capital investment by an individual immigrant investor will create not fewer than ten (10) indirect jobs for each immigrant investor.
- 3. A comprehensive, detailed and credible business plan for an actual project that contains the factual details necessary to be in compliance with the requirements described in <u>Matter of Ho</u>, 22 I&N Dec. 206 (Assoc. Comm'r 1998).
- 4. Legally executed organizational documents of the commercial enterprise. The documents may be the same documents noted in Section III of this approval notice.

Note: If the project timeline has changed significantly from the original business plan, a narrative that explains the changes in the project timeline, along with a timeline that realistically reflects the status of the project should be submitted.

# V. Designee's Responsibilities in the Operations of the Regional Center

As provided in 8 CFR § 204.6 (m)(6), to ensure that the regional center continues to meet the requirements of section 610(a) of the Appropriations Act, a regional center must provide USCIS with updated information to demonstrate the regional center is continuing to promote economic growth, improved regional productivity, job creation, and increased domestic capital investment in the approved geographic area. Such information must be submitted to USCIS on an annual basis or as otherwise requested by USCIS. The applicant must monitor all investment activities under the sponsorship of the regional center and to maintain records in order to provide the information required on the Form I-924A Supplement to Form I-924A, Supplement to Form I-924 Application is available in the "Forms" section on the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov.

Regional centers that remain designated for participation in the Immigrant Investor Program as of September 30<sup>th</sup> of a calendar year are required to file Form I-924A Supplement in that year. The Form I-924A Supplement with the required supporting documentation must be filed on or before December 29<sup>th</sup> of the same calendar year.

The failure to timely file a Form I-924A Supplement for each fiscal year in which the regional center has been designated for participation in the Immigrant Investor Program will result in the issuance of an intent to terminate the participation of the regional center in the Immigrant Investor Program, which may ultimately result in the termination of the designation of the regional center.

The regional center designation is non-transferable.

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## VI. Legal Notice

This approval and designation of a Regional Center under the Immigrant Investor Program does not constitute or imply an endorsement or recommendation by USCIS, the United States Government or any instrumentality thereof, of the investment opportunities, projects or other business activities related to or undertaken by such Regional Center. Except as expressly set forth in this approval and designation, USCIS has not reviewed any information provided in connection with or otherwise related to the Regional Center for compliance with relevant securities laws or any other laws unrelated to eligibility for designation as a Regional Center. Accordingly USCIS makes no determination or representation whatsoever regarding the compliance of either the Regional Center or associated New Commercial Enterprises with such laws.

Each Regional Center designated by USCIS must monitor and oversee all investment offerings and activities associated with, through or under the sponsorship of the Regional Center. The failure of an associated New Commercial Enterprise to comply with all laws and regulations related to such investment offerings and activities may result in the issuance by USCIS of a notice of intent to terminate the Regional Center designation.

If the applicant has any questions concerning the regional center designation under the Immigrant Investor Program, please contact the USCIS by email at USCIS.ImmigrantInvestorProgram@uscis.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Colucci

Chief, Immigrant Investor Program

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cc:

Neeraj Agarwal White Lotus Group

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