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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity

Eric C. Lin
Director

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VIA Electronic Mail

July 24, 2026

Certification Number: 844464

Darren Lewis
Capital Investment Group LLC
3925 Sextant Street
Chesapeake, VA 23321

Dear Darren Lewis:

The Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity ("DSBSD") is in receipt of your request for certification in the Commonwealth's Small, Women-owned, and Minority-owned ("SWaM") Business Program. **We are pleased to inform you that Capital Investment Group LLC has been certified as a Small and Minority-owned Business in the SWaM program.** However, after careful review, the DSBSD has determined that Capital Investment Group LLC does not meet the requirements for certification as a service-disabled veteran-owned business under the SWaM program.

The SWaM application indicates that Capital Investment Group LLC is owned 85% by you Darren Lewis (a non-service-disabled veteran) and 15% by Willie Lewis Sr. (a service-disabled veteran). Because the service-disabled veteran does not own at least 51% of the applicant firm, we have concluded that you have failed to demonstrate that Capital Investment Group LLC qualifies as a service-disabled veteran-owned business.

Additionally, according to the Operating agreement for Capital Investment Group LLC II Management and Authority section 2.1 Management: "The Company shall be Member-Managed. The Members shall have shared discretion, power, and authority to manage and control the business and affairs of the Company." This indicates that you Darren Lewis (a non-service-disabled veteran individual) and Willie Lewis Sr. (a service-disabled veteran) have equal control of the business. Furthermore, this indicates that you Darren Lewis (a non-service-disabled veteran) have the ability to manage the business and affairs without the consent or approval of the service-disabled veteran.

The Code of Virginia, specifically § 2.2-4310(F), defines a SDVOSB as the following:

"Service disabled veteran business" means a business that is at least 51 percent owned by one or more service disabled veterans or, in the case of a corporation, partnership, or limited liability company or other entity, at least 51 percent of the equity ownership interest in the corporation, partnership, or limited liability company or other entity is owned by one or more individuals who are service disabled veterans and both the management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more individuals who are service disabled veterans.

7VAC13-20-100. Ownership.

D. Contribution of capital or expertise.

1. Contribution of capital and/or expertise by women, minority or individual owners to acquire their ownership interest shall be real and substantial and be in proportion to the interest(s) acquired.
2. Insufficient contributions shall include promises to contribute capital or expertise in the future; a note or notes payable to the business or its owners who are not themselves women, minority, or individual owners; or the mere participation as an employee.

7VAC13-20-110. Control.

The applicant must show evidence that the women, minority, or individual owners have control of the business. The following factors will be examined in determining who controls an applicant's business:

1. Governance.

A. The organizational and governing documents of an applicant (e.g., limited liability company operating agreements, partnership agreements, or articles of incorporation and bylaws) must not contain any provision that restricts the ability of the women, minority or individual owners from exercising managerial control and operational authority of the business.

b. In reviewing governance documents and issues, special attention shall be given to:

- (1) The composition of the business's governing body (e.g., board of directors or management committee);
- (2) The functioning of the governing body;
- (3) The content of shareholder's agreements, bylaws, or state incorporation statutes, and the extent to which such agreements, bylaw(s), or statutes affect the ability of the women, minority or individual owners to direct the management and policy of the business.

2. Operation and management.

a. The woman, minority or individual owner(s) must possess the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of the business and to make the day-to-day decisions as well as major decisions on matters of management, policy and operations. The business must not be subject to any formal or informal restrictions that limit the customary discretion of the women, minority, or individual business owner(s).

As such, DSBSD cannot certify Capital Investment Group LLC as a service-disabled veteran-owned business in the SWaM Program at this time. This action does not preclude you from conducting business with the Commonwealth of Virginia in the SWaM program and in general

If you wish to appeal this decision, you must go to the DSBSD website (www.sbsd.virginia.gov) and download the SWaM Appeal Request Form. The form is to be completed and signed by the owner(s) of the firm and submitted within ten (10) business days of receipt of this letter.

Your written notice of appeal should be emailed to appeals@sbsd.virginia.gov. All relevant supporting documentation to support your appeal should be submitted with the appeal form, as a final determination, or the need for you to appear for an informal hearing, is based upon your submitted documentation.

A change that was seemingly made based on, and/or as a result of, being denied certification is not an acceptable reason for an appeal, and in such a case, the appeal may be denied and the decision upheld. New information not previously known at the time of denial, but that is pertinent to the denial, may support your appeal.

Otherwise, if you do not appeal, you may reapply for the service-disabled veteran-owned business status six (6) months from the initial date of denial which state:

7VAC13-20-220. Reapplication.

A. A business whose application for certification has been denied may reapply for the same category of certification six months after the date on which the business receives the notice of denial. An applicant denied certification may apply for certification in any other category without delay if otherwise eligible.

B. The applicant may request a waiver of the six-month reapplication period from the department director by submitting a written request for reconsideration and providing a reasonable basis for the waiver. The director or his designee, in his discretion, shall render a final decision regarding the request for reconsideration and waiver within 30 days, which determination shall not constitute a case decision subject to appeal.

If you wish to request a waiver of the six-month reapplication period, please visit our website at www.sbsd.virginia.gov to complete the "Waiver Request Form." Once complete, please email it to waiver@sbsd.virginia.gov. If you have any questions regarding your status, please contact us at (804) 786-6585.

Sincerely,

Virginia Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity
Certification Team