

The Issuer stated in its application that it has complied with the rules of the PHLX that govern the removal of securities from listing and registration on the Exchange.

In making the decision to withdraw its Security from listing on the Exchange, the Issuer states that the Securities no longer meet the PHLX's minimum listing criteria of 250,000 shares. In addition, the Issuer states that its 4.50% and 4.40% Securities are currently listed on the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NYSE").

The Issuer's application relates solely to the withdrawal of the Securities from listing and registration on the PHLX and shall have no effect upon its continued listing and registration on the NYSE under section 12(b).<sup>3</sup>

Any interested person may, on or before February 3, 2003, submit by letter to the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609, facts bearing upon whether the application has been made in accordance with the rules of the PHLX and what terms, if any, should be imposed by the Commission for the protection of investors. The Commission, based on the information submitted to it, will issue an order granting the application after the date mentioned above, unless the Commission determines to order a hearing on the matter.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>4</sup>

**Jonathan G. Katz,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-953 Filed 1-15-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8010-01-P**

## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[License No. 03/73-0229]

### Walker Investment Fund II SBIC, L.P.; Notice Seeking Exemption Under Section 312 of the Small Business Investment Act, Conflicts of Interest

Notice is hereby given that Walker Investment Fund II SBIC, L.P., 3060 Washington Road, Glenwood, MD 21738, a Federal Licensee under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended ("the Act"), in connection with the financing of a small concern, has sought an exemption under section 312 of the Act and section 107.730, Financings which Constitute Conflicts of Interest of the Small Business Administration ("SBA") rules and

regulations (13 CFR 107.730 (2002)). Walker Investment Fund II SBIC, L.P. proposes to provide preferred equity security financing to Secure Methods, Inc., 224 West King Street, Martinsburg, WV 25443. The financing is contemplated to provide the company with the necessary working capital.

The financing is brought within the purview of Sec. 107.730(a)(1) of the Regulations because Walker Investment Fund I, LLC and Steve Walker & Associates, all Associates of Walker Investment Fund II SBIC, L.P., have owned, within the last 6 months, a collective interest in Secure Methods, Inc., greater than 5 percent. Therefore, this financing is considered a financing with Associates requiring prior SBA approval.

Notice is hereby given that any interested person may submit written comments on the transaction, within 15 days of the date of this publication, to the Associate Administrator for Investment, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416.

Dated: January 9, 2003.

**Jeffrey D. Pierson,**

*Associate Administrator for Investment.*

[FR Doc. 03-887 Filed 1-15-03; 8:45 am]

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## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### Connecticut District Advisory Council; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Business Administration Connecticut District Advisory Council, located in the geographical area of Hartford, Connecticut will hold a public meeting at 9 a.m., on Wednesday, February 5, 2003, Connecticut District Office, 330 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, to discuss such matters as may be presented. For further information, write or call Marie Record, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration, 330 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut—(860) 240-4700.

Anyone wishing to attend and make an oral presentation to the Board must contact Marie A. Record, no later than Friday, January 31, 2003 via e-mail or fax. Marie A. Record, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration, Connecticut District Office 330 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06106 (860) 240-4670 phone or (860) 240-4714 fax or e-mail [marie.record@sba.gov](mailto:marie.record@sba.gov).

**Candace Stoltz,**

*Director of Advisory Councils.*

[FR Doc. 03-891 Filed 1-15-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8025-01-P**

## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### Minnesota District Advisory Council; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Business Administration Region V Minnesota District Advisory Council, located in the geographical area of Minneapolis, Minnesota, will be holding a public meeting at 11:30 a.m. central time on Wednesday, February 5, 2003, at the Business Information Center, 2324 University Avenue, Suite 112, St. Paul, MN 55114, to discuss such matters as may be presented by members, staff of the Small Business Administration, or others present.

Anyone wishing to make an oral presentation to the Board must contact Edward A. Daum, District Director, in writing by letter or fax no later than January 29, 2003, in order to be put on the agenda. Edward A. Daum, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration, 100 N. 6th Street, Suite 210-C, Minneapolis, MN 55403, (612) 370-2306 phone, (613) 370-2303 fax.

**Candace Stoltz,**

*Director of Advisory Councils.*

[FR Doc. 03-892 Filed 1-15-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8025-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4249]

### Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Request for Grant Proposals: Uzbekistan Educational Partnerships Program in Cultural and Comparative Religious Studies

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Global Educational Programs of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for the Uzbekistan Educational Partnerships Program in Cultural and Comparative Religious Studies. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 USC 501(c)(3) may submit proposals to support mutually beneficial partnerships which contribute to the development of instruction in comparative religion, cultural studies/history, and English at specific eligible educational institutions in Uzbekistan. The means for achieving these objectives may include the exchange of university and college faculty and research scholars, administrators, and advanced students from Uzbekistan with appropriate U.S. counterpart colleges and universities.

In a separate solicitation, the Bureau anticipates announcing a program

<sup>3</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78L(b).

<sup>4</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(1).