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6 July 2017

Official Information Act investigation – Information regarding Donghua Liu’s citizenship application

The Department of Internal Affairs (Department) has been notified by the Office of the Ombudsman (Ombudsman) that they have concluded their investigation into the information which was withheld by the Department in relation to Donghua Lui’s citizenship application.

The Department respects and abides by the Office of the Ombudsman’s decision on this matter. Specifically the Ombudsman recommended that the Department releases the following information:

- A copy of Mr Bank’s letter and Mr Williamson’s email subject to the redaction of private information; and
- Summaries of Mr Mottram’s and Mr Goodwin’s letters.

Some information in the letters has been redacted under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information 1982 Act (Act), this is to protect the privacy of the person.



Mayor's Office
Auckland City Council

5th October 2010

The Minister of Internal Affairs
The Honourable Nathan Guy,
Parliament Buildings
Wellington.

Dear Minister,

**Re: Mr Dong Hua LIU Application for N.Z. Citizenship
Citizenship Application Number: CIT 2010003224**

I support the application of the above named for the granting of New Zealand Citizenship.

Mr Liu has made a substantial contribution to the New Zealand economy, which merits a grant of citizenship. I consider that NZ Citizenship will assist him do his work here more effectively.

It seems evident from the scale of projects he is undertaking that they will be of importance to the Auckland economy and revitalise the Epsom area. They will add to the tourism earnings of Auckland, provide opportunities for the building sector and create employment initially in the building and allied trades, and as the projects are completed, they will benefit the travel, hospitality and related industries.



Gaining citizenship will enhance credibility with suppliers, tourism and other related businesses in NZ and facilitate his work here.

The applicant is also in the process of negotiating a Charter air service from Chongqing direct to Auckland, to be run on a weekly service, which enable high value meat products to be exported, along with providing travel for three hundred tourists per week.

I have no doubt of his commitment to New Zealand as he is transferring the major part of his investments to NZ. In a separate submission, his solicitor has supplied details of all transactions to date verifying the investments alluded to in my letter.

Yours sincerely

Hon. John Banks QSO
Mayor
Auckland City

From: Hon. Maurice Williamson (MIN)
To: Hon. Nathan Guy (MIN)
Sent: Tue Nov 09 12:49:16 2010
Subject: Expediting Citizenship Applications

Nathan

The following father [REDACTED] whose Citizenship application I spoke to you about after Caucus this morning

I think you will see that they both qualify.

They are very actively involved in the Building and Construction sector and citizenship would make a huge difference to their ability to function

They have asked if I could perform the ceremony once the decision has been taken

I would very much appreciate this case been progressed as fast as possible.

Cheers

Maurice

Applicant: Mr Dong Hua LIU CIT Number 2010003224

Dong Hua LIU first came to New Zealand and developed an attachment with the country in 2002.

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RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

He subsequently applied for Permanent Residency and this was granted in 2005.

Over a long period Dong Hua has sponsored a number of promising students from China.

Dong Hua has committed himself to an investment program in New Zealand and is quite clearly establishing New Zealand as his country of residence.

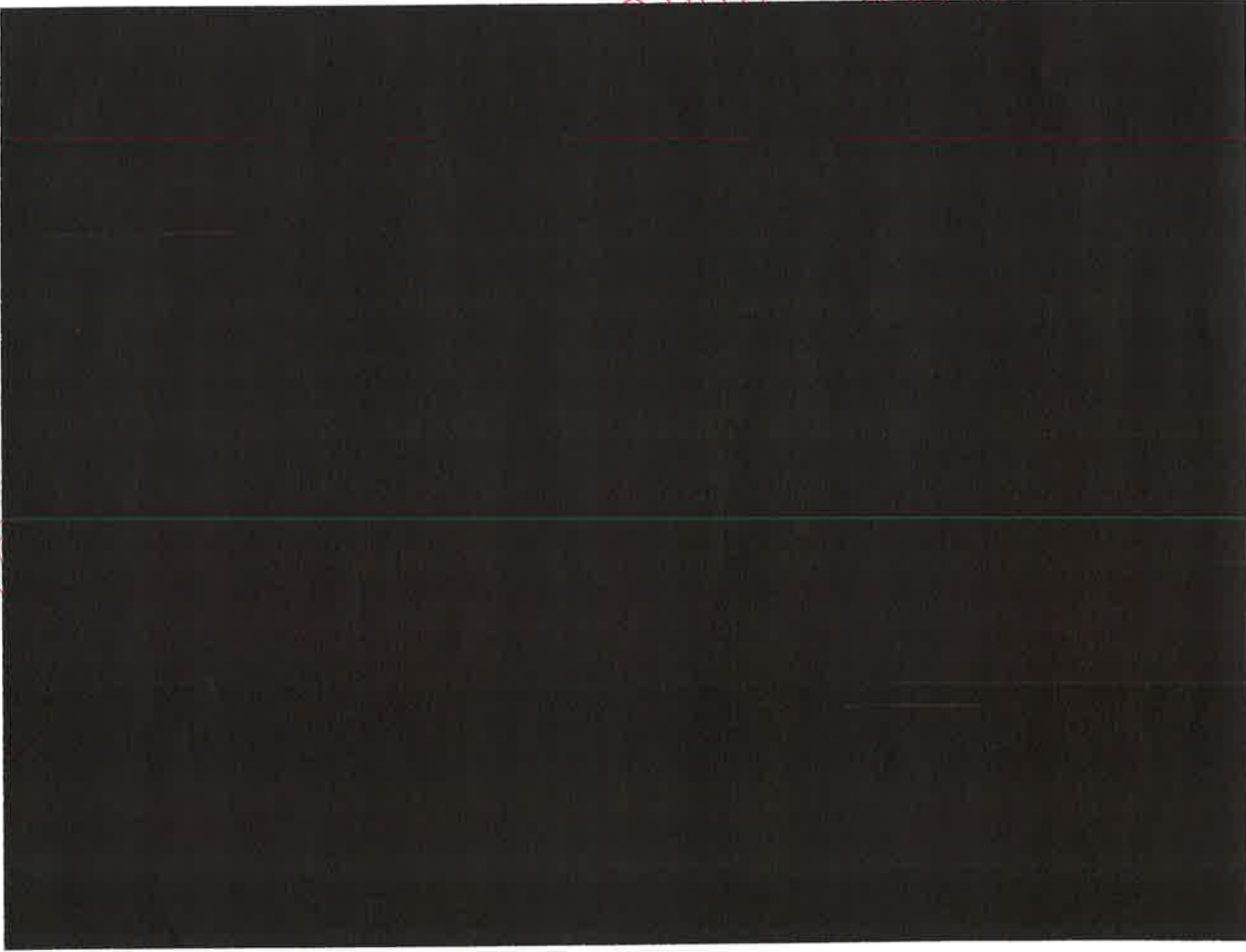
Via his company Roncon Pacific Hotel Management Holdings Limited he has purchase a hotel and is currently refurbishing/renovating it to a very high stanard.

He has established his residence here as well.

He is employing and will be employing a larger local workforce in both construction, tourist related activities and is also promoting New Zealand as destination among high nett worth individuals in China.

The activity is clearly of an outstanding contribution to New Zealand and very much in the Public Interest.

UNDER THE
PROVISION ACT



Summary of Letter from Jeremy Goodwin dated 24 September 2010

This letter states that it is a formal request for a grant of citizenship to Mr Liu due to exceptional circumstances that are also in the public interest. The letter notes:

- Mr Liu's company, Roncon Pacific Hotel Management Holdings Limited (Roncon) has invested in New Zealand in the acquisition of the Boulevard Hotel in Alpers Avenue, Epsom, and a number of adjoining properties;
- Mr Liu has put place in plans to relocate significant portions of his business to New Zealand and to develop from New Zealand inbound tourism business and other processed primary produce export businesses;
- Mr Liu is in dialogue with Air New Zealand regarding the establishment of direct links between his home city in Chongqing, China and New Zealand. South West China has a significant population base and Chongqing is one of the cities planned in China to house the emerging Chinese middle class population;
- Mr Liu is committed to residing in New Zealand; and
- Mr Liu will be a significant contributor to the growth of the New Zealand economy in the future.

Summary of Letter from Mr Mottram dated 15 October 2010

This letter is written in support of Mr Liu's citizenship application. Some of the factors raised in the letter in support of Mr Liu's application include:

- It is in the public interest for Mr Liu to be granted citizenship because of the business he has already done in New Zealand but, more importantly, the development his company, which is New Zealand domiciled, has undertaken. This includes the purchase of the Boulevard Hotel, the promotion of New Zealand in China and the associated inbound tourism;
- Mr Liu has made his commitment to New Zealand clear: he has residence here and is transferring his business interests to New Zealand;
- Mr Liu's ability to enhance New Zealand as a tourist and business destination is in the national and public interest; and
- Mr Liu is providing employment and much needed investment and will be more effective as a New Zealand citizen.