

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL PROTECTION AND INNOVATION

TO: Bitcoin Trading World
Antonije Stojiljkovic aka Tony Rivas
Causeway Bay Commercial Building
1-5 Sugar Street, East Point
Hong Kong

DESIST AND REFRAIN ORDER

(For violations of Corporations Code sections 25110 & 25401)

The Commissioner of Financial Protection and Innovation (Commissioner) finds that:

- At all relevant times, Bitcoin Trading World is and was an entity of unknown form doing business in California through the website www.bitcointradingworld.com and with a stated address of Causeway Bay Commercial Building, 1-5 Sugar Street, East Point, Hong Kong. At all relevant times, Bitcoin Trading World used a telephone number +852 6849 2453, and email address support@bitcointradingworld.com to engage in business. There is no record of any corporate filings for an entity named Bitcoin Trading World in California.
- Through its website www.bitcointradingworld.com, Bitcoin Trading World purported to engage in “cryptocurrency mining”¹ and offered and sold investments in “cryptocurrency mining programs” to investors in California and around the world which they claimed would “generate a 50% return on investments in 30 days”. Investors were invited to “join the world’s most progressive mining pool” where they could choose their investment plan, contract period, and the crypto assets they wanted to mine. The investment was portrayed as “100% Secure Transactions” and provided “30 days Money Guarantee.” The Bitcoin Trading World’s website allowed investors to login with personalized account information to watch what investors believed was their investments grow as well as contact the representatives of the mining operation.

¹ According to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), “mining” for Bitcoin or other crypto assets means applying computer power to try to solve complex equations that verify a group of transactions in that crypto asset. The first computer or collection of computers to solve an equation is awarded new units of that crypto asset.

1 3. The minimum investment to enter Bitcoin Trading World’s Mining Program was \$3,000 and
2 could be made in U.S. dollars or crypto assets (BTC, ETH and LTC). Investors were provided deposit
3 details to a bank account located in Manila, Philippines, for investments made in U.S. dollars, as well
4 as digital wallet addresses for investments made in crypto assets.

5 4. However, investors couldn’t see the “mining rigs” because those machines were supposedly
6 operated in a facility in China. Representatives of Bitcoin Trading World would only show investors
7 pictures of what investors believed were the specialized mining computers of Bitcoin Trading World.
8 Therefore, investors were entirely dependent on the efforts of Bitcoin Trading World to profit from
9 their investments.

10 5. At all relevant times, Antonije Stojiljkovic (Stojiljkovic) helped create, promote, market, and
11 organize fraudulent investment platforms, including Bitcoin Trading World. Stojiljkovic was the
12 purported representative of Bitcoin Trading World. Stojiljkovic used the alias of Tony Rivas when
13 communicating with investors and was a main point of contact for the investors of Bitcoin Trading
14 World. Stojiljkovic, using the alias Tony Rivas, would conduct conference calls and video meetings
15 during which he would represent himself as different people in order to trick investors into believing
16 that the fraudulent investment platform was legitimate.

17 6. In or around October of 2018, Stojiljkovic engaged in offering and selling securities in the
18 form of investment contracts via the Bitcoin Trading World’s public website and video calls to at
19 least three investors in California.

20 7. Bitcoin Trading World encouraged investors to solicit other new investors in exchange for
21 greater financial returns on their initial investments.

22 8. After the 30-day investment period expired, investors could not withdraw their investments.
23 Communications by Stojiljkovic aka Tony Rivas provided excuses as to why investors could not
24 transfer the funds from their Bitcoin Trading World accounts and shortly after Bitcoin Trading World
25 halted its operations and stopped communicating to the investors entirely.

26 9. In July 2020, a federal grand jury in Texas indicted Stojiljkovic, among others, on charges of
27 conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering. In November 2021,
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1 Stojiljkovic pled guilty to the charges of conspiracy to commit wire fraud in a criminal case filed by
2 the United State Attorney’s Office titled *United States of America v. Anonije Stojiljkovic*, Case
3 No.3:20-cr-00120-B filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas. On
4 February 23, 2023, Stojiljkovic was sentenced to 36 months imprisonment, supervised release of 2
5 years and payment of restitution in the amount of \$183,000.

6 10. The investment contracts sold to California investors by Bitcoin Trading World and
7 Stojiljkovic aka Tony Rivas were securities offered or sold in this state in an issuer transaction. The
8 Commissioner is of the opinion that the securities in Bitcoin Trading World are subject to the
9 qualifications under the California Corporate Securities Law of 1968 and are being or have been
10 offered or sold without being qualified in violation of Corporations Code section 25110.

11 11. In connection with the offer and sale of these securities, Bitcoin Trading World and
12 Stojiljkovic aka Tony Rivas made or caused to be made misrepresentations of material facts or
13 omitted to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the
14 circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. Among other things Bitcoin Trading
15 World and/or Tony Rivas misrepresented that:

16 a) Investor money would be used to power mining machines in China. In fact, no facilities
17 ever existed – instead, investor money went into the general coffers of Bitcoin Trading World.

18 b) Once a person invested, Bitcoin Trading World claimed a 50% return on investment after a
19 30-day period. In fact, investors never realized a return because Bitcoin Trading World was never an
20 entity that operated crypto assets mining computers. Despite giving investors the ability to login to
21 www.bitcointradingworld.com, and showing that their investments were profitable, the platform was
22 merely a fraudulent visual distraction that coaxed investors into believing that Bitcoin Trading World
23 was a legitimate entity.

24 c) The investment was promoted as “100% Secure Transactions” and “30 days Money
25 Guarantee.” In fact, investors were never able to withdraw their investments.

26 d) Bitcoin Trading World could not be registered as an individual entity “since it is only
27 dealing in Crypto, which [...], is still not regulated under any law”.

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1 12. Based upon the foregoing findings, the Commissioner is of the opinion that the securities
2 offered or sold by Bitcoin Trading World and Stojiljkovic aka Tony Rivas were offered or sold in this
3 state by means of written or oral communications which included an untrue statement of material fact
4 or omitted to state a material fact necessary to in order to make the statements made, in light of the
5 circumstances under which they were made, not misleading in violation of Corporations Code section
6 25401.

7 13. Pursuant to section 25532 of the Corporate Securities law of 1968, Bitcoin Trading World and
8 Antonije Stojiljkovic aka Tony Rivas are hereby ordered to desist and refrain from the further offer or
9 sale in the State of California of securities, including but not limited to investment contracts in
10 “cryptocurrency mining programs”, unless and until said securities have been qualified under the law,
11 or are exempt.

12 14. Pursuant to section 25532 of the Corporate Securities Law of 1968, Bitcoin Trading World
13 and Antonije Stojiljkovic aka Tony Rivas are hereby ordered to desist and refrain from the further
14 offering or selling any security in the State of California, including but not limited to investment
15 contracts in “cryptocurrency mining programs”, by means of any written or oral communication
16 which includes an untrue statement of material fact or omits to state a material fact necessary in order
17 to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not
18 misleading.

19 This order is necessary, in the public interest, for the protection of investors, and is consistent
20 with the purposes, policies, and provisions of the California Corporate Securities Law of 1968.

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22 DATED: June 28, 2023
23 Sacramento, California

CLOTHILDE V. HEWLETT
Commissioner of Financial Protection and Innovation



24 By: _____
25 MARY ANN SMITH
26 Deputy Commissioner
27 Enforcement Division
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