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#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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

TO: CryptoFX LLC CryptoFX Academy

CryptoFX Learning Academy

CFX Lifestyle Academy

**CFX** Academy

**CFX** 

Hector Aquino

Claudia Velazquez

9900 Spectrum Drive Austin, Texas 78717

800 Town and Country Blvd., Suite 300 Houston, Texas 77024

www.cryptofxla.com www.cryptofxlearningacademy.com

### **DESIST AND REFRAIN ORDER**

(For violations of sections 25110 and 25401 of the Corporations Code)

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

- 1. At all relevant times, CryptoFX LLC, also known as CryptoFX Academy,
- CryptoFX Learning Academy, CFX Lifestyle Academy, CFX Academy, and CFX (CryptoFX) is
- and was a Texas limited liability company that maintained business addresses at 9900 Spectrum
- Drive, Austin, Texas 78717 and 800 Town and Country Blvd., Suite 300, Houston, Texas 77024. 23
  - CryptoFX operated the websites www.cryptofxla.com and www.cryptofxlearningacademy.com.
    - CryptoFX advertised its businesses on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
    - 2. Through its promoters, CryptoFX targeted the Latino community. CryptoFX and its promoters collected investors' monies and purported to invest their monies in crypto assets.
    - CryptoFX also purported to provide educational classes to empower the Latino community to build

wealth through crypto asset trading.

- 3. At all relevant times, Mauricio Chavez (Chavez) is and was the Chief Executive Officer and founder of CryptoFX.
- 4. At all relevant times, Hector Aquino, also known as Hector Angeles Aquino Sr. (Aquino), is and was a promoter of CryptoFX. Aquino controlled and induced or provided substantial assistance to CryptoFX within the meaning of Corporations Code section 25403, subdivisions (a) and (b), in violating the above cited laws.
- 5. At all relevant times, Claudia Velazquez, also known as Claudia Hernandez Velazquez and Claudia Velazquez-Hern (Velazquez), is and was a promoter of CryptoFX. Velazquez controlled and induced or provided substantial assistance to CryptoFX within the meaning of Corporations Code section 25403, subdivisions (a) and (b), in violating the above cited laws.
- 6. CryptoFX, Aquino, and Velazquez represented to members of the public that investors could expect a profit as a result of their crypto asset investment. Investor funds were intermingled and investors had an expectation of profits derived from the success of CryptoFX's efforts.
- 7. Beginning in or about February 2022 and continuing until at least September 2022, CryptoFX, Aquino, and Velazquez offered and sold securities to California residents in the form of an investment contract called "Venture Agreement CryptoFX, LLC." Aquino and Velazquez collected cash investments ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000. In return, investors received a copy of their "Venture Agreement CryptoFX, LLC."
- 8. Through general solicitations, in the form of telephone cold-calls, in-person meetings, and an investor recruitment network, CryptoFX, Aquino, and Velazquez offered and sold securities to investors and potential investors. Aquino and Velazquez used a multi-level marketing scheme that would reward investors for inducing others to invest with CryptoFX.
- 9. CryptoFX, Aquino, and Velazquez held weekly meetings for prospective investors, where existing investors shared their experiences receiving generous bonuses through CryptoFX's "referral program." The "referral program" paid investors for recruiting new investors and the

referral bonus received was a fixed percentage of the newly recruited investor's investment. The soliciting investors were listed as "sponsors" on each investment contract.

- 10. The Commissioner has jurisdiction over the offer and sale of securities in California under the Corporate Securities Law of 1968 (Cal. Corp. Code §§ 25000-25707) (CSL).
- 11. The CryptoFX securities were offered and sold in this State in issuer transactions. The Commissioner has not issued a permit or other form of qualification authorizing any person to offer or sell these securities in this State.
- 12. In connection with the offer and sale of these securities, CryptoFX, Aquino, and Velazquez made, or caused to be made, misrepresentations of material fact to investors and potential investors, namely that investors would receive a return on their initial investment every three months.
- 13. Investors have not received any return on their initial investment from CryptoFX, Aquino or Velazquez. Despite multiple requests, investors also have not received their money back.

Based on the foregoing findings, the Commissioner is of the opinion that the securities offered and sold in the form of investment contracts by CryptoFX LLC, also known as CryptoFX Academy, CryptoFX Learning Academy, CFX Lifestyle Academy, CFX Academy, and CFX; by Hector Aquino, also known as Hector Angeles Aquino Sr.; and by Claudia Velasquez, also known as Claudia Hernandez Velazquez and Claudia Velazquez-Hern, are subject to qualification under the CSL and have been or are being offered or sold without first being qualified in violation of Corporations Code section 25110. Pursuant to Corporations Code section 25532, CryptoFX LLC, also known as CryptoFX Academy, CryptoFX Learning Academy, CFX Lifestyle Academy, CFX Academy, and CFX; Hector Aquino, also known as Hector Angeles Aquino Sr. and Claudia Velasquez, also known as Claudia Hernandez Velazquez and Claudia Velazquez-Hern, are hereby ordered to desist and refrain from the further offer and sale of securities in the State of California, including but not limited to investment contracts, unless and until qualification has been made under the law, or unless exempt.

In addition, the Commissioner is of the opinion that CryptoFX LLC, also known as CryptoFX Academy, CryptoFX Learning Academy, CFX Lifestyle Academy, CFX Academy, and

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CFX; Hector Aquino, also known as Hector Angeles Aquino Sr.; and Claudia Velasquez, also known as Claudia Hernandez Velazquez and Claudia Velazquez-Hern, offered or sold securities in this State by means of written or oral communications which included an untrue statement of material fact or which omitted to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, in violation of Corporations Code section 25401. Pursuant to Corporations Code section 25532, CryptoFX LLC, also known as CryptoFX Academy, CryptoFX Learning Academy, CFX Lifestyle Academy, CFX Academy, and CFX; Hector Aquino, also known as Hector Angeles Aquino Sr.; and Claudia Velasquez, also known as Claudia Hernandez Velazquez and Claudia Velazquez-Hern, are hereby ordered to desist and refrain from offering or selling any security in the State of California, including but not limited to investment contracts, by means of any written or oral communication which includes an untrue statement of a material fact or which omits to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

Pursuant to Corporations Code section 25401, any person who controls or induces another person to violate a provision of the Corporate Securities Law of 1968, or any person who provides substantial assistance to another person in violation of the Corporate Securities Law of 1968 shall be liable for the violations.

This Order is necessary, in the public interest, for the protection of consumers, and consistent with the purposes, policies, and provisions of the Corporate Securities Law of 1968. This Order shall remain in full force and effective until further order of the Commissioner.

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CLOTHILDE V. HEWLETT

Commissioner of Financial Protection and Innovation



Dated: June 27, 2023

By: MARY ANN SMITH **Deputy Commissioner Enforcement Division** 

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