



August 8, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Peter W. Ross
Ross LLP
1900 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1225
Los Angeles, CA 90067
pross@rossllp.la

Re: Shaquille O’Neal’s NFT Promotions

Dear Mr. Ross:

I am writing to you on behalf of Truth in Advertising, Inc. (“TINA.org”), a nonprofit consumer advocacy organization dedicated to protecting consumers from deceptive advertising.

We are aware that Shaquille O’Neal has promoted certain non-fungible token (NFT) companies on his social media channels, including, for example, Astrals, VeeFriends, FTX, and Solana. While TINA.org is not currently addressing a specific deceptive marketing issue pertaining to such posts, we have found that celebrity NFT promotions is an area rife with deception, including, but not limited to, a failure to clearly and conspicuously disclose the promoter’s material connection to the endorsed NFT company,¹ as well as the omission of other material information, such as the risks associated with investing in such speculative digital assets, the financial harm that can result from such investments, and the personal benefit(s) the promoter may gain by virtue of the promotion(s).²

To the extent that Mr. O’Neal has a material connection to any of the NFT companies or brands promoted in his social media feeds that may not be obvious to those viewing his posts, TINA.org urges him to immediately disclose those material connections wherever

¹ Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising, https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/plain-language/1001a-influencer-guide-508_1.pdf; FTC: Disclosures 101 for Social Media Influencers, https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/plain-language/1001a-influencer-guide-508_1.pdf.

² U.S. Government Accountability Office, Science & Tech Spotlight: Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs), GAO-22-105990, June 14, 2022, <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-105990> (“[D]espite media attention and celebrity endorsements, [NFTs] are poorly understood, and the current market is subject to speculation and fraud. ... NFTs come with financial risk and have exhibited volatile pricing. ... NFTs are susceptible to artificial price influencers, such as celebrity endorsements.”)

the promotions are made and correct the post(s) as needed to avoid any further consumer harm.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a period after "Smith".

Laura Smith, Esq.
Legal Director
Truth in Advertising, Inc.