

May 15, 2023

Mark Warsop Chief Executive Officer Panini America Inc. 5325 FAA Boulevard, Ste 100 Irving, Texas

## Re: Panini America Inc.'s ("Panini") Lack of Diversity In Its Executive Leadership

Dear Mr. Warsop:

We write today on behalf of **Until Freedom**, an intersectional social justice organization rooted in the leadership of diverse people of color to address systemic and racial injustice, and **Black Church PAC**, a strategic initiative answering the call to elect leaders committed to ending mass incarceration, defending the right to vote, curbing gun violence, and representing the equitable treatment of Black and Brown communities. Both organizations focus on investing in those who are the most directly impacted by, among other things, cyclical poverty and inequality. We believe both public and private sectors should be held accountable to their consumers, employees, and our communities, and in this spirit we hope you agree and will remedy our concerns.

Diversity in the workplace is necessary to create a more tolerant, inclusive and just society free from discrimination and prejudice. It is also a key driver of creativity, innovation and success: a diverse workforce enables people with varying perspectives and skill sets to identify new opportunities, navigate challenges, test assumptions and foster a corporate culture of inclusion and equal opportunity. Panini has publicly recognized the value of diversity in its Code of Ethics, which provides that "The Company believes diversity is an opportunity in terms of innovation and development through dialogue and exchanging ideas, opinions and experiences."

Despite Panini's public commitments to diversity, Panini falls far short of its ideal. Panini has no Black leadership in the United States. While this failure would be notable for any organization, Panini's lack of diversity is especially shocking since its multi-billion dollar business has been built on the backs of Black and Brown athletes. Indeed, Panini, which has hundreds of employees in the United States, has derived 75% of its business from selling depictions of Black and Brown athletes.

Panini's simultaneous profiting from its collaborations with Black and Brown athletes on the one hand, and exclusion of Black and Brown people from its leadership on the other hand, is unacceptable. We therefore demand that Panini take immediate, identifiable steps to address these concerns and create a leadership team that reflects the people depicted on the products it sells. Please let us know when you are available so we can discuss how you intend to implement real and lasting change at Panini.

Sincerely,

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Tamika D. Mallory Co-Founder, Until Freedom

Rev. Michael McBride Founding Member, Black Church PAC

The Honorable Ken Paxton cc: Office of The Attorney General 300 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street Austin, TX 78701

> The Honorable Letitia James Office of The Attorney General NY State Capitol Albany, NY. 12224-0341

The Honorable Rob Bonta Attorney General of the State of California California Department of Justice 1300 I Street Suite 125 P.O. Box 944255 Sacramento, CA. 94244-2550