

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, July 29, 2019 9:40 PM

To: ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>

Subject: ASCAP

Hello my name is Bill Sanders. I am a guitarist and songwriter and founder of The Sweet Mercy Band. I wrote my first song while in the 3rd grade. I joined ASCAP on the promise, from ASCAP that they were working for songwriters and collecting and paying royalties to us. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In 2017 my band finished recording our first album titles "Sweet Mercy". I worked diligently reaching then reaching out to radio stations that would be friendly to playing an independent band. I spent hundreds of hours listening to stations programing, reaching out to station managers, program directors and DJ's. The result we have been getting airplay on over 500 radio stations across the U.S. for over 2 years now. We are in the top ten on many and top 3 on several other stations. All of these stations pay fees to ASCAP.

The amount of royalties ASCAP has paid us as the writers and publishers of the music \$0, that is right not a cent paid to us in royalties. They collect the fees from the stations that are playing us and then use it to pay their payroll and not use. This is theft pure and simple.

I have personally spent thousands of hours perfecting my guitar playing and songwriting skills. We spent thousands of dollars recording our music professionally and another \$1700 to produce the CD's as well as the hundreds of hours writing and recording the songs. The response to the music has been way beyond what we expected. We have loyal fan bases in Tennessee, Texas, South Carolina as well as our home base of Southern New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania. These fan bases are due to radio airplay in those states!!!!!! We did all that we needed to succeed. ASCAP, because we are and independent band has not paid us for airplay that we deserve to be paid for. They have stolen from us as well as other bands.

Secondly, is the issue of live performances. ASCAP request that we fill out a performance sheet for them for every time we play live. These sheet request the songs that we play and the name of the venue. ASCAP has no intention of paying us for the original songs we play live or pay the writers of the cover songs we might play. The want the information so that any venue that they are not collecting fees from they can go after. They have burned bridges for us at 2 venues that we loved playing at and have paid us NOTHING for playing our original music.

Calling them a Not for Profit is a joke frankly. Take a look at their expenses and payroll. ASCAP is for ASCAP and the washed up retired songwriters who lead the organization. They are not representing the people they claim to represent. They are rather stealing from us, while at the same time using our membership as a means to extort more money from more venues with no intention of paying the songwriters who wrote the songs.

I can be reached by phone, if I still have a phone at [REDACTED] or email at [REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10