

From: Waldport Beachcomber Days <waldportbeachcomber[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 9, 2019 4:16 PM
To: ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>
Subject: BMI and ASCAP decrees.

Hello, I'm writing in behalf of Waldport OR Beachcomber Days. I am the Preident of this nonprofit event. This past year we had to deal with BMI and other PROs. Before this year I had no idea you had to pay for licensing for music with public performances. Like most folks in our town, we thought that bands would pay for any licensing since we had to pay them to play at our event.

After we booked a larger named band. I received a call from BMI to my personal phone. They left me a voicemail saying w had a pro and needed to contact them immediately to fix the issue in regards to music licensing. After calling them I was even more confused because they cannot give me an accurate answer of how much I would need to pay for a licensing fee. They also inform me that nonprofits do not have any kind of exemption for licensing.

We ended up canceling our event because of articles we read about pressures from BMI and law suits they have pursued. Lucky our town rallied together and the city was able to purchase licenses from the three major PROs. Since then I have had many enquiries from other small towns about their worries when it comes to the other Pros.

I would suggest you make information about licensing more readily available since when you folks have no idea about it. I would also suggest that there is some kind of discount or exemption for a non-profit. Many nonprofits work on a very low budget and don't have money to pay these Pros especially when they are very intimidating and and noncommittal with their prices.

Thank you for your time
Chavvahn Gade, President
Waldport Beachcomber Days