



The Ray Charles Foundation

VALERIE ERVIN
PRESIDENT

March 23, 2010

Dear Ms. Espinel:

I am the President of The Ray Charles Foundation. Our organization provides funds and educational opportunities for children and teens and we are very proud of the work that we do. Ray Charles, during his lifetime, provided educational funding to organizations for over 20 years and we are honored to have been given the opportunity to continue his legacy and carry out his wishes.

We are also extremely proud to have recently taken eight 11th and 12th grade young men from Compton High School in Compton, California to Washington, DC where they participated in a career-based "Q&A" session with the artists attending this function and the members of their production teams. In addition, these young men participated with the President and First Lady in celebrating "In Performance at the White House: A Celebration of Music from the Civil Rights Movement." I believe, and know, that we have changed the lives of these teenagers by giving them this unique opportunity.

The substantial part of our income comes from royalties that are paid by licensees for the use of recordings and musical compositions as well as trademark and name and likeness rights that belong to The Ray Charles Foundation. Ray Charles worked throughout his long career to leave a legacy to enable young men and women to have an excellent education. Clearly, when unauthorized users do not pay for our intellectual property rights, not only do they deprive our organization of needed revenues to do good work but they deprive our community of beneficiaries the opportunity to grow and develop as students and citizens.

On behalf of the legacy of Ray Charles, I want to thank you and the administration of President Obama for your efforts in protecting intellectual property rights.

Sincerely,