



## **DAVID MAGNUSSON**

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23 April 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

Good day gentlemen. I am Chief David Magnusson. I have been in law enforcement for 36 years; first spending thirty years with the City of Miami, later, as Police Chief of the Havelock Police Department, in North Carolina, and currently as Police Chief for the El Portal Police Department in South Florida (just outside the city limits of Miami). I proudly write this letter in support of the nomination of David Chipman to serve as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF).

During the last five years, I have known Mr. Chipman as a fellow Firearms Committee colleague with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). We served on the same sub-committee which focused on recent developments as they applied to law enforcement such as red-flag laws, ghost guns, 3D guns, mass shootings, to name a few. This particular sub-committee was very fluid and demanding as were our debates regarding our approach to such issues.

Mr. Chipman's expertise, coming after a 25-year career with ATF much of which was in leadership roles combined with his post-retirement advisory roles with organizations that were at the forefront of gun violence prevention, allowed this IACP sub-committee (and subsequently the entire Firearms Committee) to excel. True headway was achieved regarding gun violence and the steps needed to quell it.

I mention this because of Mr. Chipman's strive to make improvements in areas where they are desperately needed. His suggestions, comments, and retorts were always well-thought out and right on the money. As importantly, his respect and admiration for opposing points of view within the committee were evident. Everybody, regardless of point of view, awaited his opinion and listened carefully to his thoughts. That, sirs, is true leadership.



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Conversely, there is much more to Mr. Chipman that I learned of during our discussions over a variety of issues surrounding violent crime prevention, public safety enhancement, and making safe communities a priority. Mr. Chipman investigated the 1993 World Trade Center Bombing and the Oklahoma City bombing two years later. Furthermore, he investigated racially motivated arsons that targeted churches in Alabama in 1996. Apart from his immense investigative side, he was also tactically sound serving on the ATF's Special Response Team (SRT). This sort of well-rounded stature certainly factored in his ascension to Division Chief of the Office of Public and Governmental Affairs in 2012.

Senators, the word "interim" usually indicates temporary. Yet, the ATF has been filling their top leadership (director) position with "interim" directors since 2006. The one exception came in 2013 with U.S. Senate confirmation. As it relates to ATF, David Chipman is inimitably qualified to implement President Biden's law enforcement agenda with United States confirmation.

In its mission statement, the ATF looks to protect communities from violent criminals, criminal organizations, the illegal use and trafficking of firearms, the illegal use and storage of explosives, acts of arson and bombings, acts of terrorism, and the illegal diversion of alcohol and tobacco products.

David Chipman's substantial professional experience and his personal commitment to making this nation a safer place for all, makes him an outstanding candidate to serve as ATF's eight *permanent* Director. He is the perfect person to bring the aforementioned mission statement to fruition and keep it there.

I urge you to confirm David Chipman to be the next director of ATF as soon as possible. This glorious nation can only benefit from the the quality leadership, Mr. Chipman would provide in leading highly esteemed law enforcement agency.

Very Respectfully,

David Magnusson



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Thank you,

Chief David Magnusson