

May 1, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
US Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
US Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

I am writing on behalf and in support of David Chipman and his qualifications to serve as the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). For background, I am a retired thirty-year veteran of the ATF and finished my career as the Deputy Assistant Director. It is my strong opinion that the agency, and the men and women of ATF, would benefit greatly with David serving as their Director.

David has a long and storied career within ATF and is uniquely qualified to serve as its Director along with the experience ability to do so. I have personally known David since he started as an agent in Detroit over 30 years ago and he remains the same person today as he was then; ethical, trustworthy, honest, compassionate and has a team-first mentality. I really can't say enough about David and how well suited he is for the ATF Director position. I believe David is more than qualified to serve as the Director for the following reasons:

- In terms of David's business acumen, David was instrumental in initiating accountability measures within various ATF Field Divisions. These measures were based off the COMPSTAT model and techniques used by local police departments to reduce violent crime. David's participation was an important element that enabled the Los Angeles Field Division of ATF to increase the number of investigations against violent street gang members in Southern California.
- David investigated a series of racially motivated arsons that destroyed a number of predominantly Black houses of worship in Boligee, Alabama, an investigation that ultimately brought the perpetrators to justice.
- David has experience investigating illegal firearms trafficking and was recognized by the U.S. Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Community Partnerships for Public Safety. In this case David investigated firearms traffickers trading guns for narcotics.
- David served on the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Firearms Committee for two terms. These committee memberships are coveted positions within the IACP and his lengthy participation is reflective of the value he brought to

that committee. I consider David a subject matter expert in firearms policies, laws and regulations.

- Lastly, David has experience with enforcement issues and situations from his years on the ATF tactical team. David's background will assist him in any use of force issues that could arrive during his tenure.

Furthermore, David was one of the most highly respected senior managers within ATF. He used his compassion and work ethic for the job as his personal brand to lead others. His ability to motivate comes from the respect he garnered during his many years of developing relationships, as he has not only "talked the talk" but "walked the walk" within ATF. In today's vernacular of management styles, David would be considered a Servant-Leader.

In closing, it is my opinion that the ATF Director should serve both ATF employees and the public equally by keeping them safe from harm and violent crime. David is one of those few who can actually complete this task and has the wherewithal to develop a viable plan to make this happen.

I urge you to confirm David Chipman to be the next Director of ATF as soon as possible.



John A. Torres  
Deputy Assistant Director (Ret.)  
ATF