



LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION PARTNERSHIP

ADVANCING JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS

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Date: May 4, 2021

Re: ATF Director Nomination - David Chipman

Position: SUPPORT

To: The United States Senate Judiciary Committee

Members of the Committee,

As an organization of current and former police, prosecutors, and federal agents, the Law Enforcement Action Partnership is writing to express our support for the nomination of David Chipman as the Director of Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). We believe that Chipman's dedication to public service and experience combating violent crime makes him the right man for the job.

The Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP) is a nonprofit group of police, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice professionals who speak from firsthand experience. Our mission is to make communities safer by focusing law enforcement resources on the greatest threats to public safety and addressing the root causes of crime.

As an agent, Chipman spent his career carrying out ATF's mission. He enforced firearms and explosives laws to protect communities from people perpetuating violence and criminal activities, investigated bombings and acts of terrorism, and combated the illegal trafficking of alcohol and tobacco products.

Due to his 25-year career at ATF, Chipman understands the ground-level work of ATF agents firsthand. In order for cases to succeed, ATF agents have to collaborate with state and local authorities. In the 1990s, David Chipman served as an investigative responder providing assistance to state and local authorities in the aftermath of significant bombings and arson. As a Certified Explosives Specialist, he investigated some of the most serious incidents of terrorism of the decade, including the World Trade Center Bombing in 1993 and Oklahoma City Bombing in 1995. He spent weeks

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Formerly known as Law Enforcement Against Prohibition

combing the post blast debris and recovering evidence used later to convict the offenders.

In honor of his efforts to keep dangerous weapons out of communities, Chipman was awarded the Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Community Partnerships for Public Safety. He served on the Special Response Team (SRT) - ATF's version of SWAT. He managed complex firearms trafficking cases, including busting organized criminal groups transporting guns to New York in exchange for illegal drugs in the Tidewater Virginia area.

Because of his commitment and experience, Chipman was promoted to multiple leadership positions at ATF, including Division Chief of the Office of Public and Governmental Affairs in 2012. As Division Chief, he managed ATF's external partnerships with agencies and improved collaboration with groups dedicated to preventing violent crime. In his supervisory roles, he managed hundreds of agents, partnered with dozens of communities, and was responsible for the execution of ATF's operational budget in all 25 field divisions.

Since his retirement from the ATF in 2012, Chipman served two terms on the Firearms Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. In addition, he has served as an expert advising community groups, policy makers, and organizations on gun violence prevention.

ATF has had only one director confirmed by the U.S. Senate since 2006. Chipman would be a committed leader for an agency that has primarily relied on interim directors for the past fifteen years.

In short, we believe that David Chipman could make a significant impact on the safety of our nation and communities as the Director of ATF. As professionals with experience in the criminal justice system, we know how important a committed, qualified leader is to an agency's ability to keep our communities safe.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective in support of this important nomination.

Respectfully,

Diane M. Goldstein

Lt. Diane Goldstein (Ret.)
Executive Director, Law Enforcement Action Partnership