



NATIONAL BLACK POLICE ASSOCIATION

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April 22, 2021

The Honorable Charles 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:

The National Black Police Association was started in 1972, in St. Louis Missouri, where 13 black officers met, who came from various areas which discriminated against African-Americans. The organization was chartered in the State of Illinois. The National Black Police Association is currently subdivided into three Regions throughout the United States. It is an honor to write in support of the nomination of David Chipman to serve as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). As Chairperson of the National Black Police Association, a lieutenant with over 30 years of law enforcement experience in the Philadelphia Police Department, and the son of a former Philadelphia Police Commissioner, I am very familiar with the important role that ATF plays in enhancing public safety, preventing violent crime, and keeping communities safe. ATF would benefit greatly with a Director that has David's experience and knowledge at the helm.

The NBPA became familiar with David through his work at Giffords, and more specifically, with the Region 3 President (Major Sabrina Tapp-Harper) of the National Black Police Association. Major Tapp-Harper Commanded a Domestic Violence Unit at the Sheriff's Office in Baltimore and the gun seizures resulting from protective order service were significant, but also began a partnership, resulting in several projects with David, that have continued over the years. According to Major Tapp-Harper, David personally checked in with her after every major incident that occurred in this country, just to see if he could offer any support to the Sheriff's Office or the NBPA. That is sincere dedication and commitment. David Chipman is uniquely qualified to lead ATF, and he is experienced and committed to the mission of ATF, because he not only has integrity, he is full of integrity. David Chipman is a dedicated law enforcement professional with over 30 years experience in public safety, including as a special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). As a father, public servant, gun owner, decorated law enforcement professional and gun safety expert, David has spent his career serving the public, combating violent crime, and striving to make our nation and our communities safer every day. As an agent, David spent his career in service of ATF's unique mission of enforcing firearms and



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explosives laws that protect communities from people perpetuating violence and criminal activities, investigating acts of arson, bombings, and terrorism, and combating the illegal trafficking of alcohol and tobacco products.

ATF has had only one director confirmed by the U.S. Senate since 2006, and that was in 2013.

David is uniquely qualified to implement President Biden's law enforcement agenda as it relates to ATF, and he will be a committed leader for an agency that has primarily relied on interim directors for the past fifteen years.

Throughout his 25-year career at ATF, David served as an investigative responder providing assistance to state and local authorities in the aftermath of significant bombings and arsons. As a Certified Explosives Specialist, David 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. In 1996, David also 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 served on the Special Response Team (SRT), ATF's version of SWAT. He managed complex firearms trafficking cases, including busting organized criminal groups involving the transportation of guns to New York in exchange for illegal drugs in the Tidewater Virginia area. In honor of his efforts to keep dangerous weapons out of communities, David was awarded the Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Community Partnerships for Public Safety.

David was promoted to multiple leadership positions at ATF, including Division Chief of the Office of Public and Governmental Affairs in 2012. In his supervisory roles, David managed hundreds of agents, partnered with dozens of communities and was responsible for execution of ATF's operational budget in all 25 field divisions and an annual budget in excess of \$150 million.

Since his retirement from the ATF in 2012, David has served as an expert advising organizations at the forefront of gun violence prevention. In that capacity, David has advised policymakers, gun violence prevention advocates, and community groups on gun violence prevention issues and provided expert testimony before Congress on firearms legislation. In addition, David served two terms on the Firearms Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

In today's climate, it is imperative that we have leaders that do not just do the right thing, but leaders who make things right

David's significant professional experience and personal dedication to making this country a better, safer place for all make him an excellent candidate to serve as ATF's eighth permanent director.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Willie L. Williams III

National Chairperson, NBPA