

May 20, 2021

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL URGES U.S. SENATE TO CONFIRM CHIPMAN AS ATF DIRECTOR

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul joined a coalition of 17 attorneys general in issuing a letter to U.S. Senate and Judiciary Committee leadership urging David Chipman's expeditious confirmation as director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

"David Chipman is uniquely qualified to lead the ATF, and I urge the Senate to swiftly confirm his nomination," Raoul said. "His years of experience with the agency and work with various groups to end gun violence give him the skills and awareness needed to manage work alongside other law enforcement agencies to battle the gun violence epidemic in our country. Partnerships with the ATF are key to keeping firearms out of the wrong hands and keeping our communities safe, and I look forward to working with David Chipman to protect Illinois residents once he is confirmed."

[In the letter](#), Raoul and the attorneys general note that as the chief legal officers in their respective states and territories, they regularly work with the ATF to combat violent criminals and gun trafficking, and that those partnerships have proven invaluable in eliminating criminal organizations, fighting gun trafficking and ensuring that the reasonable restrictions placed on gun possession are enforced without harming law-abiding citizens' Second Amendment rights. For instance, Attorney General Raoul's office previously collaborated with the ATF [in a gunrunning](#) case against two individuals who were allegedly selling stolen firearms in DuPage and Cook counties, as well as a case against a Cook County man who allegedly [possessed several illegal firearms](#).

Throughout his career, Chipman has used his knowledge of illegal gun trafficking and gun trafficking laws to employ strategies to keep dangerous weapons out of the hands of criminals. Chipman, a 25-year veteran of the ATF, has experience as an adviser to policymakers, advocates and community groups. Raoul and the coalition assert that as director of the ATF, Chipman would leverage this experience to effectively work with communities and law enforcement to make the nation safer and to put an end to gun violence.

Joining Raoul in sending the letter are the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Massachusetts, Maryland, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Virginia.



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May 18, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable A. Mitchell McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators:

We, the undersigned Attorneys General of our States, write to urge the Senate to expeditiously consider and confirm the nomination of David Chipman as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). Mr. Chipman is an experienced law enforcement professional who will lead ATF with conviction and help protect communities across the country from gun violence.

As the chief law and law enforcement officers in our respective states and territories, many of us regularly work with ATF to combat violent criminals and gun trafficking in our communities. Our partnerships with ATF have proven invaluable in eliminating criminal organizations, fighting gun trafficking, and ensuring that the reasonable restrictions placed on gun possession are enforced without harming law-abiding citizens' Second Amendment rights.

Mr. Chipman understands the agency inside-and-out, having served there for 25 years, first as an investigator and later as a division chief. His distinguished career at ATF included investigating the 1993 World Trade Center attacks and the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. He later received the Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Community Partnerships for Public Safety for his work managing complex firearms trafficking cases that kept dangerous weapons out of the hands of criminals.

After retiring from ATF, Mr. Chipman continued to serve the public and combat gun violence as an adviser to policymakers, advocates, and community groups. He has leveraged his deep knowledge of illegal gun trafficking and the laws and strategies employed to stop it to fight this public health and public safety crisis that is killing and injuring our citizens.

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In short, David Chipman is uniquely qualified to lead ATF. He has deep experience at that agency, and he is ready to work with law enforcement, the communities most heavily impacted by violence, and others to make our nation safer while upholding Americans' Second Amendment rights. He embodies the very best of the law enforcement community, and we would be honored to partner with him in our joint efforts to put an end to gun violence. We are proud to support his nomination and encourage you to do the same, and we look forward to the opportunity to work with him in the coming years.

All the best,



JOSH SHAPIRO

Attorney General of Pennsylvania



ROB BONTA

Attorney General of California



PHIL WEISER

Attorney General of Colorado



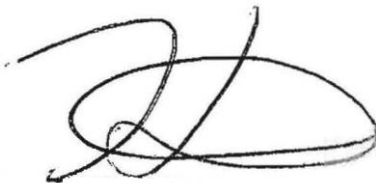
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Columbia



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Attorney General of New York



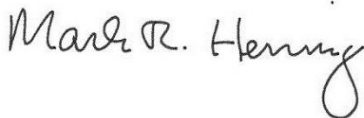
ELLEN F. ROSENBLUM
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PETER NERONHA
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THOMAS J. DONOVAN, JR.
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MARK HERRING
Attorney General of Virginia

March 28, 2019

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL: TWO MEN CHARGED WITH GUNRUNNING

Nine Guns Recovered, Five of Which Are Connected to Residential Burglaries

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today announced charges against two Cook County men for gunrunning, following a joint investigation by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the DuPage Metropolitan Enforcement Group, and the Norridge and Bensenville police departments.

Reynaldo Gomez, 34, of Maywood, Ill. and Jose Ibarra, 33, of Elmwood Park, Ill. were charged in DuPage County Circuit Court with gunrunning, a Class X felony punishable by six to 30 years in prison. Bond for each man was set at \$250,000, and they remain in custody.

“These stolen guns were recovered before they were involved in violent crimes through our partnership with the ATF. Reducing gun violence in communities throughout Illinois requires a comprehensive approach that includes tracing stolen and trafficked guns, and,” Raoul said. “I look forward to continuing to work with the ATF, as well as other state and local law enforcement agencies to ensure that critical gun tracking data is shared between authorities.”

The ATF initiated an investigation after discovering Gomez, who is currently on parole for an unrelated conviction, and Ibarra were allegedly selling stolen guns in DuPage and Cook counties. From January until March 15, 2019, Gomez and Ibarra allegedly sold guns the ATF recovered and traced back to residential burglaries. The ATF has recovered nine guns, five of which had been reported stolen. The DuPage Metropolitan Enforcement Group, and the Norridge and Bensenville police departments assisted with the investigation

“Working closely with our law enforcement partners is vital to solving gun crimes,” said Special Agent in Charge Tim Jones, of the Chicago Field Division of ATF. “When it comes to investigating these crimes and holding accountable those felons who are prohibited from possessing guns, we send a message of deterrence throughout the community.”

The public is reminded that the defendants are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Assistant Attorney General M. Claire Nicholson is handling prosecution of the case for Raoul’s Trials Assistance Bureau. Bureau Chief John Kezdy is handling the case for Raoul’s Statewide Grand Jury Program.

March 12, 2020

**ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL: COOK COUNTY MAN INDICTED ON CHARGES OF ARMED VIOLENCE,
UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM**

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul announced charges against a Cook County man for unlawfully possessing several firearms, following a joint investigation with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Chicago Police Department.

John E. Deir, 45, of Burbank, Ill., was charged in Cook County Circuit Court with eight counts of armed violence, a Class X felony punishable by 15 to 30 years in prison, and eight counts of unlawful possession of a firearm while being ineligible for a Firearm Owners Identification (FOID) card, a Class 3 felony punishable by two to five years in prison. Bond was set at \$50,000, and he remains in custody. His next court date will be March 18.

“Partnerships between law enforcement and state and federal government are critical in order to reduce gun violence in communities throughout Illinois,” Raoul said. “My office will continue to collaborate with agencies such as the ATF as we work to keep firearms out of the hands of dangerous individuals who make our communities unsafe.”

ATF agents executing an arrest warrant for an unrelated federal case at Deir’s home were told that there were between five and 10 firearms in the residence. After finding cocaine residue in a bathroom, agents obtained a search warrant and confiscated eight firearms, including handguns, a shotgun and a rifle, as well as numerous rounds of ammunition. The Illinois FOID Card Act prohibits Deir from possessing any firearms due to a prior felony disposition for armed robbery. In addition to recovering firearms, ATF agents also located \$25,000 in cash at the home.

“Positive working relationships among law enforcement are crucial in the apprehension of felony offenders,” said Acting Special Agent in Charge Beau Kolodka, of the Chicago Field Division of the ATF. “The effective partnership among the ATF, the Chicago Police Department and the Illinois Attorney General’s Office was vital in identifying an offender, conducting a thorough investigation and completing our mission to protect the public.”

“Gun offenders need to be held accountable,” said Chicago Police Interim Superintendent Charlie Beck. “Protecting the public is paramount. We are all in this together: law enforcement, prosecutors, and the community. If you are a felon and you are in possession of an illegal firearm, you should expect to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”

The public is reminded that the defendant is innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Assistant Attorney General Andrew Whitfield is handling prosecution of the case for Raoul’s Statewide Grand Jury Program.