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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

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September 17, 2012

Via Electronic Transmission

Mr. B. Todd Jones
Acting Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
U.S. Department of Justice
99 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Acting Director Jones:

It has come to my attention that a **“breakdown”** in relations has occurred between the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) Reno, Nevada Field Office (Reno ATF) **and the U.S. Attorney’s Office** for the District of Nevada (USAONV). My office has been alerted to a variety of serious issues that allegedly continue to hamper the ability of agents at Reno ATF from performing their duties.

The attached declination memorandum, signed by the U.S. Attorney, indicates that as of September 29, 2011, the USAONV categorically refuses to accept **any cases** submitted by Reno ATF. Due to an alleged failure of management in ATF’s San Francisco Field Division, which oversees Reno ATF, the situation has still not been resolved over the last 12 months. As a result, the Reno ATF office has effectively been idled. It allegedly has no supervision, no cases, and no investigative resources.

Although Reno ATF once had around six full-time agents, that number dwindled down to two. The other four ATF agents allegedly requested to be transferred due to the lack of work stemming from the office’s breakdown in relations with the USAONV. These serious issues have reportedly been brought to the attention of ATF Headquarters, but little has been done to correct the problem.

To help better understand the circumstances surrounding these issues at Reno ATF, please provide the answers and documents to the following requests by no later than October 1, 2012:

- 1) Is ATF Headquarters aware of the alleged problems between Reno ATF and the USAONV?

- 2) **When did ATF's San Francisco Field Division become aware of the** problems between Reno ATF and the USAONV? What actions were taken to resolve these issues?
- 3) When did ATF Headquarters become aware of the problems between Reno ATF and the USAONV? What actions were taken to resolve these issues?
- 4) How many ATF agents are currently assigned to Reno ATF? How many ATF agents were assigned to Reno ATF between 2006 and 2011? Provide a breakdown for each year.
- 5) How many cases has Reno ATF initiated to date in the year 2012? How many cases did Reno ATF initiate between 2006 to 2011? Provide a breakdown for each year.
- 6) Provide all transfer request memorandums written by Reno ATF agents **which were vetted through ATF's San Francisco** Field Division. Please describe the reasons why these ATF agents wanted to be transferred out of Reno ATF.
- 7) What was the total cost to transfer agents out of Reno ATF?

I am also requesting that ATF make available the individuals most familiar with this situation and provide a briefing to my office by no later than September 26, 2012. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Brian Downey or Tristan Leavitt of my Committee staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz, Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice

Attachment



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
District of [REDACTED]

September 29, 2011

Special Agent [REDACTED]
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
[REDACTED]

Re: [REDACTED]

Dear Special Agent [REDACTED]

We are in receipt of the report you prepared on the aforementioned case. I am returning the report to you. At this time, we are not accepting any cases submitted by your office. We are willing to consider your cases again when your management addresses and resolves the issues at hand.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
United States Attorney
[REDACTED]

Assistant United States Attorney