



This letter affirms the Black Agents and Professionals Law Enforcement Association (BAPLEA) support for Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Acting Director Marvin Richardson.

The men and women of ATF work diligently to protect communities from gun violence. The oath, “to protect and serve”, is not lost on employees, as they often sacrifice self and family in furtherance of ATF’s mission.

At the helm of ATF is Acting Director Marvin Richardson, a Special Agent with 33 years of federal service at the agency. Acting Director Richardson has worked in various capacities, to include, special agent, supervisor, manager and executive. Prior to his current position as Acting Director, Mr. Richardson served as the Deputy Director of ATF. His ascension to the position of Acting Director for ATF came as no surprise to employees. Acting Director Richardson’s vast knowledge and experience of regulatory and enforcement responsibilities makes him a unique asset and leader. Acting Director Richardson is known for his engaging personality and judicious insight. He is a leader who believes in doing the right thing all the time.

Recently, Acting Director Richardson has been touted as being friendly with the firearms industry. As the Assistant Director of ATF Enforcement and Programs Services from 2012 through 2020, he was responsible for the regulatory arm of the agency and worked to bridge the gap with industry leaders. His understanding of the relationship between the firearms and explosives industry did not have to be acrimonious. It is not surprising the industry leaders have supported him and the job he has performed as ATF’s Acting Director.

The men and women of ATF have been fortunate to have Marvin (as he is affectionately known) as its Acting Director. He is a career employee and servant leader who has put the needs of the agency and country first and foremost. BAPLEA commends Acting Director Marvin Richardson for his exemplary leadership to ATF and his extensive service to the United States of America.

Serving as the President of BAPLEA I know Marvin to be a law enforcement leader, with an uncompromising passion for justice, equity, and the rule of law. The mission of BAPLEA is to develop, empower, and sustain African American employees. In partnership with ATF, BAPLEA is dedicated to ensuring that employees are provided support, up to date policies, procedures, professional development, and training. It is the aim of this organization to serve as a catalyst for African American employees to have access to various levels of ATF’s leadership, mentorship, and guidance.

For additional information regarding BAPLEA refer to the website: [www.baplea.org](http://www.baplea.org).