October 7, 2008

Ms. Tracy Biggs
Attorney, Disclosure Unit
c/o **The Honorable Scott Bloch**
Special Counsel
U.S. Office of Special Counsel
1730 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Bloch, Ms. Biggs and To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jay Dobyns. My complaint to your office was investigated under OSC Case File Number D1-07-0367. I thank the OSC and the OIG for the attention your respective agencies and personnel have devoted to this matter. This is my response to the OIG investigative report.

I am proud to have been an ATF Agent for 22 years. It has been my honor to have worked alongside the most courageous law enforcement officers known to our country - my friends and peers – the street agents in ATF. With that, I am equally disappointed with ATF's leadership.

The OIG investigative report has independently confirmed that the carelessness of ATF's management, which I first reported internally to ATF and was subsequently ignored, has proven to be factual and valid.

Numerous mid-level ATF managers, the senior leadership of three ATF field divisions and the Executive Staff of ATF in Washington, DC, along with ATF's Internal Affairs and the Chief Counsel office were all directly involved in, and responsible for, the mismanagement of the death threats against me.

Unfortunately, mine is not an isolated incident. ATF management's pattern of reckless behavior in this area is institutional. It has been historically tolerated and promoted.

How can ATF's leaders claim to the Nation that ATF is the 'tip of the sword' in fighting violent crime when they ignore and dismiss violent crimes against their own employees?

A part of being an ATF Agent is accepting the real possibility that retaliation from suspects exists. ATF Agents have long prided themselves on an eagerness to confront the worst of the worst criminals – those using guns, bombs and arson - and doing so on behalf of the communities they serve in.

With proof that ATF's leadership cowered in the face of threats from those same criminals, ATF's management embarrassed the agencies mission and an insulted its agents.

ATF Agents will continue to seek the investigative challenges that few others have the courage to face. But, they will do so now with a confirmation that certain members of ATF's leadership will turn their collective backs to them at the first sign of trouble or controversy.

This currently is the life of an ATF Agent as we have come to know it.

With respect,

Jay Dobyns
Special Agent, ATF