

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

BUDGET

SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

December 12, 2013

Mr. Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 4706
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Inspector General Horowitz:

I write with continued concerns about deeply troubling news reports alleging a failed drug-and-gun operation in Milwaukee that may have put Wisconsin families at risk. It is my understanding that, after an April internal review from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), the Office of Inspector General (OIG) has undertaken an investigation of the undercover operations in Milwaukee. I request you include the most recent allegations of disturbing tactics used by ATF agents involved in "Operation Fearless" in this report.

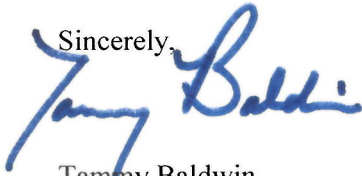
According to news reports published this weekend, ATF allegedly recruited and used individuals with developmental disabilities in their drug-and-gun operation in Milwaukee and at least four other cities across the country. These reports also allege ATF agents intentionally targeted individuals with developmental disabilities to carry out illegal activities associated with the storefront stings. According to news reports, the ATF is also alleged to have implemented operations near schools and churches, and sought to entice juveniles in their operations. The methods and tactics used to get illegal firearms off the street raise a number of questions that need to be answered.

On February 1, 2013, I sent then-Acting Director of the ATF, B. Todd Jones, a letter outlining my concerns with ATF's tactics, methods and operations. It is my understanding that ATF conducted an internal review in response and had taken steps to address deficiencies identified in the failed operation in Milwaukee. However, in light of these new allegations, I am demanding that the Inspector General's office complete a comprehensive analysis of the failures associated with the operation in Milwaukee, as well as a review of ATF's updated processes since details of the initial failed operation came to light.

I urge you to investigate this matter thoroughly as you complete the OIG's report on Operation Fearless, and release your report as soon as possible so that appropriate reforms can be implemented at ATF.

Thank you for your leadership and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senator

Cc: Eric H. Holder, Jr., Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice
B. Todd Jones, Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives