

International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the International Association of Arson Investigators is a professional association with more than 8,000 members from the fire service, law enforcement, forensic disciplines, the insurance industry and other professions with the responsibility of investigating, prosecuting, and combating arson and allied crimes; AND

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is a federal law enforcement agency whose mission is to protect communities from violent criminals, criminal organizations, the illegal use and trafficking of firearms, the illegal use and storage of explosives, acts of arson and bombings, and acts of terrorism; AND,

WHEREAS, by virtue of its statutory authority under Title XI of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970, ATF initiates investigations and assists in state and local fire service and law enforcement agencies in bomb and arson investigations; AND,

WHEREAS, for over 40 years, ATF has developed scientifically proven investigative capabilities, expertise, and resources that have positioned ATF as the Nation's primary source for explosives and fire investigative knowledge and assistance; AND,

WHEREAS, ATF Certified Fire Investigators (CFIs) are the only investigators trained by a Federal law enforcement agency to qualify as expert witnesses in fire origin and cause determinations; AND,

WHEREAS, the ATF Fire Research Laboratory (FRL) is the world's largest research laboratory that is dedicated to fire scene investigations; AND

WHEREAS, the ATF National Response Team (NRT) assists state and local fire service and law enforcement agencies by providing ATF explosives and fire investigative resources and expertise on large scale incidents, and on more complex investigations due to the size, scope, or number of victims as a result of the incident; AND,

WHEREAS, the ATF International Response Team (IRT), the result of an agreement between ATF and the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service (DSS), provides assistance to foreign governments and law enforcement agencies in investigating large-vehicle bombings; provides technical support in the disassembly of improvised explosive devices; and provides investigative oversight in large-scale fires that resulted in a massive loss of life and/or property loss estimated in the millions of dollars; AND

WHEREAS, the ATF has partnered with state and local agencies in the fight against the crime of arson by offering advanced level training in arson and explosives investigations for state and local investigators and prosecutors; AND,

WHEREAS, the ATF has formed many strategic and tactical partnerships with state and local fire investigators through task forces to combat arson and explosives crime at the local level; AND,

WHEREAS, the International Association of Arson Investigators and the ATF have had a long standing strategic partnership, including the many past and present ATF members serving as key officers and members; AND,

WHEREAS, members of Congress have introduced legislation seeking to abolish the ATF and to transfer their duties in the fight against arson to other federal law enforcement agencies; AND,

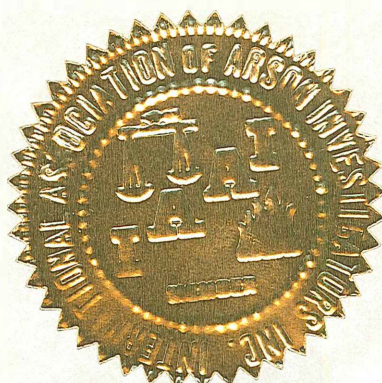
WHEREAS, abolishing the ATF will harm the efforts of the United States fire service and law enforcement agencies in combatting arson and explosives-related crimes.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Officers and members of the International Association of Arson Investigators fully support our brothers and sisters who bravely and proudly serve as members of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and further, the International Association of Arson Investigators adamantly opposes any effort to abolish the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This resolution was authorized by unanimous vote of the membership present at the Annual General Meeting of the International Association of Arson Investigators on May 19th, 2015, and adopted by the International Association of Arson Investigators Board of Directors on October 12th, 2015.

P. Mansi

Dr. Peter Mansi, IAAI President



Deborah Keeler

Deborah Keeler, Executive Director