



Retired ATF Deputy Assistant Director and Police Commissioner is newly Elected President of Black Agents and Professionals Law Enforcement Association



Atlanta, GA – October 10, 2022 – During the annual conference of the Black Agents and Professionals Law Enforcement Association (BAPLEA) held at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, Georgia, Trevor Velinor was elected president to lead the organization, consisting of active and retired African-American employees of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). Velinor retired in 2021, after completing a 2-year assignment, as the Commissioner of Police for the United States Virgin Islands. He has over three decades of law enforcement experience, having served in various operational, management, and executive level positions.

Velinor stated, “I am excited about continuing the legacy of those trailblazers, to whom I am indebted.” Velinor shook the hands and thanked conference attendee Dr. Larry Stewart, the named plaintiff in the class action lawsuit against ATF in the 1980’s. Velinor credited the courage of the class members of the African-American Agents of ATF for paving a path for many black employees. ATF Deputy Director Marvin Richardson provided an overview of the state of the agency, and challenged BAPLEA members to actively recruit candidates for employment.

“I am committed to fairness, equity, and parity in the workplace”, stated President Velinor. “We must continue to ask the hard questions, and find solutions to bridge the racial gap relative to the hiring, training, and promotional opportunities in ATF.”

BAPLEA is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization, with the mission of providing professional support and training to retired and active employees of ATF. Velinor is the 2nd president of BAPLEA, and served as Historian and Advisor to Past President, Constance Hester-Davis.

BAPLEA congratulates the following elected board members:

- Vice President Bennie Mims, Special Agent in Charge, Charlotte Field Division
- Parliamentarian/ Chaplain John Williams, Director of ATF Training (retired)
- Secretary Robin O'Quinn, Special Agent, Nashville Field Division
- Treasurer Taji Muttalib, Group Supervisor, Houston Field Division
- Historian Marcos Bess, Assistant Country Attaché, Jamaica

For additional information regarding BAPLEA refer to the website: www.baplea.org.