

## Statement from Former ATF Agent Micah Wellman

The following is a statement from former ATF agent, Micah Wellman, who filed the complaint against Ver in 2001. Below is an excerpt from a longer email conversation between Wellman and Taylor Hudak [the author of this report].

*“I will answer what I can recall with the caveat that it has been a number of years and my recollection may not be perfect... For specifics I would recommend that you conduct a FOIA request with ATF and also look at the original court record.”*

In another email follow-up, Wellman reiterated:

*“Anything I state is purely from a memory of events more than 20 years in the past. I do not claim them to be perfectly accurate. You would need to verify the information from official records....*

*The case was initiated by another Agent and I do not know on what basis the case was initiated. I was a newly hired Agent in the office and this was one of my first assignments. I think the case had stalled out with the original Agent and I was determined to see it through as a new Agent.*

*Explosives storage cases are not that uncommon and often involve fireworks or related items such as what Ver was possessing. Usually, these cases are handled on the local level due to the size requirements needed before the US Attorney's Office would accept prosecution....*

*Ver was dealing in explosive material without a license by selling the pest control devices locally as well as on eBay. The prior Agent had attempted to contact Ver and arrange an undercover purchase of the devices from him. The Agent was unable to do so. Sometime later, after receiving the case, I also tried and was successful in obtaining some of the pest control devices from him.*

*As far as how VER acted during the investigation, I can only speak of the short undercover meeting I had with him when I obtained the pest control devices from him. I found him to be [redacted] who was aggressively looking to find a way to become wealthy and make a political name for himself in the early DOT-com era. I recall him showing off his AC Ford Cobra replica that he had in his San Jose warehouse....”*

*I do not recall ever attending any meetings between Ver and the prosecutors. Agents are not always involved in plea negotiations. As the case agent, I should have been the only one invited to such a meeting and, again, I do not recall participating. I did not attend any political meetings where VER was present nor recall seeing any campaign information associated to him. As far as I recall, I only found out about his candidacy when I received a ballot to vote. This is my*

*recollection but if there were any information regarding his candidacy, it would be in the case file. I then and now have knowledge as to Ver's opinions on law enforcement. I do not know of any instance where an ATF Agent attended a political rally where the subject of a case was a candidate. During any plea agreement meetings, I would think that a US Attorney would not allow any Agent to make statements regarding an individual's political beliefs. If an Agent did so, I would think it would be reported to their supervisor."*