

js

**ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

1 GRANITE PLACE SOUTH
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301

JOHN M. FORMELLA
ATTORNEY GENERAL



JAMES T. BOFFETTI
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

4F

September 11, 2024

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Your Excellency and Members of the Council:

REQUESTED ACTION

That approval be and hereby is given to the Attorney General to appoint John R. Sonia (Position #9U274, Appropriation #02-20-20-200510-2610-014-500134) as a Criminal Justice Investigator at a salary level of \$83,462 (LG BB, Step 5) effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval or October 4, 2024, whichever is later, for a term ending May 27, 2026.

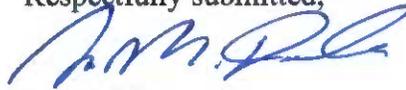
EXPLANATION

Mr. Sonia, a Chichester resident, spent the past three decades in both military and civilian law enforcement. After graduating high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned military police duties at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas (1994 to 1997) and Seoul, Korea (1997 to 1999). He was honorably discharged from the Army in 1999 and enrolled in the New Hampshire Police Academy where he earned the Arthur Kehas and Physical Fitness awards. He joined the New Hampshire State Police in 1999—initially as a Gaming Investigator and then, after approximately six months, as a Trooper. He performed patrol duties at Troop F and Troop D (1999 to 2004), during which time he became a drug recognition expert. As a Detective/Trooper at Troop D (2004 to 2007), he was lead investigator on numerous felony cases including homicide, burglary, robbery, sexual assault, fraud, and computer crimes. Mr. Sonia joined the New Hampshire State Police Major Crime Unit as a Detective/Sergeant in 2007 in which capacity he investigated homicides, police-involved shootings, suspicious, violent assaults and other serious felonies. Since 2017, he has been Commander of the Major Crimes Unit and responsible for overseeing the operations and administrative functions of the unit and its subsections (i.e., Corrections Liaison, Cold Case Section, Family Services Section, and Crime Scene Section). He plans to retire from the State Police on October 1, 2024. Mr. Sonia will be assigned to the Criminal Justice Bureau as a Criminal Justice Investigator. Given his years of experience and expertise, a salary of \$83,462 (LG BB, Step 5) is requested. His resume is attached for your consideration.

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
September 11, 2024
Page 2 of 2

I am very pleased to offer Mr. Sonia's appointment as a Criminal Justice Investigator and respectfully urge your favorable consideration. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.M. Formella", written in a cursive style.

John M. Formella
Attorney General

#4654211

John R. Sonia

Lieutenant, NH State Police - Major Crime Unit Commander

PROFILE:

30 years in Law Enforcement, with over 23 years' experience as a detective/investigator.

Bachelor of Science Degree (BS), Criminal Justice-Forensic Psychology, Granite State College

Master of Science Degree (MS), Leadership, Granite State College (Project Management Concentration)

EXPERIENCE:

US Army - Military Police (Fort Chaffee, AR) (Patrol/Investigator) Feb 1994 - Oct 1997

Assigned duties as a patrolman, criminal investigator, patrol supervisor, desk sergeant, and training officer.

Obtained additional MOS qualification/identifier Q9, MP Traffic Collision Reconstructionist

-Nationally Certified *Emergency Medical Technician - Basic (NREMT)*

- Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal

US Army - Military Police (Seoul ROK, 21st CID) (Investigator) Oct 1997 - Dec 1999

Investigated narcotics, black market, and general crimes while assigned to the CID Joint Crime Task Force. Operated in overt and semi-covert assignments, conducted surveillance, and was involved in the controlled purchase of narcotics/illicit drugs.

- Army Commendation Medal, Republic of Korea Customs (ROK) Service Certificate of Appreciation

NH State Police - Gaming Inv./Troop F/Troop D (Patrol/Trooper) Jun 1999 - Jun 2004

Assigned patrol duties in rural locations, and midnight shift capacities, in which I was involved with and/or conducted various criminal investigations, accident investigations, and MV law enforcement functions.

- *Drug Recognition Expert (4 years)*

NH State Police - Troop D (Detective/Trooper) Jun 2004 - Mar 2007

Assigned as lead investigator for numerous misdemeanor/ felony level crimes to include but not limited to homicide, burglary, robbery, theft, assault, sexual assault, fraud, and computer crimes.

During this assignment I conducted numerous interviews/interrogations, identified/preserved/collected physical evidence, and obtained investigative information for case completion and referral to the appropriate authorities for prosecution.

- *Crisis Negotiation Unit member (2 1/2 years)*

- *NH Cyber Crime Initiative member (3 years)*

NH State Police - Major Crime Unit (Detective/Sergeant)

Mar 2007 - Nov 2017

Assigned duties as a detective investigating homicides, police involved shootings, suspicious deaths/suicides, violent assaults, felony level crimes, etc. During this assignment I have had the opportunity to lead numerous homicide/death, cold case homicide, large scale fraud, and public integrity investigations. I have provided testimony in multiple homicide trials, hearings, and grand jury proceedings. Assigned as the Officer in Charge (OIC) for numerous homicide/death/PD shooting crime scenes in which all pertinent managerial and supervisory decisions pertaining to that aspect of the investigation were my responsibility. I directed assignments, coordinated activities, managed troopers/detectives/local officers/assistant deputy medical examiners (ADME), lab personal, and approved reports of the various troopers and/or sergeants assigned to crime scene and case activities. Acted as a training instructor relative to crime scene and homicide investigation activities to newly assigned troop detective(s)/trooper(s) tasked with participating and assisting in unit investigations.

NH State Police - Major Crime Unit Commander (Detective/Lieutenant) Nov 2017 - Present (2024)

Administers criminal investigations and other related law enforcement activities within the Major Crime Unit of Investigative Services Bureau. Directs the activities of the all Major Crime Unit administrative and operational requirements. Manages or institutes objectives consistent with acceptable investigative standards and procedures. Maintains proficiency in criminal investigations. Coordinates intensive criminal investigations. Interfaces with public, media, business, and governmental officials providing guidance. Leads and controls the operation and administration of specialized sub sections of the Major Crime Unit including: Corrections Liaison, Cold Case Section, Family Services Section, and Crime Scene Section. Plans, organizes, and Implements specialized training within the Investigative Services Bureau, as well as the Major Crime Unit. Develops and implements cost containment procedures. Provides direction to subordinate staff, Reviews performance and recommends assignment, discipline or promotion. Performs all other duties and responsibilities for SP.Lieutenant.

-Multiple Division Directors Awards, Congressional Awards, Letters of Commendation.

EDUCATION

- *Bachelor of Science Degree (BS), Criminal Justice-Forensic Psychology, Granite State College*

- *Master of Science Degree (MS), Leadership, Granite State College*

- *National Forensic Academy (NFA) Graduate, University of Tennessee*

-NH Police Academy-Full Time Officer (1999)

- Arthur Kehas Award

- Physical Fitness Award

- Arkansas Police Academy-Part Time Officer Certification

- US Army Military Police School Graduate

- US Army Military Police School, Counterdrug Investigations Course

INVESTIGATIVE/LEADERSHIP TRAINING:

- Interview/Interrogation
- General/Advanced Crime Scene Inv./Scene management
- LE Leadership
- Instructor Development
- Homicide/Advanced Death Inv.
- Arson/Robbery/Burglary/Sex Crimes/Drug Crimes
- Detective Course Training
- Project management/Budget/Business Management Course work
- Narcotics Investigation Training
 - Drug Recognition Expert School
 - USA Military Police Counterdrug Inv. Course
 - USA CID Drug, Black-market Violations and Organized Crime Suppression Inv. Techniques
 - Contemporary Gangs in US
 - Gang Intervention Summit
- Cyber Crime Training
 - Intro to Internet Crime Inv.
 - Basic Data Recovery and Analysis (BDRA)
 - Investigation of Computer Crime
 - Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Investigative Techniques
 - Advanced Responders – Search and Seizure of SOHO Networks
 - Access Data Bootcamp
 - Intermediate Data Recovery and Analysis (IDRA)
 - Certified Electronic Evidence Collection Specialist
 - Identity Theft
 - Cell Tower Analysis
 - ICAC Mobile Phone Forensics (Cellebrite)

CERTIFICATIONS:

- *Certified Electronic Evidence Collection Specialist*
- *Certified Senior Crime Scene Analyst - CSCSA (IAI) (2010-present)*

INSTRUCTOR/TEACHING ACTIVITY:

- NH Full Time/Part Time Academy - Interview & Interrogation (Module)/CSI (Module)
- State/local Police/EMS/Fire – General Crim. Inv./CSI (1 Day)
- NH Colleges/High Schools – General Crim. Inv./CSI (1 Day)
- NH Medical Examiner's Office - Death Scene Investigation (1 Day)
- New England Division IAI - CSI (1 Day)
- Granite State Police Career Counseling Adjunct - MCI (3 Day)/Advanced Patrol (CSI) (1 Day)

- National Association of Attorney Generals Training Initiative (NAGTRI) Opioid Death Investigation Training Instructor (National) (1Day)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

- International Association for Identification (IAI)
- New England Division of IAI
- State of NH Opioid Death Inv. training module - Authored presentation on death Inv. (2016)
- National Association of Attorney Generals Working Group on Opioid Death Inv. (2017)
- Member of NH Department of Correction's Commissioners Civilian Advisory Board (2019-present)

ADDITIONAL AREAS of EXPERIENCE:

- Executive Security Unit (ESU); Assist ESU w/ Dignitary Protective Assignments and USSS ID Liaison
- Polygraph Unit; Familiar with Unit Operations, Scheduling, Protocols, Etc.
- Projects; ISB Relocation PCD and move, RFI Forensic Lab Facility, RFI Cruiser/Body Cameras, Missing Person Clearinghouse IAC Bulletin, OMCE/UNH partnership regarding unidentified remains
- Budget; Cold Case Unit, ISB Training, ISB Equipment, MCU OT Management, Forensic Testing
- State Legislative Cycle; Attendance, Area of Expertise Educational Testimony and Monitoring
- Grants; Assisted Facilitation of County Sexual Assault Justice Initiative (SAJI) Grant
- MOU; NH Department of Corrections (DOC), Prison Liaison
- Task Force; OCDEF w AG Office and DEA
- Division Administrative OIS Review Board
- Division Risk Assessments and Op Plans for Criminal Investigations
- Division Oral Board Participation SSgt – Trooper
- Division Civilian Hiring Manager
- Division Appointed Member of DOC Commissioner Civilian Advisory Board
- NH Sponsor of NESPAC CSI Training Initiative