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Open Public Records Request Notification

Date Sent: July 22, 2025 **Sent By:** AP Lauren R. Casale
(SCPO Official)

Requestor's:

Name: F. Smith
Address: Not provided.
Phone: Not provided.
E Mail: opra+request-78374-96265586@requests.opramachine.com

Date of OPRA Request: 7/10/2025 **Date Received:** 7 /10/2025

Records Requested:

Any and all disciplinary records for K9 Sergeant Shannon Snook to include any corrective measures considered "non disciplinary actions" and any/all Internal Affairs records involving Sgt. Shannon Snook (whether she was a witness, target, or complainant) for any and all positions held within Somerset County to include Somerset County Sheriff's Office, Somerset County Office of Emergency Management and Somerset County Prosecutor's Office.

Pursuant to your Open Public Records request, please note the following:

Your Open Public Records request has been processed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. as noted below. The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office also reserves the right to raise any other grounds for denial not raised in this response. The failure of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office to assert an exception or privilege does not act as a waiver of any ground for denial.

In reference to your request,

Your request is overbroad and of the nature of a blanket request for an unspecified class of various documents. See MAG Entertainment, LLC v. Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 375 N.J. Super. 534 (App. Div. 2005), Bent v. Stafford PD, 381 N.J. Super. 30 (App. Div. 2005), Asarnow v. Department of Labor and Workforce Development, GRC Complaint No. 2006-24 (May 2006), Morgano v. Essex County Prosecutor's Office, GRC Complaint No. 2007-190 (February 2008). Your request does not identify with reasonable clarity those documents that are desired. OPRA does not require custodians to research files to discern which records may be responsive to a request. Lastly when a request is "complex" because it fails to specifically identify the documents sought, then that

request is not “encompassed” by OPRA. See MAG Entertainment, LLC v. Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 375 N.J. Super. 534 (App. Div. 2005), Bent v. Stafford PD, 381 N.J. Super. 30 (App. Div. 2005), Feiler-Jampel v. Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office, GRC Complaint No. 2007-190 (March 2008), New Jersey Builders Association v. New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing, 390 N.J. Super. 166, 180 (App. Div. 2007), Asarnow v. Department of Labor and Workforce Development, GRC Complaint No. 2006-24 (May 2006), Morgano v. Essex County Prosecutor’s Office, GRC Complaint No. 2007-190 (February 2008). Therefore, your request is invalid as it fails to comport with OPRA’s specificity requirements.

To the extent that your request seeks records pertaining to Sergeant Snook’s employment pursuant to the common law right of access, your request is similarly deficient for the reasons stated above. Furthermore, in O’Boyle v. Borough of Longport, 218 N.J. 168, 196 (2014), the Supreme Court of New Jersey held that the party requesting documents under the common law right of access must explain why he seeks access to the requested documents. See also Gannett Satellite Information Network, LLC v. Twp. of Neptune, 254 N.J. 242 (2023) (holding that the person seeking access must establish an interest in the subject matter of the material). Here, your request lacks any explanation with respect to your purported interest in accessing any potentially responsive materials, and thus your request is invalid.

With this response this matter is deemed complete and no further action will be taken by the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office.