

Mike Ferrant qualifications and experience relevant for Sergeant at Arms

Experience prior to working for the General Assembly in 2017

- Working with Young People: From 2005-2010 I served as the Executive Director for the newly formed Boys & Girls Club of the North Country in Lisbon, NH. I worked with a Board of Directors to grow the Club from a membership of 5 youth to over 200 youth when I resigned in 2010 to deploy to Afghanistan. The BGCNC still thrives today, serving over 100 youth per day in the New Hampshire North Country. Since 2018, I have been the Scoutmaster for Troop 1 of the SBSA (formerly called Boy Scouts) and have had a positive impact on over 100 boys in that time (including leading the Troop through the pandemic). I would be honored to work with the youth of the Legislative Page program and continue to expand that program's impact on Vermont youth.
- Security: I have many different types of security experience and training. I served in the US Army Reserves from 1995-2016 and deployed to Iraq twice and Afghanistan once. I also served as my Battalion's NCOIC (sergeant in charge) of the Tactical Operations Center as well as my Battalion Commander's head of personnel security while in Afghanistan in 2011. I was awarded the Bronze Star for those successes. In 2015, I led my platoon to Ramadi, Iraq and we built an operations center for the Iraqi Army to retake that city from ISIS during that time. We were in ISIS controlled territory the entire 6 months we were there. I also worked as the Security Director for the Vermont Lottery for 5 years prior to coming to the Legislature. There I was in charge of securing the integrity of the games and developing anti-theft policies across the state. Some of my efforts were recognized nationally among lotteries and I received many accolades for my ability to maintain security while supporting an aggressive marketing strategy (something that is very difficult to balance in that industry). I consider this "passive security" because the tactics I employed were not easily visible, but impactful on a statewide platform.
- Construction Engineering: While serving in the Army, my specific specialty was in Engineering. I was trained and performed duties successfully in Horizontal Engineering, Vertical Engineering, and Combat Engineering. I have experience in developing and reading construction diagrams, implementing construction plans, and holding vendors accountable to construction timelines. This skill will be immediately valuable in the Sergeant at Arms role over the next few years during the State House renovation.
- Mental Health/Mental Illness: I earned my bachelor's degree in psychology from Lyndon State College in 2001 and immediately began working at Northeast Kingdom Human Services as a case manager and supervisor there, working with adults with severe mental illness and also with youth that had dropped out of school. I have a deep appreciation for the role of mental health in our society and I have deep empathy for the struggles that mental illness can play in people's lives and decisions.

2017-Present while working as Director of Legislative Operations

- I participated actively in the creation of [Act 177](#) which created my office, the JLMC and restructured the staff of the General Assembly.
- I was also an integral part of the pandemic adjustment and support of the daily operations during the COVID-19 pandemic work of the General Assembly.

- Operations staff are committee assistants, administrative assistants, accounts payable/receivable, and operational coordinators.
- I plan and execute several social gatherings of the staff here, create and publish the various Photo Directories that many Members, staff, and public use to be up-to-date on information within the building.
- I have staffed the Advisory Committee on the State House which navigated the return to the building and shifting of various committee rooms within the building. I currently staff the Joint Legislative Management Committee, which has recently discussed renovating the State House for a historic fourth time.
- I am up to date on the logistics involved and have always had a good relationship with the Commissioner of BGS and the State Curator. I am a qualified shepherd of that important work to come over the next several years.