



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

“Keeping New York Safe”

Multiple Officers Injured at Wende Correctional Facility

Staff Hurt During Separate Attacks

For Immediate Release

September 9, 2021

Alden, NY – Seven officers were injured, three who needed outside hospital care, after two unruly inmates fought with staff at the maximum security correctional facility.

On Wednesday, August 25, an officer was processing inmates who were heading into school. He told one inmate that he needed to bring personal items he was carrying back to his cell. The officer was escorting the inmate back to his cell when the inmate swung at the officer and missed. The officer, with the assistance of another officer, grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the floor. Extremely combative, the inmate continued to fight with staff on the ground. OC Spray was administered with no effect. Additional staff responded and after brief struggle, staff were able to apply handcuffs.

Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant.

The inmate was removed from the cell corridor and placed in a Special Housing Unit.

Three officers in the incident needed treatment at Erie County Medical Center. One officer sustained a laceration to the back of his head and a swollen wrist. A second officer sustained

pain and swelling in his shoulder. A third officer injured his elbow, ankle and ribs subduing the inmate. They were treated at the medical center and released.

Two officers were treated by the facility medical staff and remained on duty. One officer had swelling in his knee and a second officer had jaw and elbow pain.

The inmate, 34, is serving a 15 year sentence after being convicted in Albany County for Burglary 2nd and Robbery 3rd in 2013. He was arrested after breaking into the home of an 86 year old man and beating and robbing him.

On Tuesday, August 31, two officers were injured after an inmate, allegedly intoxicated, elbowed and fought with both officers who were attempting to get him to stop yelling.

Several inmates were being escorted when the inmate began yelling and screaming. He refused to stop after being given several orders. He was ordered to submit to a pat frisk for contraband. The inmate suddenly spun off the wall and elbowed the officer in the forehead. The inmate was grabbed in a body hold and forced to the ground. On the ground and still combative, the inmate elbowed a second officer in the nose.

The two officers were able to get handcuffs on the inmate and he became compliant.

The inmate, 22, was placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges. He is serving an eight year sentence after being convicted in St. Lawrence County for Burglary 1st, in 2020 related to a home invasion.

“This is a broken record that must be fixed. Attacks on staff continue at an alarming rate and officers are getting injured every day. These latest two attacks at Wende involve two inmates who both were arrested and convicted with injuring victims in violent home invasions. Unfortunately they are reflective of a large portion of the inmate population – brazen, violent and with no regard for rules or authority. ” – stated Mark Deburgomaster, Western Region Vice President.