



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

# ***“Keeping New York Safe”***

### ***Officer Injured at Downstate Correctional Facility***

#### ***Inmate Attacks Officer during Escort***

***October 5, 2021***

**Fishkill, NY** – An officer was injured after an inmate suddenly attacked him and struck him several times to the back of the head and neck at the maximum security correctional facility.

On Thursday, September 23, the officer was escorting the inmate back to his cell from recreation. When the officer and inmate arrived at a set of facility stairs, the inmate suddenly turned and attempted to punch the officer. The officer ducked, and the punch missed. The officer grabbed the inmate in a body hold around the waist. The inmate struck the officer multiple times in the back of the head and neck. The officer forced the inmate to the floor, where he continued to attack the officer. Another officer responded to the attack and administered OC Spray to the inmate. The first round of spray was ineffective. Two more rounds of OC Spray were administered, which had the desired effect.

The inmate became compliant and was handcuffed and removed from the scene.

The officer was treated by facility medical staff for several scratches to the back of the neck and back and neck pain. He remained on duty after treatment.

The inmate, 28, was placed in a Special Housing Unit, pending disciplinary charges. He is serving a four year sentence after being convicted for Attempted Arson 3<sup>rd</sup> and Attempted Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> in Suffolk County in 2021.

“The significant increase in inmate on staff and inmate on inmate assaults can be traced directly back to DOCCS weakening the disciplinary system in 2015. Now with HALT legislation passed,

that system will provide little or no deterrent to inmates who do not follow the rules, act out and become violent towards staff and other inmates. There needs to be better safeguards in place to protect staff from the daily violence that is occurring. At the very least, our members deserve to be protected.” - stated, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President Chris Moreau