



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Officer Injured During Inmate Attack at Mohawk Correctional Facility

Inmate on Inmate Fight Occurs Following Day

For Immediate Release

July 20, 2022

Rome, NY – An officer sustained multiple injuries after an inmate attacked him inside the facility library at the medium security correctional facility last month.

The attack occurred on Wednesday, June 29 at approximately 3:16 p.m. The officer, who was assigned to the library, gave an inmate a direct order to finish his job assignment. The inmate refused and became argumentative with the officer. The officer ordered the inmate to submit to a pat frisk, which he initially complied with. Suddenly, the inmate came off the wall and began punching the officer in the mouth. The inmate charged at the officer, grabbed his uniform shirt, and pushed him backwards causing the officer to fall to the ground with the inmate on top of him. The officer attempted to get the inmate in a body hold as he continued to struggle. The inmate grabbed the officer's baton from its belt holder and was attempting to get up when the officer was able to regain control of the baton from the inmate. The officer then administered two rounds of OC spray, which had the desired effect.

Once compliant, the inmate was placed in handcuffs and removed from the library building.

The injured officer was treated by facility medical staff for abrasions to the upper and lower arm, an abrasion to his knee, small laceration to his upper and lower lip and a loose tooth. After treatment, he remained on duty.

The inmate, 24, is serving a two year sentence after being convicted in Suffolk County in 2022 for Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd. After the attack, he was transferred to Auburn Correctional Facility and placed in a Special Housing Unit.

State Police BCI were notified of the incident.

The following day at the facility, a three on one inmate on inmate fight occurred in the mess hall line during lunch. An officer monitoring the line, observed three inmates attack another

inmate. Orders to stop fighting were ignored and additional staff responded to the scene. OC spray was utilized to quell the fight and was successful. The inmates were placed in handcuffs and removed from the mess hall.

The three inmates who initiated the attack were placed in Special Housing Units at the facility pending disciplinary charges.

"Today, NYSCOPBA Officials stood with legislators outside Great Meadow Correctional Facility to again call for the repeal of the HALT Act and decry the level of violence that exists in correctional facilities across the State. This latest attack at Mohawk is a prime example of what is occurring daily to our members. The HALT Act has stripped any level of discipline that previously existed and as a result, assaults on staff and inmate on inmate assaults have increased rapidly. I strongly encourage the Oneida County District Attorney's Office to send a clear message and prosecute this inmate for felony assault. Sadly, it is literally the last line of defense we have to protect staff." – stated Bryan Hluska, NYSCOPBA Central Region Vice President.