



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

Multiple Staff Attacked, Injured at Coxsackie Correctional Facility

*NYSCOPBA Renews Calls for State Legislature to Take Immediate Action to Curb
Violence*

Facility Locked Down After Attacks

For Immediate Release

August 3, 2022

Coxsackie, NY – An inmate, who is serving his fourth stint in state prison since 1994, attacked and injured staff at the maximum security correctional facility, setting off a series of inmate attacks on responding officers.

On Monday, August 1, at approximately 4:35 p.m., inmates were exiting the mess hall when an officer noticed an inmate attempting to smuggle food out of the mess hall. The officer gave the inmate direct orders to dispose of the food. The inmate initially complied and threw out the food but then became disruptive and verbally abusive to the officer.

A second officer responded and attempted to deescalate the confrontation and ordered the inmate to submit to a pat frisk. The inmate ignored the orders. The officer placed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the wall with the assistance of a third officer. The inmate violently resisted both officers and attempted to elbow both officers but was unsuccessful. The two officers forced the inmate off the wall and to the floor. As the inmate was being forced to the floor, he fell on top of one of the officers causing the officer to strike the back of his head on a steel door. While on the floor and still combative, the inmate struck the officer in the face and head causing the back of his head to strike the steel door a second time.

A response was called for additional staff. A sergeant arrived and attempted to assist containing the inmate and was kicked in the right knee by the inmate. After a violent and brief struggle, staff were able to apply handcuffs and the inmate became compliant. The inmate was brought to his feet by staff.

As the initial attack ended, over a dozen inmates surrounded staff and five inmates charged them and began attacking them. During one of the group assaults, an inmate struck an officer in the face and head, causing him to fall backwards and hitting his head on a table. Another inmate jumped on an officer's back and attacked him before staff were able to put him in body holds and pull him off the officer.

A second response was called and when additional staff arrived, the inmates backed away and complied with staff orders.

Once order was restored, the inmates who attacked staff were removed from the mess hall. The remaining inmates were placed in their cells and the facility was locked down.

In all, one sergeant and six officers were injured in the series of attacks. The officer who was assaulted and hit his head on the steel door was transported via ambulance to Albany Medical Center for head, face, knee and elbow injuries. A second officer sustained elbow, hand, neck and head injuries and was treated at a local urgent care.

Both officers did not return to duty.

The remaining injured officers were treated at the facility by medical staff and remained on duty.

In addition to the staff that were injured in the attack, a sergeant and officer sustained significant blood exposure while escorting one of the inmates from the mess hall. They were transported to Albany Medical Center for treatment.

"With mid-term elections less than four months away, members of the State Senate and Assembly should know their voting records will have consequences with the citizens across the State. Their failure to protect the men and women of NYSCOPBA will resonate in the voting booths this fall. For the staff at Coxsack Correctional Facility who had to endure this latest violent and vicious attack, and the thousands of officers who work in facilities across the state, those officers know what is on the line when they vote. They know who supported and voted for the ridiculous HALT Act and what legislators have turned their backs on the men and women who keep our communities safe. This level of violence is not sustainable and it needs to be fixed in the next legislative session. We warned them this was going to happen and we were ignored. If they don't fix it, we will be sure to elect candidates that will. " -stated Chris Moreau, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.