



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

Inmate Attempts to Stab Officers at Coxsackie Correctional Facility

Pulls Sharpened Toothbrush From Waistband in Attack

Three Officers Injured, Treated at Albany Medical Center

Union Calls Out State Senator for Recent Comments on Inmate Violence

For Immediate Release

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Coxsackie, NY – NYSCOPBA Officials are criticizing State Senator and HALT legislation Co-Sponsor Luis Sepulveda for his recent comments on prison violence in the wake of another inmate attack on staff at the maximum security correctional facility.

On Sunday, August 7, an officer observed an inmate returning from the mess hall and he appeared incoherent and under the influence. The inmate was ordered to submit to a pat frisk, which he initially complied to. During the pat frisk, the officer felt a lump on the side of his waistband. He was placed in handcuffs and escorted to the frisk room.

Once in the frisk room, the handcuffs were removed and the inmate was ordered to put one hand on the wall. He refused and immediately elbowed one of the officers in the face. He reached into his waistband and pulled out a toothbrush that was sharpened on one end and attempted to stab the officer. The officer avoided getting stabbed and forced the inmate up against the wall. With the assistance of two other officers, the inmate was forced to the ground where he dropped the make-shift weapon. On the floor and still combative with the officers, the inmate was able to get one hand free and pulled a pen from one of the officers shirt pocket and attempted to stab the officer with the pen. The second stabbing attempt was unsuccessful. Staff were able to finally maintain control of the inmate and apply handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant. He was removed from the frisk room and escorted to the infirmary for evaluation.

Three officers were transported to Albany Medical Center for injuries sustained in the attack. One officer had pain in his hip and hand and was unable to walk without assistance. The second officer had pain in his hip and shoulder. The third officer had knee, shoulder, hip and facial pain.

All three officers were treated and released.

A sergeant sustained arm and knee pain and numbness from his elbow to his fingers in the attack. He was treated by facility medical staff.

The inmate, 31 is currently serving a ten year sentence after being convicted in New York County for Attempted Murder 2nd in 2019.

On Tuesday, Senator Sepulveda responded to a NEWS10 ABC report on NYSCOPBA calling for the repeal of the HALT Act as violence against staff has reached record levels since the legislation went into effect in April. Senator Sepulveda made the assertion in the interview with NEWS10 that staff were inflating assault statistics and that attacks on staff are being overblown.

“Senator Luis Sepulveda, a co-sponsor of the disastrous HALT Act, had the gall to question the seriousness of what is characterized as an “assault” within the confines of a correctional facility in an interview with a local television station this week. I’d like to know if he’d consider an inmate, already convicted for Attempted Murder 2nd, trying to stab an officer with a sharpened toothbrush, serious enough to rise to his definition of assault? Statements like his serve only to embolden the most violent inmates in the system, and put a target on the backs of our members. His comments are not only off-base, but a slap in the face to the men and women who keep him and his family safe at night. NYSCOPBA and its membership look forward to the upcoming midterms where we’ll have an opportunity to elect representatives that will help protect us, rather than gaslight those trying to do us harm.” – stated Chris Moreau, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Vice President.