



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Three Officers Injured at Elmira Correctional Facility

Inmate Initially Attacked Female Officer

For Immediate Release

September 28 , 2022

Elmira , NY – Three officers were injured at Elmira Correctional Facility after an inmate, who was inside his cell, grabbed a female officer by the arm, pulling her into the cell bars at the maximum security correctional facility last week.

On Friday, September 23, the officer was making routine rounds in a cell block conducting an inmate count. As she walked past one cell, an inmate reached through the cell bars and grabbed her by the arm, pulling her toward the bars. The officer immediately called for a response and administered OC spray to the inmate, which had no effect.

Three officers responded to the attack. Two of the officers responded directly to the cell, where the inmate refused to release the female officer’s arm. The officers opened the cell door and entered the cell. When they entered the cell, the inmate released his grip and attacked both officers, striking one in the head and the second officer in the jaw and mouth. The officers used force to combat the attack. The inmate became compliant and stopped his attack when the two officers gained control of the situation.

The inmate was placed in handcuffs and escorted out of the cell block to the infirmary to be decontaminated from the OC spray.

The inmate, 51, is serving a nine to twelve year sentence after being convicted in Kings County for Assault 2nd and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd in 2019.

He was placed in a Special Housing Unit following the incident and faces internal disciplinary charges.

The female officer sustained pain and swelling to her forearm and wrist, and a small laceration to one of her fingers.

The two officers who entered the cell and were attacked, sustained forehead, shoulder, jaw and mouth injuries.

All three officers were treated by medical staff at the facility and remained on duty.

“One day after an attack on staff sent two officers to the hospital for injuries at Coxsackie, and yesterday we reported four officers needed to go to the hospital from injuries sustained at Elmira, we have three more officers injured as a result of an inmate attack at Elmira. In the sixth months since the HALT legislation went into effect, there is nothing tangible that anyone can point to where HALT has had a positive effect. To the contrary, all it has done is raise the amount of assaults on staff to record numbers and embolden an already violent inmate population who know there are absolutely no consequences for attacking staff or other inmates. The HALT Act has created a critical situation that has no end in sight until the members of the State Legislature take action and either amend or repeal this reckless legislation that in its current form will one day get someone killed.” stated Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.