



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

Staff Injured at Collins Correctional Facility

Officer Knocked Unconscious in One Inmate Attack

For Immediate Release

January 24, 2023

Collins , NY – A sergeant and an officer were transported to a local hospital last week for treatment after two inmates attacked them in separate assaults at the medium security correctional facility.

The first attack occurred on Thursday, January 12 at approximately 9:45 a.m. An officer escorted an inmate to the cell block foyer to be interviewed by a sergeant. The inmate approached the sergeant and without any provocation, attempted to punch the him in the head. The initial punch missed and the sergeant administered OC spray, which had no effect. The inmate continued his attack and struck the sergeant in the left orbital area, knocking him to the floor. The escort officer observed the attack and entered the foyer, grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the floor. The officer contained the inmate on the floor while the sergeant applied handcuffs.

Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant. He was brought to his feet and escorted out of the foyer.

The injured sergeant was treated by facility medical staff and transported to Bertrand Chaffee Hospital. He was treated for bruising and swelling to his left orbital area. He did not return to duty.

The escort officer sustained pain and swelling to his shoulder subduing the inmate. He was treated at the facility and remained on duty.

The inmate, who is serving his second stint in state prison, is serving a six to eight year sentence after being convicted in Bronx County in 2022 for Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 3rd.

The second attack occurred at 2:10 p.m. An inmate became argumentative with an officer in the facility program area. The officer ordered the inmate to put his hands on the wall so he could be frisked for contraband. The inmate refused. The officer immediately called for a response. The inmate charged the officer, who administered one round of OC spray, which had no effect. The inmate struck the officer in the left eye, knocking him backwards to the floor and unconscious. When staff arrived, the officer came to and reported the attack. The inmate was handcuffed and removed from the program area.

The injured officer was transported to Bertrand Chaffee Hospital for orbital swelling, elbow and neck pain, swollen lower lip and abrasions to his scalp. The officer was treated and released and did not return to duty.

The inmate, 24, was transferred to Lakeview Correctional Facility following the attack. He is serving a three year sentence after being convicted in Oneida County in 2021 for Attempted Burglary 2nd.

"Here we are reporting more serious assaults not even three weeks into 2023. Last year we saw record assaults and 2023 has already begun to tally quickly. Members like the ones assaulted at Collins don't deserve to go to work just to be a human punching bag. With the HALT Act stripping any significant disciplinary measures for inmates, the last line of defense for staff is for county district attorneys to prosecute assaults on staff when it is appropriate. In both of these attacks at Collins, the inmates who committed the assaults are serving relatively short sentences. Prosecuting both inmates for felony assault will hopefully send a message to any inmate that attacks on staff will not be tolerated and even though the State Legislature has stripped any reasonable discipline for attacks on staff, there are still alternatives left. While it might be a small victory overall, prosecuting will send a message to inmates who are serving short sentences, or close to being released, that attacks on staff will come with serious ramifications." - stated Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.