



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Inmate Assaults Staff at Gouverneur Correctional Facility

Inmate Already Being Housed in the RRU Attacks Officers Enroute to Morning Programming

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 15, 2023

Gouverneur, NY – A 24 year old inmate, who was already being housed in the Residential Rehabilitation Unit (RRU), attacked several officers as staff attempted to bring the inmate to his regularly scheduled rehabilitation programming at the at the medium security correctional facility earlier this week.

On Monday, February 13, the inmate was being pat frisked by an officer in the RRU prior to being escorted to morning rehabilitation program when the inmate suddenly punched the officer in the face and kicked the officer in the leg. A nearby officer and sergeant responded to the incident and the inmate attempted to bite the responding officer. Security staff was able to utilize body holds to prevent the inmate from further attempts to bite staff. Two more officers responded and assisted in getting restraints on the inmate.

Once in restraints, the inmate became semi-compliant. During the follow up investigation, the inmate refused to submit to a medical exam by facility medical and refused to follow orders once placed back in his cell.

All staff was seen by facility medical, all noted minor injuries such as bruising, abrasions, shoulder, and back pain and all remained on duty.

The inmate is serving a 5-year sentence after being convicted in Kings County in 2019 for robbery.

“Despite what the supporters of HALT might have the public believe, since its enactment, violence in prisons is as prevalent as ever. Look no further than this latest incident out of Gouverneur Correctional Facility where an inmate, who was already being housed in the RRU for a previous incident and was going through the rehabilitation programming mandated by HALT, attacked staff for no apparent reason. How many more violent assaults is it going to take until lawmakers act? Because of the misguided actions of the NYS Legislature in passing the HALT Act into law, the lack of consequences in our jails has created a very violent and dangerous environment for staff and incarcerated alike.”- stated Bryan Hluska, NYSCOPBA Central Region Vice President.