



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

# ***“Keeping New York Safe”***

### ***Unrest Continues at Five Points Correctional Facility***

*Several Officers Sustain Minor Injuries, Have Urine Thrown on Them in Incidents at Facility*

#### **For Immediate Release**

***March 22, 2023***

**Romulus, NY** – Several officers’ sustained minor injuries and others had urine thrown on them in five separate incidents that occurred at the maximum security correctional facility since February 8 through last week.

- On Wednesday, February 8 an officer making rounds at the facility observed an inmate on the phone in the cell block. The officer ordered the inmate off the phone and to lock into his cell, which he refused to do. Additional staff arrived and the inmate got off the phone. He was ordered to submit to a frisk for contraband. As staff approached the inmate, he put both his hands inside his pants. Staff placed him in a body hold and forced him to the ground. On the ground and combative, an officer observed an object in one of his hands. The object was forced from his hand onto the ground. Staff were able to apply handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, he became compliant. The object recovered was a sharpened tooth brush. The inmate was removed from the cell block. Two officers sustained knee, hand and shoulder injuries. They were treated at the facility and remained on duty.
- On Wednesday, February 15 an officer witnessed an inmate remove an item from a cell window. The inmate was ordered to the wall inside the cell so he could be frisked. The inmate became combative at staff and spit at a sergeant. The inmate attempted to

break free from staff, causing the sergeant to be slammed into the cell door. Additional staff arrived at the cell and entered. Staff forced the inmate to the ground. On the ground and still combative, the inmate attempted to kick staff. Another officer entered the cell and contained the inmate's legs. The inmate was handcuffed and removed off the unit. Two officers sustained minor knee injuries. They were treated by facility medical staff and remained on duty.

- On Thursday, March 2, five officers had urine thrown on them by an inmate through his feed hatch. Initially, staff responded because the inmate was inside the cell with a blanket over him and the cell window covered. The inmate refused to respond to staff orders to remove the covering. The feed hatch was opened so the inmate could be handcuff. When the hatch was opened, the inmate threw an unknown liquid that smelled of urine at the officers from a Styrofoam cup. Five officers were struck with the liquid. Three of the officers were hit in the face, eyes and mouth. Once the scene was secure, the officers exposed were treated at the infirmary. They all remained on duty.
- On Thursday, March 9, Seneca County Fire Hazmat Team responded to the facility after a staff member opened a letter and found an unknown white powdery substance inside. The letter was sent by an inmate to the staff member. Prior to the Hazmat team responding, the area was secured in the event the substance was deemed to be the deadly drug Fentanyl. Once the Hazmat team arrived, the letter and substance were removed from the facility. Initial testing on the substance proved inconclusive. No staff were affected by the exposure.
- On Sunday, March 12, an unruly inmate threw several feed up trays at staff, striking one officer in the face and body and the food struck a second officer in the face. The incident occurred inside a classroom, in the mental health unit, during congregate program chow. This program was implemented due to HALT. The inmate became argumentative with staff who delivered him his tray. He grabbed the tray and threw it at the two officers. A sergeant entered the classroom in attempt to diffuse the situation and the inmate threw two trays at the sergeant, both missing him, trays that the inmate received from other inmates who were in the program. Four other inmates were removed from the classroom and the classroom was secured and the combative inmate was removed once he was brought under control

“The incidents described above show you just variation of situations that exist in our correctional facilities on any given day. Any one of them could have seriously injured staff. Especially, if the one inmate armed with a sharpened toothbrush attempted to use it against staff or the while powdered substance turned out to be the deadly drug Fentanyl. This is exactly why we need stronger disciplinary measures to deter inmates from attacking staff. All the HALT Act has done since April 1, is increase inmate on staff attacks and inmate on inmate violence. Nearly a year later since the legislation went into effect, the statistics clearly show that our facilities are much more dangerous than ever before.” – Stated Kenny Gold, Western Region Vice President.

