



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Gang Fight among Inmates Occurs at Coxsackie Correctional Facility

Two Fights Break Out in Recreation Yard within Minutes of Each Other

For Immediate Release

May 2, 2023

Coxsackie, NY – Two alleged gang fights broke out in the recreation yard at the maximum security correctional facility at the end of April, causing minor injuries to the inmates involved.

On Sunday, April 23, an officer assigned to the recreation yard observed two inmates exchanging punches near the basketball court at 6:46 p.m. The fight escalated when four additional inmates joined in the fight. Several orders were given by staff to stop fighting. The four inmates who joined in the fight complied with staff orders, while the initial combatants continued to exchange punches. OC spray was utilized by staff on the two remaining inmates fighting. The OC spray was effective and the inmates stopped fighting and complied with staff orders.

As order began to be restored, two of the inmates involved chased another inmate across the yard. One inmate grabbed the inmate and held him while the other cut him with an unknown weapon across the face. An officer ordered the inmates to stop fighting and to go to the wall. The two aggressors went to the wall. The inmate who was cut, charged the officer. The officer immediately grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. On the ground, he became compliant.

All seven inmates were removed from the yard and brought to the infirmary for treatment. The inmate who was cut had a superficial laceration to his face. The remaining inmates were treated for minor injuries.

Three inmates were placed in Special Housing Units. The four remaining inmates were locked in their respective cells. They all face disciplinary charges.

A search of the immediate area of the fight recovered a chicken bone sharpened on one end. It is believed to be the weapon used in the cutting.

Shortly after 7:00 p.m., staff in the yard observed two inmates exchanging punches to the head and body. Several orders were given to cease fighting but they were ignored as the inmates continued to fight.

Staff utilized OC spray, which was effective and the inmates stopped fighting. The two inmates were removed from the yard and were escorted to the infirmary and treated for minor injuries.

Staff determined that both fights were a result of rival gang confrontations.

In addition to the two yard fights, staff recovered two ceramic cutting type weapons during a search of two inmates and their cells on Thursday, April 27. The first weapon was recovered hidden in the clothing bag in the cell of one inmate. The second weapon was recovered from the pants pocket of the second inmate. Both weapons had tape on one end as a handle. The weapons were seized as evidence and both inmates face disciplinary charges.

“One month away from the halfway point of 2023 and there is no end in sight to the violence inside our state prisons. As we approach the summer months and the warmer weather, there will no doubt be more incidents like the gang violence that occurred at Coxsackie last week. The officers did an excellent job containing both fights before they could escalate and thankfully no staff were injured. That is certainly not always the case and until our elected officials who supported and voted for the HALT Act wake up and realize it is an utter failure, the violence will continue. Until that day comes, we will continue to call for its repeal and for immediate action to be taken to address the on-going violence.” - said, Chris Moreau, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.