



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Officer Sustains Eye Injury at Five Points Correctional Facility

*Inmate Throws Unknown Liquid at Officer, Striking Him in Both
Eyes*

For Immediate Release
May 5, 2023

Romulus, NY – An officer just returned to duty from blurred vision after an inmate threw an unknown liquid that smelled of urine and chemicals at the officer, striking him in the head, face, eyes and mouth at the maximum security correctional facility last week.

On Wednesday April 26th an officer was conducting mail rounds to inmates in their respective cells. When the officer approached a cell, the inmate inside propelled liquid through the feed up slot in the door, striking the officer in the head, face, eyes and mouth. The liquid, which smelled of urine and an unknown chemical, was thrown from a mouthwash container, which fell to the floor after the incident.

The officer immediately had a burning sensation to his eyes and blurry vision. His uniform that was contaminated was removed and taken as evidence. Initially he was treated by medical staff at the facility. He was later transported to SUNY Upstate Hospital for further treatment.

The officer has just returned to duty due to continued vision problems from this incident.

The inmate, 34, is serving a 10 year sentence after being convicted of Robbery 1st in New York County in 2018.

The investigation is continuing to determine the contents of the liquid.

“There is a reason why throwing bodily waste on an officer is a felony in New York State. The disgusting practice is all too common recently by inmates in state prisons and in some cases,

officers aren't seriously exposed. That is absolutely not the case for this officer at Five Points. He just returned to duty amid continued vision problems. He was literally blind for five hours and questioned if he'd ever see again! Besides urine that was thrown at the officer, there more than likely was some type of chemical substance in the liquid. Without criminal prosecution for such acts, there is little, or basically no disciplinary measures left to deter inmates from attacking staff due to the joke of a law called the HALT Act. It's unbelievable that the elected officials that enacted this law think that our members should go to work every day and endure this type of behavior. If it was an inmate that this happened to maybe it would peak their attention, but unfortunately our members know they don't care about the taxpayers that work inside the prisons. Another epic failure supported by a majority of our State Legislators." – Stated Kenny Gold, Western Region Vice President.