



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Inmate on Inmate Violence at Gouverneur Correctional Facility

Three Inmates Slashed During Fights at Facility

For Immediate Release

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Gouverneur, NY – Violence continues to plague State Correctional Facilities as a result of the HALT Act, as four inmate fights occurred in a span of a week, leaving three inmates cut with make-shift weapons at the medium security correctional facility.

On May 5, an officer observed two inmates exchanging punches inside a classroom. The two inmates refused several orders to stop. Three officers responded to the fight and entered the classroom. OC spray was administered to both inmates with no effect. Both inmates fell to the ground and continued fighting. Staff used body holds to pull the inmates apart. Once under control, handcuffs were applied and both inmates were escorted out of the classroom to the infirmary for treatment.

On May 8, two officers monitoring walkway movement from the mess hall, observed two inmates exchanging punches outside a facility dorm. When officers intervened, one inmate had several lacerations to his neck and face. The inmate told officers someone came up from behind him and slashed him. He was brought to the infirmary where he was treated for a laceration to his neck, ear and cheek.

No weapon was found in the attack.

On the same day, an inmate approached an officer assigned to one of the facility dorms. The inmate told the officer he was assaulted in the dayroom after returning from the mess hall. The inmate had a tooth knocked out and a laceration to his lip that was consistent with a cutting type weapon.

Later in the day, an inmate was revived after becoming unresponsive in the bathroom in a facility dorm. An officer making security rounds found the inmate on the floor thrashing around and foaming from the mouth. He called for a medical response. When two RN's arrived, the inmate was responsive. Narcan was administered and was not effective. One RN began chest compressions as the second RN utilized an AED on the inmate. The inmate regained consciousness and was immediately transported by ambulance to Gouverneur Hospital for further treatment.

On May 9, an officer recovered a make-shift weapon on an inmate who was smoking in the bathroom. The officer frisked the inmate and found a sharpened piece of metal in the inmate's pants. The weapon was seized as evidence.

The following day, three inmates began fighting near the officer's desk in one of the dorms. During the fight, an officer observed one inmate making slashing motions. The officer gave the three inmates direct orders to stop fighting and they complied. During the investigation, staff determined one inmate slashed the other inmate in face, causing a five inch laceration. The third inmate struck the inmate over the head with a wooden broom, causing a two inch laceration to his head.

The injured inmate was transported to Gouverneur Hospital for treatment. The two inmates who attacked him were placed in Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges.

The last incident occurred on Friday, May 12. During routine security rounds an officer conducted a pat frisk of an inmate inside one of the dorm bathrooms. During the frisk, the officer located a piece of ceramic sharpened on one end hidden in the inmate's shorts.

"Just a day before the week long inmate violence began, three officers were injured when an inmate attacked them, sending one officer to the hospital with a concussion. Now over a span of a week, three weapons were seized and three inmates were slashed with make-shift weapons during inmate on inmate fights. This violence, whether it is inmates assaulting staff or inmates attacking other inmates, will continue until meaningful changes are made to improve safety. State Legislators can begin that process by either repealing or amending HALT. Until that occurs, the epidemic of violence is going to continue." – stated Bryan Hluska , Central Region Vice President.