



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Investigators Determine Inmate Was Strangled at Gouverneur Correctional Facility

Cellmate the Prime Suspect in Homicide

For Immediate Release

June 10, 2023

Gouverneur, NY – A 26 year old inmate was strangled to death inside his cell at the medium security correctional facility on Monday and investigators are focusing on his cellmate as the prime suspect in the homicide.

On Monday, June 5, a nurse and a corrections officer were distributing medication to inmates during the evening. When they approached one cell, they observed an inmate on the floor of the cell unresponsive and immediately called for a medical response. The cell door was opened and the cellmate was removed from the cell. Staff removed the unresponsive inmate from the cell onto the cell block floor where they began CPR and administered Narcan multiple times. Despite the efforts of staff, the inmate remained unresponsive. Within minutes, paramedics arrived and continued life saving measures.

The inmate was transported by ambulance to Gouverneur Hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

An autopsy determined the inmate had been strangled to death.

The initial investigation determined that the deceased inmate had a physical altercation with his cellmate inside the cell prior to his death.

State police responded to the facility and publicly identified the victim, 26 year old Luigi Cappellino and the cellmate, 48 year old Wilfredo Noe. A criminal investigation into the incident has been launched.

Noe, who is serving his second stint in state prison, is currently incarcerated after being convicted in 2017 in Kings County for Assault 1st. He is serving a 10 year sentence and is eligible for parole in less than two years.

This latest homicide renews calls for the repeal of the HALT Act amid the on-going violence in state correctional facilities.

" 'We told you so' brings no comfort to the family of the individual who was needlessly murdered while doing time to earn back his freedom. This man is dead because Democrats refuse to acknowledge the fundamental truths and necessity of safely managing our prison populations. Corrections Officers have been sounding the alarm and warning against the HALT Act and other 'reforms.' That's because they are less safe and so are the inmates in their care. It's time for common sense - lives depend on it." – stated New York State Senator Mark Walczyk.

"Since the HALT Act went into effect in April of 2022, there have been three confirmed inmate homicides statewide and a fourth one is still being investigated. Overall, assaults have risen over thirty percent and inmate on inmate assaults are on pace to shatter last year's record-breaking mark. What's even more troubling is HALT requires that this inmate, who just murdered another human being, be placed in congregate settings with other inmates in just two weeks. How does that make any sense? Because of these factors, our prisons are more dangerous than ever and the legislators who supported and voted for HALT sit idly by while the violence skyrockets. As the legislative session ends, it is a travesty that the safety of staff and inmates has not been addressed. You have to ask, despite having multiple opportunities to act, what will it take for the advocates of HALT to open their eyes and recognize it has been an utter failure from day one?" – said Bryan Hluska, NYSCOPBA Central Region Vice President.