



**New York State Correctional Officers
& Police Benevolent Association, Inc.**
“Keeping New York Safe”

Multiple Officers Injured at Wende Correctional Facility

One Inmate Pulls Make-Shift Weapon on Officer

For Immediate Release

June 16, 2023

Alden, NY – Six officers were injured at the maximum security correctional facility last Saturday when two inmates attacked staff in two separate incidents.

The first attack occurred in one of the facility cell blocks during the evening meal run on June 10. An officer observed one inmate with a bulge in his pants. The officer inquired to the inmate what was in his pants. The inmate immediately put his hands inside his pants and came towards the officer in an aggressive manner. The inmate elbowed the officer and pushed him into a window of the cell block. He took his elbow and pushed it into the officer’s throat and took out a broken piece of wood with a handle from his pants. The inmate lunged at the officer several times before the officer was able to use force to push him back. Additional staff arrived, OC spray was administered and then the inmate was forced to the floor with body holds while still being combative. Handcuffs were applied and the inmate was brought to his feet and removed from the cell block.

The wooden weapon, which measured six inches long, was seized as evidence.

Two officers were injured in the attack. One officer had upper back, shoulder and neck injuries. The second officer sustained hand, upper back, and neck injuries.

Both officers were treated at the facility and remained on duty.

The second assault occurred near the visitors room. An inmate initially reported to the main corridor for a visit. An officer assigned to the package room observed the inmate wandering the hallways, checking door handles. He ordered the inmate to the visit frisk room but the inmate refused. An officer assigned to the visit frisk room opened the door and ordered the inmate into the room, but he refused again. He charged the officer in the doorway, striking her

in the shoulder and knocking her into the door frame. Staff grabbed the inmate in a body hold, forced him to the ground where he remained combative. OC spray was administered and the inmate's arms were forced behind his back and handcuffs were applied. He was brought to his feet and escorted from the corridor.

Three officers sustained minor arm, shoulder and back injuries. They were treated by facility medical staff and remained on duty. A fourth officer sustained knee pain and swelling and forearm abrasions. He was treated at the facility and transported to a local urgent care. He did not remain on duty.

The inmate, 32, is serving an eight year sentence after being convicted in Bronx County for Strangulation 1st. He strangled another inmate at Rikers Island in 2018, causing the inmate to suffer a heart attack and die. He also has a long criminal history and has attacked officers multiple times while incarcerated.

"Both attacks on staff were violent in nature as the on-going assaults on staff continue at record levels. As we approach the half year mark of 2023, nothing has changed to provide additional safety measures to protect staff. The HALT Act has stripped any level of discipline that existed and the result is daily violence that has no end in sight. The latest two attacks, were by two inmates with very different pedigrees but the results were the same. The first attack was committed by an inmate serving time for Burglary 3rd, not necessarily a crime associated with violence. Yet he had a make-shift weapon on him and attacked an officer and attempted to use the weapon against him. The second attack was by an inmate incarcerated for a violent crime and who has a long criminal history and has attacked staff in the past. The backgrounds might be different, but the results are the same." – stated Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.