



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Officers Injured at Collins Correctional Facility

One Officer Sustains Fracture to Neck

For Immediate Release

June 22, 2023

Collins, NY – A 34 year old inmate who killed a passenger, two dogs and injured five others in a seven car pile-up in New York City in 2018, attacked multiple officers, sending one officer to the local hospital with a displaced fracture to his neck.

On Tuesday, June 13, an officer on rounds in one of the facility dorms observed the inmate out of a place and exiting the dorm. He was ordered to submit to a pat frisk by the officer. The inmate ignored the order and verbally threatened the officer before punching him in the left side of the face. The officer immediately grabbed the inmate in a body hold and with the assistance of a second officer, forced the inmate to the ground. On the ground and still combative, OC spray was administered twice with no effect. The officers were able to force the inmate's arms behind his back and apply handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, he became compliant. He was escorted out of the dorm to be decontaminated.

During decontamination, another officer removed the inmate's restraints. Out of restraints, he became combative again and elbowed the officer in side of the face. Staff again placed him in body holds and forced him to the floor. Still combative, OC spray was again administered with no effect. Staff were able to force his arms behind his back and apply handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant again.

Five officers were injured in the incident. The officer who was initially assaulted, sustained pain and swelling to his cheek, temple and elbow and shoulder pain. He was transported to a local urgent care for treatment and did not return to duty. The second officer who elbowed to the face, sustained pain and swelling to his face. He was treated at the facility and remained on duty.

The three other officers injured occurred while subduing the inmate. One officer sustained hand, knee and neck injuries. He was transported to Bertrand Chaffee Hospital where it was determined he sustained a displaced fracture to his neck. The other two officers sustained shoulder and leg pain and were treated at the facility and remained on duty.

The inmate is serving a 5 to 15 year sentence after being convicted in Queens County in 2018 for Vehicular Homicide and Assault 2nd after causing a seven car pile-up on the Van Wyck Expressway while drunk and high on drugs.

“Just last week we reported multiple officers being seriously injured at Collins, including an officer that had a lengthy stay in the hospital, and here we are again with more assaults at this facility. Violence is happening daily at this facility with no sign of slowing down. Our members are at risk of being attacked every single day you report to work. In reality, at times you are more vulnerable to being attacked in a medium facility like Collins because of the immense freedom inmates have to move about. Couple that with the disastrous effect the HALT Act has had on violence, our facilities are more dangerous than ever. This latest attack that injured five officers and left one officer with a fracture in his neck, was committed by an inmate who was convicted of a non-violent act. You would think that he would do his time peacefully and look forward to the day he gets out of prison. I hope the legislators who supported and voted for the HALT Act and who have failed to address the on-going violence, can rest easy and enjoy their summer vacations knowing our members continue to protect them while they are being attacked every single day. - stated Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.