



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

Staff Injured at Five Points & Elmira Correctional Facilities

One Sergeant, Five Officers Injured

For Immediate Release

July 5, 2023

Romulus, Elmira, NY – Six staff members were injured at the two maximum security correctional facilities this week in two separate inmate attacks as violence continues to skyrocket into the second half of 2023.

On Sunday, July 2, a sergeant at Five Points attempted to get an inmate out of his assigned cell because of threats of self-harm. The cell door was opened and the inmate's cellmate exited the cell first. The inmate attempted to follow his cellmate out of the cell. The sergeant attempted to stop him, and put his hand up. Unprovoked, the inmate, with a closed fist, struck the sergeant in the left side of the face. Three officers on the scene immediately grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the floor. They forced his arms behind his back and applied handcuffs.

Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant and all force ceased.

The inmate was removed from the cell block and escorted to medical for evaluation. He is serving his second stint in state prison since 2019 and currently is serving a 14 to 17 year sentence after being convicted in Oneida County in 2023 for Attempted Assault 2nd and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd.

The sergeant was treated at the facility medical unit for a laceration to his upper lip. Two of the officers who helped subdue the inmate sustained knee and forearm injuries. All three men remained on duty.

On, Tuesday, July 4 at Elmira, three officers were injured by an inmate who attacked them outside the mess hall at the correctional facility. Initially, an officer questioned the inmate about being out of place on the walkway outside the mess hall. Without any provocation, the inmate struck the officer multiple times in the head. Two officers responded to the attack and used body holds to force him to the ground. On the ground and refusing staff orders, the inmate remained combative. Staff were able to force his arms behind his back and apply handcuffs. Once in

handcuffs, the inmate became compliant. He was brought to his feet and brought to medical for evaluation.

The officer who was initially punched sustained pain and swelling to his temple area and hand. He was treated by medical staff and remained on duty. The two officers who responded sustained injuries subduing the inmate. One officer had knee and hand injuries. He also had a significant blood exposure and was transported to Guthrie Hospital for further treatment. The second officer sustained a minor hand injury and remained on duty.

The inmate, 33, is also serving his second stint in prison. He is currently serving a two to four year sentence after being convicted in Erie County for Robbery 3rd. Previously, he served three year sentence in 2017 after being convicted for Attempted Assault 2nd.

“No less than two days into the second half of 2023 and we have two more inmate attacks on staff, injuring six officers. While most of the legislators who supported HALT enjoyed the Fourth of July with their families and friends, our members had to work in an extremely toxic and dangerous environment. The result of that was adding to the ever increasing tally of staff who are attacked by inmates. In Five Points alone last month, we had half a dozen inmate on inmate fights, three visitors arrested attempting to smuggle drugs into inmates and eight officers injured. This violence is not going away and neither will our continued calls for the state legislature to make meaningful policy changes to address the violence. They can call a special session to give themselves raises, shouldn't be a second thought to protect our members. They refuse to listen, continue to coddle the convicts, and put their heads in the sand when it comes to safety of anyone working inside any New York State prison! – stated Kenny Gold, Western Region Vice President.