



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Officers Attacked at Collins Correctional Facility

Two Separate Inmate Attacks in a Span of Three Days

For Immediate Release

July 18, 2023

Collins, NY – An inmate scheduled to be released in less than two weeks, attacked and injured three officers at the medium security correctional facility while in an intoxicated state. The assault was one of two staff assaults that occurred in a period of three days.

The first assault occurred on Tuesday, July 4. Initially, an inmate asked to be placed in protective custody. He was escorted by two officers to be interviewed by a supervisor. The officers had the inmate place his hands on the wall so he could be frisked for contraband. The inmate came off the wall and punched one of the officers under the right eye. The two officers placed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the floor, where he remained combative. Both officers were able to force the inmate's arms behind his back and apply handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant.

The inmate was escorted to a Special Housing Unit and faces disciplinary charges in the attack. He is serving a five year sentence after being convicted in Orange County in 2021 for Sex Abuse 1st and Attempted Assault 2nd.

The officer who was punched under the eye sustained swelling and bruising. He was treated at the facility and remained on duty.

The second assault occurred on Friday, July 7. An officer heard yelling coming from one of the dorm bathrooms. The officer entered the bathroom and found an inmate in an intoxicated state in a bathroom stall. Initially, the officer attempted to help the inmate out from the stall. The inmate became combative. The officer placed the inmate in a body hold, which he escaped. Free from the body hold, he punched the officer in the shoulder. The officer administered OC spray, which had no effect. Additional staff responded to the bathroom. The inmate struck one of the responding officers in the stomach before falling on the floor. On the floor, the inmate kicked two officers in the legs. Staff were able to contain the inmate on the floor and apply handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant.

He was escorted out of the bathroom to the infirmary for evaluation.

Three officers were injured in the attack. Two officers had shoulder and shin injuries. The officer who was punched in the stomach sustained pain and swelling to his stomach and knee. All three officers were treated by facility medical staff and remained on duty.

The inmate, who is scheduled to be released on July 29, is serving his second stint in state prison. Currently he is serving a three to six year sentence after being convicted in Steuben County in 2018 for Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 4th and Attempted Possession of a Forged Instrument 1st.

“You would hope that an inmate who was going to be released from Collins Correctional Facility in three weeks would follow the rules by the book and not get high on drugs and then attack staff, who only attempted to help him. Obviously, that wasn’t the case in the July 7th attack that left three officers injured. Attacks on staff at Collins have become the norm lately. 25 officers have been assaulted this year alone! Staff injuries are mounting and we still have six months left in the calendar year with no end in sight to the violence. With staffing shortages, mandatory overtime and any lack of discipline left as a result of the HALT Act, there is no doubt that this year we will shatter all records of violence in our correctional facilities. Our members continue to do their jobs professionally, we should only expect that the legislators that supported HALT, would do the same.” – stated Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.