



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Sergeant, Officer Injured at Mohawk Correctional Facility

Two Separate Inmate Attacks at Facility

For Immediate Release

August 30, 2023

Rome, NY – A sergeant and an officer were injured in two separate inmate attacks at the medium security correctional facility in the past two weeks.

On Wednesday, August 17, an inmate refused to come out of his dorm cube when given orders by staff. He became argumentative with a sergeant who had responded to the disturbance. The inmate was ordered to stand and submit to a pat frisk, which he initially complied with. As handcuffs were being applied, the inmate suddenly elbowed the sergeant in the face, hitting him in the nose. He turned around and struck the sergeant several times with a closed fist. He also struck an officer in the face. OC spray was administered with no effect. The sergeant and officer immediately grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. On the ground and still combative, the inmate's arms were forced behind his back and handcuffs were applied. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant.

After the attack the inmate was escorted from the dorm to be decontaminated.

The sergeant and officer were treated by medical staff at the infirmary for bruising and swelling to the face. Both men stayed on duty after treatment.

The inmate, 48, is serving a 25 years to life sentence after being convicted in Kings County for Murder 2nd in 1994. He was placed in a Special Housing Unit after the attack.

The second attack occurred on Thursday, August 24. Initially an inmate was outside of the dorm repeatedly ringing the doorbell. An officer ordered him to stop and the inmate became confrontational. The officer ordered the inmate to submit to a pat frisk. The inmate immediately took an aggressive stance towards the officer and struck him in the side of the

face. The officer administered OC spray, which had the desired effect. Once compliant, the inmate was placed in handcuffs and escorted from the dorm to be decontaminated.

The injured officer was treated by medical staff at the facility. He sustained pain and swelling to his face, left eye and limited motion in his right arm. After treatment, the officer remained on duty.

The inmate, 28, is serving a seven year sentence after being convicted in Erie County in 2022 for two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd and one count of Assault 2nd. He was placed in a Special Housing Unit after the attack.

“Mohawk unfortunately has become just as dangerous for inmate attacks as other prisons across the state. The days where medium security prisons are filled with non-violent offenders is over. The percentage of violent inmates incarcerated in medium prisons is just below the level of maximum facilities, which makes working every second in the facility dangerous for staff. Until the State Legislature wakes up and walks back some of the ridiculous legislation that limits discipline, there will be more attacks like these two at Mohawk. .” – Stated Bryan Hluska, NYSCOPBA Central Region Vice President.