



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Multiple Incidents Occur in September at Gouverneur Correctional Facility

Two Officers and a Sergeant Sent to Hospital after being Exposed to Hazardous Substance

For Immediate Release

October 16, 2023

Gouverneur, NY – The month of September leading into the first few days of October had staff on high alert after multiple inmate on inmate fights, make-shift weapons recovered, inmate overdoses, a visitor arrested attempting to smuggle drugs into an inmate at the facility and three staff members who needed to be treated at Gouverneur Hospital after being exposed to an unknown hazardous substance.

From September 1 to October 4, the following incidents occurred:

- A pat frisk of an inmate recovered a ceramic blade he had hidden in his pants.
- A female visitor from the Bronx was arrested after a K-9 alerted to her and she turned over marijuana hidden in a bundle in her pants. She was arrested and charged with Promoting Prison Contraband 1st & 2nd.
- An inmate sustained a laceration after being cut with an unknown weapon by another inmate in one of the dorm bathrooms.
- An inmate had to be revived with Narcan after he was found unresponsive in his cube bed after an apparent overdose.
- Staff recovered a metal razor blade during a pat frisk of an inmate.
- An inmate sustained fractured ribs and a laceration after an inmate on inmate fight.
- An inmate sustained several lacerations after an inmate on inmate fight in the bathroom of a housing unit. The lacerations were consistent with a cutting type instrument.
- An inmate sustained facial fractures after being attacked by two inmates in the recreation yard.
- Staff recovered a ceramic razor blade hidden in the window frame of a housing unit at the facility.

- Staff recovered a ceramic blade and marijuana an inmate had hidden on him during a routine pat frisk.
- During a random search of inmates' living cubes, staff recovered a sock that had a combination lock wrapped inside as a weapon.
- While processing inmate visitors, two officers began feeling faint, numbness in their legs and tingling in their hands. The ventilation system was shut down and a Hazardous Response Team was called in. A sergeant also became ill after being exposed to the unknown substance. All three men were taken to Gouverneur Hospital for treatment and later released. It hasn't been determined what substance they were exposed to.
- An inmate sustained several lacerations to his head and face after he was jumped by five inmates in his dorm cube.

“The number of incidents described above shows the level of activity staff endure in just one month’s time. The violence and the drugs and weapons do not take ever take a break and they make it extremely challenging for our membership. It is difficult on any given day to carry out daily routines when you add in the violence and contraband that exists in every prison. It is baffling to think that the State Legislators, who supported ridiculous polices like the HALT Act, can sit idly by without taking any action to improve safety in our correctional facilities. Our members have already felt the lack of support from those legislators, but they are also ignoring the inmate on inmate violence that is occurring. These are the same inmates they so heavily advocated for when they passed these progressive laws.” – Stated Bryan Hluska, Central Region Vice President.