



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Inmate Violence Continues at Coxsackie Correctional Facility

Two Inmate on Inmate Fights Occur at Facility, Injuring Five Officers

For Immediate Release

October 18, 2023

Coxsackie, NY – Five officer's sustained minor injuries breaking up an inmate on inmate fight in the mess hall and five inmates attacked one inmate in the recreation yard at the maximum security prison last week as violence continues to plague the facility.

The first fight occurred on Wednesday, October 11. Two officers assigned to the recreation yard observed two inmates exchanging punches. As the fight escalated, two inmates joined in and attacked the one inmate. All orders to stop fighting were ignored. Officers observed two additional inmates run to the fight and begin to assault the one inmate. The fight had escalated to a five on one fight. The inmate who was being attacked, fell to the ground and the five inmates began to kick him as all staff orders to stop were ignored. Chemical agents were deployed into the yard and were effective, stopping the inmates from fighting. After order was restored, the inmates were escorted from the yard to the infirmary to be treated for minor injuries. After treatment, the inmates were placed in Special Housing Units pending disciplinary charges. Staff searched the yard for weapons but were unsuccessful.

No staff were injured in the incident.

The following day, five officers were injured breaking up an inmate on inmate fight in the mess hall. Initially, two officers observed two inmates exchanging punches. They ordered the inmates to separate, which they ignored and continued fighting. The two officers placed one inmate in a body hold and pulled him away from the second inmate. They released the body hold and the inmate continued to be aggressive and combative. OC spray was administered with no effect. Body holds were utilized again and the inmate was forced to the floor where handcuffs were applied. Once in handcuffs, the inmate was compliant. Responding officers placed the second inmate, who remained combative, in a body hold and forced him to the

floor. On the floor and still combative, handcuffs were applied. Both inmates were brought to their feet and escorted out of the mess hall.

Five officers were treated by medical staff at the infirmary for back, knee, hand and wrist pain. All five officers remained on duty.

“Inmate on inmate violence continues to be problematic at Coxsackie. With little or no disciplinary system left, there is no deterrent for inmates to not attack other inmates or staff. As we close in on the end of 2023 there is no end in sight to the violence that is occurring around state prisons and no help on the horizon to address it. Until the State Legislature takes aggressive action to address the violence, 2024 will follow the same path. Our members are under siege, working long hours away from their families in extremely dangerous working conditions. They deserve far more support than they have received over the past two years. Thankfully, in Greene County, we have a district attorney who is committed to holding inmates accountable for prison violence. It is unfortunate that our other elected officials, who supported the HALT Act, refuse to.” - said, Joe Horacek, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.