



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

# *"Keeping New York Safe"*

### ***Inmate Violently Attacks Staff at Upstate Correctional Facility***

*Two Officers Treated at Local Hospital for Injuries*

#### **For Immediate Release**

**October 25, 2023**

**Malone, NY** – An inmate, who is scheduled to be released from state prison next week, violently assaulted two officers and injured four other officers who subdued him, after he refused to return to his cell after a pat frisk at the maximum security correctional facility.

The attack occurred on Thursday, October 12. Initially, the inmate was being escorted to a program at the facility. Before the escort, staff were conducting a pat frisk of the inmate. It was determined that the inmate had altered clothing on and was ordered back to his cell. The inmate refused and became combative. Three officers used body holds to force the inmate back into his cell. The inmate was able to break free and punch one of the officers in the face. The three officers applied the body hold again and forced the inmate to the floor of the cell. The inmate was able to grab one of the officer's arms and pull her to the ground, punching her in the eye in the process. Additional staff arrived at the cell and administered OC spray, which had no effect. Still combative on the floor, officers were able to force the inmate's arms behind his back and apply handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant.

He was escorted out of the cell to be decontaminated and was placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges.

Two officers were transported to a local hospital for their injuries. The female officer who was pulled to the ground and punched in the face sustained elbow, hand and eye injuries. One of the officers who assisted in subduing the inmate sustained a back injury. Both officers were treated and released from the hospital.

The officer who was initially punched in the face, sustained pain and swelling to his cheek. Three officers who responded to the attack sustained minor injuries subduing the inmate. They were treated by medical staff at the facility and remained on duty.

The inmate, 32, is serving his second stint in state prison. Currently, he is serving a 10 year sentence after being convicted for Assault 1<sup>st</sup> in New York County. He is scheduled to be released from prison on October 31. Previously, he served a three year sentence in 2012 after being convicted in New York County for Attempted Robbery 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

“This is one instance where the District Attorney of Franklin County has an opportunity to send a strong message to other inmates that assaulting staff will not be tolerated and there will be stiff ramifications in doing so despite the lack of a real disciplinary system in correctional facilities. The inmate who committed this attack is scheduled to be released from prison next week and if charges were brought against him for felony assault, maybe the next time he would think twice about attacking staff. There aren’t many situations that exist where prosecuting an inmate for committing a crime while being incarcerated will have an impact. This attack certainly doesn’t fall into that category. Far too often staff are attacked by inmates serving long prison sentences who know full well that the disciplinary system has been stripped as a result of the HALT Act. Having a district attorney who is willing to hold inmates accountable when it is appropriate to pursue prosecution is one of our last lines of defense” - said, John Roberts NYSCOPBA Northern Region Vice President.