



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

Officers Injured at Green Haven Correctional Facility

Multiple Incidents Occur at Facility

For Immediate Release

January 18, 2024

Stormville , NY – Six officers sustained minor injuries at the maximum security correctional facility in the last month, continuing the level of violence that plagued most prisons in 2023.

In 2023, assaults on staff rose 13.4 percent from the following year. Inmate on inmate assaults increased a staggering 41.5 percent from the previous year. The increases followed significant spikes in both categories after the HALT Act went into effect in April of 2022.

- On Tuesday, December 19, an officer sustained significant exposure to blood and saliva after the inmate spit fluid into the face, mouth and chest of the officer while he was being escorted to the clinic. During the escort, the inmate suddenly turned and spit at the officer.
- On Tuesday, December 26, officers responded to a medical emergency in one of the facility dorms for a possible overdose. When officers arrived, they found a 29 year old inmate unresponsive. Several applications of Narcan were administered with no effect. Officers and medical staff administered CPR to the inmate as he was escorted to the infirmary. Still unresponsive at the infirmary, the inmate was administered Narcan again with no effect. After multiple attempts to revive the inmate, he was pronounced by medical staff.
- On Sunday, December 31, a sergeant and officer were injured after an inmate attacked them in his cell when they entered to apply handcuffs. Initially, the inmate indicated to an officer he was suicidal. Staff entered the cell and attempted to apply handcuffs to the inmate to escort him for evaluation. One handcuff was applied when the inmate suddenly turned and struck one officer twice in the side of the face. Body holds were applied and the inmate was forced to the ground where he continued to struggle. After a brief struggle, handcuffs were applied and the inmate became compliant. The officer who was struck sustained head and shoulder injuries. The sergeant sustained knee and leg injuries subduing the inmate. Both remained on duty.

- On Monday, January 1, an officer sustained a minor head injury when he was head butted by an inmate who was escorting him to the shower.
- On Saturday, January 6, an officer sustained shoulder and wrist injuries after an inmate grabbed and struggled with him when the officer approached him at one of the facility phones. Initially, the inmate was ordered to lock into his cell and he refused. He walked away from his cell and approached the phone. When the officer approached him, the inmate violently grabbed the officer by the arm and fought with him until additional staff assisted in subduing him.
- On Sunday, January 7, three officers sustained neck, head and knee injuries after an inmate fought with them after being ordered out of the mess hall. Initially, the inmate was ordered to leave the mess hall for not following staff directions. When staff approached the inmate, he stood up, shoved one officer and grabbed a second officer around the head and neck before being taken to the ground and subdued.

“Yesterday, the Governor announced the potential to close up to five more correctional facilities in the current budget cycle. This announcement comes as staff struggles with unprecedented violence across the state. As staffing levels continue to plummet and mandatory overtime has become a daily occurrence to maintain staffing levels, this is not the time to close facilities and create overcrowding in our prisons. Staff are being pushed to the brink and are physically and mentally worn down from the overwhelming violence and stress of their jobs. Instead of closing more prisons, the focus should be on reducing the historic levels of violence and providing the necessary resources to make the prisons a safer place to work. Our members have endured enough, they need to be compensated fairly for the dangerous work they perform and provided a safe and stable work environment. They deserve nothing short of that!” –stated, Joe Horacek, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.