



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

***"Keeping New York Safe"***

## ***Multiple Officers Injured at Collins Correctional Facility***

*Inmate Violence Hits Historic Levels*

### **For Immediate Release**

**January 18, 2024**

**Collins, NY** – A dozen officers were injured in several incidents at the medium security correctional facility this past fall, with one officer sustaining a cut to his hand on a razor an inmate had hidden in his state issued tablet.

The violence contributed to a year in which assaults on staff rose 13.4 percent and inmate on inmate assaults rose a staggering 41.5 percent, setting all-time highs in both categories.

- On Saturday, September 16, a sergeant needed to be treated for exposure at Erie County Medical Center after an inmate threw the liquid contents from the toilet on him when he approached the inmate's cell. The inmate was initially found to be under the influence of an unknown substance. He was escorted to a holding cell for observation. While in the holding cell, the inmate went to the toilet and scooped liquid out of it and threw it on the sergeant, striking him in the back, leg, upper body and face.
- On Sunday, September 17, two officers sustained knee and shoulder injuries after an inmate kicked and fought with them when they approached him as he lay on the floor of his dorm cube. The officers observed the inmate laying on the floor in an intoxicated state. When they approached him to apply handcuffs, he became combative and kicked and fought with officers. After being subdued, the inmate was escorted to the infirmary for evaluation.
- On Friday, September 22, one officer sustained a deep laceration to his thumb after he cut himself searching an inmate's cube for contraband. Initially, the inmate was being counseled for being on the phone too long. When the officer approached the inmate, he pushed her. Staff quickly subdued the inmate without further incident. A search of his dorm cube was ordered and the officer cut his thumb on a razor that the inmate had hidden inside the cover of his state issued tablet. The officer was transported to an outside hospital for treatment.

- On Monday, November 6, two officers sustained shoulder and hip injuries when an inmate fought with them after he initially pushed an officer who attempted to counsel him as he exited the mess hall. After he pushed the officer, staff grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. On the ground and still combative, OC spray was administered with no effect. Staff were able to apply handcuffs to the inmate and once restrained, he became compliant. The two officers were treated by medical staff at the facility and remained on duty.
- On Thursday, November 9, four officers sustained ankle, knee and elbow injuries after they were kicked and spit at by two inmates inside a dorm room. Initially, the officers heard a commotion in the room. When they went to investigate, they observed an inmate incoherent, pacing back and forth. When officers approached the inmate, he kicked one officer in the knee. After being contained, the inmate spit at staff as they carried him to the infirmary. A second inmate in the room kicked, spit and attempted to bite staff when they approached him while he sat on the floor. The four injured officers were treated by medical staff at the facility. One officer was transported to Bertrand Chaffee Hospital for further treatment of a knee injury.
- On Saturday, November 18, two officers sustained elbow injuries after two inmates were engaged in a fight in one of the facility dorms. Initially, the inmates began exchanging punches near the officer's station. The officer called for a response and ordered the inmates to cease fighting. The two inmates complied and were separately escorted to the infirmary for evaluation. During the escort, one inmate stopped walking as they approached the entrance to the infirmary. He pushed backwards against the three officers, causing the inmate and three officers to fall to the floor. On the floor, the inmate kicked one officer before being contained. The inmate was brought to his feet and escorted into a holding cell. Staff removed the handcuffs and the inmate kicked rearward, striking one officer in the leg. He was placed in body holds and forced to the floor. On the floor, handcuffs were applied again and he became compliant.

“The Governor announced the potential of five prison closures in this current fiscal year on Tuesday, during a period when our officers are under siege daily at the hands of violent inmates. This is not a time to close facilities, rather, this should be a time to invest in our correctional system to make it safe to work and live in. It is also a time to recognize the extremely dangerous job our members perform and compensate them accordingly. The daily assaults our members have to endure are not sustainable in any manner. The HALT Act has created an environment that is ripe for violence and our members have to suffer as a result of it. Whether it's contractually, or through salary grade increases our members deserve better compensation due to the fact we cannot retain staff when violence continually goes unchecked and officers are forced to endure mandatory overtime and unsafe working conditions. This is a mess the State Legislature created with their ill-advised criminal justice policies. It is time for them to take action and clean it up for the sake of the hard working men and women of NYSCOPBA.” – stated Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.