



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Multiple Violent Incidents Occur at Five Points Correctional Facility

*13 Officers Injured, Three Weapons and Make-Shift Handcuff Key
Seized*

For Immediate Release

January 22, 2024

Romulus, NY – Thirteen officers were injured in multiple inmate incidents at the end of last year and three weapons and a make-shift handcuff key were seized from inmates during staff searches at the maximum security correctional facility.

- On Monday, November 20, officers seized two ceramic razors and a make-shift handcuff key which were hidden in a coffee can inside of an inmates cell. Initially, the inmate threw an unknown liquid on two officers hitting them in the back and head. After the inmate was removed from the cell, staff searched the inmate’s cell for contraband and found the two weapons and the handcuff key.
- On Friday, December 1, an inmate kicked an officer in his leg during an escort. The inmate became extremely combative and fought with officers. The officers put the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the floor where he continued to struggle. OC spray was utilized with no effect. Additional staff arrived and assisted in getting the inmate restrained. During the struggle, one officer sustained a hand injury and was taken to Schuyler Hospital where it was determined he had a fracture to his right ring finger
- On Sunday, December 3, five officers were injured after an inmate faked attempting to hang himself and fought with officers after the entered the cell to help him. Initially, an officer on rounds observed the inmate in his cell with a bed sheet tied around his neck and the other end tied to the top bed bunk. The inmate refused all staff orders to remove the sheet. A medical response was called and the door of the cell was opened. The inmate jumped up and shoved officers and ran down the cell block and into the vestibule where he was contained. Inside the vestibule, the inmate refused to put his hands on the wall for a pat frisk. As officers approached him, he began throwing punches, striking two officers in the head and face. He was placed in body holds and forced to the floor. On

the floor, the inmate bit one officer in the leg, breaking the skin. After subduing the inmate, he continued to be uncooperative and was carried to the infirmary for evaluation. The officer who was bit, was transported to Cayuga Medical Center for treatment. Four officers sustained shoulder, head, back, knee, and eye injuries and were treated at the facility and remained on duty.

- On Wednesday, December 6, an officer sustained a minor leg injury after an inmate kicked him during an escort in the facility elevator. After the assault, the inmate attempted to exit the elevator. He attempted to pull away from staff and was placed in a body hold and forced back into the elevator. Still combative inside the elevator, he was placed in body holds and forced up against the wall until he became compliant.
- On Saturday, December 9, an inmate refused staff orders to exit his cell during a routine cell check. After refusing several orders to exit the cell, an extraction team was called to the cell. Chemical agents were introduced into the cell with no effect. The cell door was opened and the inmate charged at officers and began to fight with them. He was placed in body holds and forced to the floor where he continued to fight. Once under control and placed in handcuffs, the inmate was brought to his feet and removed from the cell block. Five officers sustained back, shoulder, ribs, hand and feet injuries. They were treated by facility medical staff and remained on duty.
- On Tuesday, December 12, two officers were injured when an inmate attacked them during a pat frisk for contraband. Initially, the inmate was returning to his cell from evening recreation. He was ordered to lock into his cell but refused. He was ordered to put his hands on the wall to be searched and he initially complied. As staff attempted to search him, he pushed off the wall, turned and bit one officer in the shoulder. A response was called. The two officers placed the inmate in a body hold when he bit the same officer again, this time in his forearm. When additional staff arrived, the inmate was forced to the floor and handcuffs applied. Once in handcuffs, he became compliant. The officer who was bit was taken to Geneva Hospital to be treated for broken skin and exposure to his forearm. The second officer sustained nose and knee injuries but remained on duty.
- On Wednesday, January 1, during a routine cell search, staff recovered a plastic shank that an inmate had hidden in his pillow. The inmate was in the cell at the time of the search and initially attempted to run from staff with the pillow. Once he was caught, staff found the make-shift weapon inside the pillow.

“The latest attacks at Five Points and the violence everywhere in prisons across the state are clear indications that we are losing the battle with the inmates and something needs to change immediately. Just last week we reported of officers getting stabbed at the same prison and clearly incidents have been continuing to happen. Our members feel underappreciated, underpaid, overworked and a step in the right direction would be to right the wrongs of the past and the horrible policy decisions the State Legislature has made when it comes to inmate discipline. Now, with the announcement of potential closures in coming months, we are potentially looking at more overcrowded prisons, placing our members and inmates at an even higher risk of being assaulted. Just another failure of our elected officials to support the brave men and women who

work in corrections for the sake of saving a few dollars, all while there are hundreds of millions of dollars of waste that occur every year in New York. Putting law enforcement and their safety should never be jeopardized at any expense.”-stated Kenny Gold, Western Region Vice President.