



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

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

## ***Multiple Inmate on Inmates Fights at Gouverneur Correctional Facility***

### ***Several Inmates Cut with Weapons During Altercations***

**For Immediate Release**

***February 5, 2024***

**Gouverneur, NY** – As violence continues to create significant safety issues in correctional facilities across the State, multiple inmate on inmate fights occurred in December and January resulting in seven inmates needing medical attention for lacerations from make-shift weapons at the medium security correctional facility.

Since December 2, 2023, there have been 15 inmate on inmate fights, one as large as 9 inmates fighting, that resulted in seven inmates who sustained multiple lacerations from make-shift weapons. Several weapons were seized in the fights, including a icepick type weapon, ceramic razor, three broom handles and several chairs that were used in the attacks. In a number of the altercations, staff were unable to locate the weapon used.

Several inmates needed to be treated at an outside hospital for their injuries.

Staff also recovered 11 weapons and drug contraband during pat frisks of inmates and cube searches in December and January. The weapons were sharpened tooth brushes, icepick type weapons and razor blades.

The drugs recovered were hidden in cellophane bundles that contained a green leafy substance later determined to be marijuana. A search of an inmate's cube recovered two bundles and a K9 alerted on a visitor at the facility who turned over two bundles she attempted to smuggle into an inmate during a visit.

The visitor was arrested for Promoting Prison Contraband 2<sup>nd</sup> and processed at the local state police barracks.

“As we await the State’s decision on what prisons will be closed and how many, it is very clear that closing more facilities and transferring inmates into facilities that are already facing staffing issues, is not the answer. In the last three years, there have been nine facilities closed and the net result is record levels of inmate on staff and inmate on inmate violence. At Gouverneur alone, in the past two months there have been over a dozen inmate on inmate fights resulting in several inmates getting cut or sliced by another inmate. Three officers sustained minor injuries when two inmates attacked them in separate incidents. The contraband numbers continue to grow. This goes on and on. The current state of the prison system is not sustainable. Closing additional facilities will only prolong the violence until the legislature addresses it once and for all. Their progressive agenda helped create the current state of our prisons, it is now time for them to correct it. ” – stated Bryan Hluska , Central Region Vice President.