



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

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***“Keeping New York Safe”***

***Dozen Officers Injured at Greene Correctional Facility***

*Large Inmate Fight Also Occurs in Mess Hall*

**For Immediate Release**

**February 14, 2024**

**Coxsackie , NY** – A dozen officers sustained injuries in two separate attacks when two inmates barricaded themselves in their respective cells and charged officers who entered the cells to check on their well-being at the medium security correctional facility.

On Thursday, January 25, an inmate had placed his mattress up against the cell door, obstructing the cell door window. He refused to answer repeated attempts from staff. The cell door was opened and the inmate charged officers. He was pushed back into the cell by an officer armed with a shield. He fought with officers until they were able to place him in a body hold and force him to the ground. On the ground, handcuffs were applied and the inmate was brought to his feet and escorted to a holding cell.

In the holding cell, he became combative again and kicked an officer. He was forced to the floor again and leg restraints were applied. Once in restraints, all forced ceased and the inmate became compliant.

Six officers sustained injuries in the incident. One officer sustained numbness to his hand and elbow and was transported to an outside hospital for treatment. Five officers sustained knee, ankle, wrist, shoulder and hip injuries. They were treated by facility medical staff and remained on duty.

The inmate, 22, is serving a 35 year sentence after being convicted in Monroe County in 2019 for Manslaughter 1<sup>st</sup> and Robbery 1<sup>st</sup>. In 2018, while on probation on a previous robbery, he shot a man multiple times, killing him in the City of Rochester.

The second attack occurred on Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. An inmate had placed a shower curtain over the cell door window and refused to answer staffs' orders to remove it. The cell door was ordered opened. When the door was opened, the inmate charged at officers, throwing multiple punches, striking one officer in the face. He was immediately placed in a body hold and forced to the cell floor. On the floor and still thrashing, handcuffs were applied. He was brought to his feet and placed in a holding cell where he began kicking at officers. Staff utilized a body hold again and forced him to the floor. On the floor, thrashing around and kicking at officers, leg restraints were applied. Once in restraints the inmate became compliant.

Six officers sustained wrist, arm, facial, shoulder, elbow, back and knee injuries in the incident. They were treated by medical staff at the facility and remained on duty.

The inmate, 29, is serving a seven year sentence after being convicted in New York County in 2019 for Assault 1<sup>st</sup>.

In addition to the two assaults, eleven inmates began fighting in the mess hall on Saturday, February, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Initially an officer observed two inmates exchanging punches. They refused orders to stop. A response was called for additional staff. Nine inmates near the fight got up from their tables and began exchanging punches and refused orders to stop. When additional staff arrived, OC spray was utilized on several of the fighting inmates. The OC spray was effective and the inmates got on the ground. Staff were able to stop the remaining fighting inmates. They were placed in handcuffs and removed from the mess hall. They face disciplinary charges in the melee.

No staff were injured in the incident.

“Thankfully the officers injured in the two inmate attacks were not seriously injured. In many circumstances, inmates barricade themselves in their cells as a ruse to get staff to enter so they can suddenly attack them. In both instances at Greene, this appears to be the case. In every instance, staff enter the cell without regard for their own safety to check on the wellbeing of the inmate. These are the type of daily occurrences staff are subjected to and it is the reason we have an epidemic of violence in our state prisons. In one of the attacks, the inmate is eligible for release in March of 2025 and thankfully we have a district attorney in Greene County who takes attacks on staff seriously and aggressively prosecutes inmates who attack staff or other inmates. Unfortunately, that protection isn't afforded in every county and that is a sad reality for our members.” - said, Joe Horacek, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.