



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Officer Assaulted Riverview Correctional Facility

Transported to Local Hospital with Head Injuries

For Immediate Release

February 27, 2024

Ogdensburg, NY – An officer attempting to break up a fight between two inmates in one of the facility dorms was struck in the head twice when one inmate turned and punched him in both sides of his temple at the medium security correctional facility last week.

The assault occurred on Monday, February 19. The officer, who was assigned to one of the dorms, observed two inmates fighting and exchanging punches. The officer approached the inmates and gave them several orders to stop fighting. One inmate complied. The second inmate spun around and punched the officer twice in the head. The officer called for a response and administered OC spray, which had no effect. The inmate continued to advance on the officer, swinging wildly at him. The officer administered a second application of OC spray which again had no effect. The officer grabbed the combative inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. A second officer arrived at the dorm and assisted in forcing the inmate's arms behind his back. Handcuffs were applied. Once in handcuffs, all force ceased and the inmate became compliant. He was brought to his feet and escorted to the infirmary to be decontaminated.

The injured officer was treated by medical staff at the facility. He sustained head pain and swelling to both sides of the temple, exposure to the OC spray and a laceration to his knuckle. He was transported to Claxton Hepburn Medical Center for further treatment. He did not return to duty.

The inmate, 25, is serving a one to six year sentence after being convicted for Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd and Grand Larceny 4th in New York County in 2021. He is eligible for parole at the end of the year.

He was placed in a Special Housing Unit after the attack pending disciplinary charges.

“The attack last week at Riverview is a stark reminder of the on-going violence that exists in our state prisons. Without a disciplinary system that has any teeth, even though the inmate who committed the attack was placed in a Special Housing Unit, the punishment equates to a slap on the wrist. At least in this instance, when the inmate comes up for parole at the end of the year the parole board should take into account this vicious, unprovoked attack on the officer as well as the other inmate he initially he attacked. I also would strongly encourage the St. Lawrence District Attorney’s Office to consider prosecuting the inmate for felony assault. It would send a message, especially to inmates who are a serving a relatively short sentence, that there is accountability for their actions and it will be dealt with accordingly. - said, John Roberts NYSCOPBA Northern Region Vice President.