



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Dozen Officers Injured at Five Points Correctional Facility

Four Separate Inmate Attacks Cause Multiple Injuries

For Immediate Release

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Romulus, NY – Eleven officers and a sergeant were injured at the maximum security correctional facility in four separate inmate attacks in the past month.

The first attack occurred on Wednesday February 28. Staff were conducting the inmate count on a cell block when they came across an inmate’s cell that had the cell window covered. Several attempts to communicate with the inmate were unsuccessful. When additional staff arrived at the cell, the cell door was opened. One officer entered the cell with a shield and encountered the inmate. The officer used the shield to push the inmate back against the wall. The inmate pushed back and reached around the shield and punched the officer twice in the forehead. With additional staff inside the cell, the inmate remained combative and grabbed an officer around the neck and attempted to choke him. Force was utilized to get the inmate to release the chokehold. Still combative, the inmate was placed in a body hold and forced to the ground. Officers were able to force the inmate’s arms behind his back and apply handcuffs. Leg restraints were also applied and the inmate was removed from the cell.

Four officers sustained hand, shin, face, forehead and neck injuries. They were treated by medical staff at the facility and remained in duty.

On Friday, March 1, two officers were conducting rounds when they walked by an inmate’s cell and the inmate used a plastic bottle to throw a brown liquid smelling of feces through the cell hatch, striking one officer in the pants, shirt and hands. The officer was removed from the cell block and was treated by medical staff at the facility for exposure. The officer remained on duty.

The last two attacks occurred on the same day, Thursday, March 28. During the lunch run, an inmate refused staff orders to return to his cell. The inmate was ordered to submit to a pat frisk for contraband. During the pat frisk, the inmate began to threaten the officer. The inmate was placed in a body hold and forced to the wall and then to the floor. On the floor, the inmate remained extremely combative and

fought with officers as they attempted to apply handcuffs. During the struggle, the inmate elbowed one officer in the eye. Once officers were able to force the inmate's arms behind his back, handcuffs were applied.

Three officers were injured in the incident. The officer who was elbowed sustained a laceration to his left eyebrow. The other two officers sustained wrist pain and a small laceration to the thumb. The three officers were treated at the facility and remained on duty.

The second attack occurred when an inmate refused staff orders to lock into his cell. After refusing several orders, the inmate was ordered to submit to a pat frisk and place his hands on the wall. He initially complied but then flopped on the floor, got back to his feet and ran down the cell block. An officer grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the floor. On the floor and struggling with staff, the inmate attempted to head-butt and bite officers several times but was unsuccessful. On the floor, the inmate punched an officer in the face and was able to bite a sergeant's calf and initially refused to release the bite. Staff utilized force to get the inmate to release the sergeant's calf. Handcuffs were applied and the inmate became compliant.

After the inmate was removed from the cell block, three officers were treated for hand, finger, face and elbow injuries. The sergeant was treated for a bite mark to his calf. All staff remained on duty.

"As we await the state budget to pass that will determine the number of prisons to be closed, the violence continues to skyrocket inside the facilities. Last year was record setting year for violence and if the first quarter of 2024 is any indication-inmate on staff violence is going to rise another 30 percent and inmate on inmate violence will rise 25 percent. Couple that with the fact that since January of 2023 we are down 1300 officers as a result of retirements, resignations and the inability to replace officers with new recruits. During the same time period, the inmate population has rose by 1600 inmates. It doesn't make sense to close any more prisons when staffing is decreasing the inmate population is growing. Our members are stretched thin and overworked with mandatory overtime shifts. They deserve the support from the state and the first step they should take is to address the on-going violence rather than closing jails making more of a powder keg environment."- Stated Kenny Gold, Western Region Vice President.