



**New York State Correctional Officers
& Police Benevolent Association, Inc.**
“Keeping New York Safe”

Five Officers Injured at Sullivan Correctional Facility

Four Officers Transported to Local Hospital for Further Treatment

For Immediate Release

May 8, 2024

Fallsburgh, NY – A 26 year old inmate, serving his second stint in state prison, attacked and injured five officers at the maximum security correctional facility at the end of April.

On Tuesday, April, 23, two officers heard an inmate yelling and causing a disturbance and went to investigate. When the officers came up the inmate, he was verbally abusive to both officers. He attacked one officer, punching him multiple times in the head, face and body. The second officer administered OC spray, which was not effective. The officer called for a response and attempted to get the inmate away from the injured officer. When she did, the inmate punched her several times in the head and face. Several additional staff arrived at the attack and placed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the floor. The inmate remained combative on the floor and struck officers who were attempting to contain him. Officers were able to contain his legs and force his arms behind his back. Handcuffs were applied and all force ceased. The inmate was brought to his feet and escorted from the area.

The injured officers were treated by medical staff at the infirmary. Four officers were transported to Garnet Health Medical Center for further treatment. The two officers on the initial call were treated for contusions to the head, face and body. Two officers who responded sustained hand and wrist injuries with limited range of motion. The officers were treated and released from the medical center.

A fifth officer sustained hand and face abrasions and was treated at the facility and remained on duty.

The inmate is serving a one to three year sentence for Attempted Assault 2nd in Jefferson County in 2023. He previously served a prison sentence in 2021 for possession of drugs.

“As we near the end of the legislative session in New York, it is abundantly clear that the legislators that supported the HALT Act and continue to advocate for the inmates, do not

recognize the level of violence that has existed over the past three years in our prisons as a result of their misguided policies. Inmate on staff and inmate on inmate violence continue at record levels and with staffing shortages and mandatory overtime, staff are being pushed to the brink with no relief in sight. In addition, members are awaiting the announcement of what prisons will be closed and the officers who will be effected by the closures, their lives will literally be thrown into chaos”

“In many of these attacks the only recourse we have is for the counties district attorneys to prosecute when it is practicable. It is my sincere hope that the Sullivan County District Attorney’s Office will considered prosecuting this assault on staff at Sullivan. The inmate is scheduled for a parole hearing this summer. If he was successfully prosecuted for felony assault and his sentence was extended, maybe he would think twice about attacking staff again. It literally is the last line of defense our members have.” – stated, Joe Horacek, Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.