



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

***Six Officers, Sergeant Injured After Attacks at Elmira Correctional  
Facility***

*Four Officers and Sergeant Treated at Local Hospital for Injuries*

**For Immediate Release**

***May 9, 2024***

**Elmira, NY** – An inmate serving a 16 year sentence for attempted murder and who served a previous sentence for weapons possession in 2016, attacked and injured six officers and a sergeant after they broke up an inmate on inmate fight he was involved in at the maximum security correctional facility last week.

On Wednesday, May 1, the two inmates began exchanging punches in the corridor of the facility. Three officers assigned to the corridor ordered the inmates to stop fighting and one inmate complied. When one of the officers attempted to grab the arms of the second inmate, he struck the officer in the face. He was immediately placed in a body hold and forced up against a facility gate. The inmate grabbed the bars of the gate and refused to let go as staff attempted to pull him away. One officer grabbed him in a body hold and pulled him away from the gate. The inmate was able to slip out of the body hold and struck a sergeant in the face. He remained combative, swinging at staff. He struck the sergeant again multiple times in the face and another officer who had responded to the attack. The sergeant and three officers grabbed him in a body hold and forced him to the ground, where he remained combative. On the ground, the inmate continued to throw punches and elbows at staff and bit one officer in the forearm, breaking the skin. Staff gained control of his legs and two officers forced his arms behind his back and applied handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant. He was brought to his feet and escorted to the infirmary.

The injured officers were treated by medical staff at the facility. Four officers and the sergeant were transported to Corning Guthrie Medical Center for treatment of shoulder, back, neck and hand injuries. The officer who was bit was deemed a significant exposure to blood and saliva. A second officer also was deemed to be exposed when blood from the inmate got in his left eye. All staff did not return to duty.

Two additional officers sustained back pain and were treated at the facility. They remained on duty.

The inmate, 27, was transferred to Five Points Correctional Facility after the attack. Prior to his current sentence, he served a four years in prison after being convicted for Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2016.

“The current environment at Elmira is not going to change on any level until the State Legislature actually takes a hard look at the violence inside our prisons and takes immediate steps to correct the ridiculous policies they passed that have contributed to the violence. With a little over a month left in the legislative session and legislators looking forward to their summer vacations, there is little hope that any meaningful change will occur. Yet, our members don’t have the luxury to take the summer off like legislators do. It will be another summer of mandated overtime due to short staffing, violence and complete disruption for the officers who will be impacted by the impending prison closures. It boggles our mind to think that our elected officials can completely ignore the toll this is taking on our membership. Any reasonable person would understand the stress those members are under every day, but when we are talking about certain members of the State Legislature, we aren’t talking about reasonable people!”-stated Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.