



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

***Inmate Damages Classroom, Exposes Officers to Blood Coxsackie
Correctional Facility***

Incident Occurred Inside Mental Health Program

For Immediate Release

May 23, 2024

Coxsackie , NY – A convicted rapist, serving a 50 years to life sentence at the maximum security correctional facility, fought with staff after he became disruptive in his afternoon program in the Residential Mental Health Unit (RMHU) and smashed windows in the classroom, sustaining multiple lacerations to his hands and knuckles and exposing staff to blood.

On Tuesday, May 14, the inmate became disruptive inside the afternoon inmate program. He refused several orders from Office of Mental Health (OMH) staff to calm down. OMH staff called for a response and officers entered the room. The remaining inmates were removed from the room as staff attempted to de-escalate the situation. The inmate continued to be irate and punched one of the classroom windows several times, shattering the glass. Officers applied two rounds of OC spray to the inmate, which was ineffective. Four officers grabbed the inmate in a body hold and attempted to apply handcuffs. The inmate remained combative and spit and attempted to bite officers. He was forced onto his classroom desk, where after a brief struggle, the inmate was placed in handcuffs. The inmate refused to cooperate with officers and walk to the infirmary. The officers picked the inmate up and carried him to the infirmary where he was decontaminated and treated for multiple lacerations to his hand. He was transferred to Albany Medical Center for further treatment.

After being released from Albany Med, the inmate was transferred to Great Meadow Correctional Facility.

The inmate, 39, was convicted in Richmond County in 2010 for Predatory Sexual Assault. Previously, he was convicted for two counts of Rape 1st in Richmond County in 2000.

Several officers were treated by medical staff for exposure to blood. They remained on duty after treatment.

“The incident at Coxsackie is part of the job that many people outside the prison walls don’t realize exist. More and more inmates have severe mental health issues and in many instances, they act out in violence against officers, civilian staff or other inmates. The officers that responded to this latest incident did an excellent job subduing the inmate before he could do more damage to the classroom, hurt himself or injure staff. There is never a moment in our state prisons where staff can relax, because in any moment, a situation can escalate into violence. It is just one example of how stressful and dangerous this profession has become ” - said, Joe Horacek, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.