



## ***Multiple Officers Injured at Five Points Correctional Facility***

*Staff Sustain Smoke Inhalation in One Incident at Facility*

**For Immediate Release**  
**May 28, 2024**

**Romulus, NY** – Two sergeants and thirteen officers sustained injuries at the hands of two inmates in separate attacks the maximum security correctional facility, including ten staff who needed to be treated for smoke inhalation after an inmate set fire inside his cell.

On Wednesday, May 15, an officer conducting rounds in the Residential Mental Health Unit (RMHU), noticed an inmate had set a fire inside his cell. The officer called for a response and attempted to put out the fire with an extinguisher through the feed hatch in the cell door. The officer was unsuccessful when the inmate propped his mattress up against the opening, blocking the chemical agents to enter into the cell. When additional staff arrived, the cell door was opened and the inmate charged officers. He was pushed back by an officer armed with a shield up against the cell wall. As the fire continued in the cell, officers used body holds and forced the inmate onto the floor. Still combative, the inmate bit one officer on the wrist and punched another officer's plastic shield on his helmet, causing the shield to strike the officer's face. With smoke billowing out into the cell block, the officers pulled the inmate out of the cell onto the cell block floor. They applied handcuffs and leg restraints. Once in restraints, the inmate became compliant and the fire was extinguished.

The inmate was placed on a gurney and escorted to the infirmary for treatment.

Nine officers and a sergeant sustained smoke inhalation from the fire. In addition, four officers sustained hip, knee, ankle, shoulder and bite injuries during the attack. All staff were treated by medical staff at the facility and remained on duty.

The inmate, 34, is serving his third stint in state prison. Currently, he is serving a one to three year sentence after being convicted in Bronx County for Attempted Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2023. Previously, he served sentences for Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> and Attempted Robbery 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2018 and 2015.

The fire was set inside the cell utilizing magazines and rolls of toilet paper.

The second attack occurred on Tuesday, May 21. The inmate involved in the attack, exited his cell to go to the commissary. When he returned, he refused to go back into his cell. Refusing several orders from staff, handcuffs were attempted to be applied to the inmate's wrists. The inmate turned and grabbed a sergeant by the shirt and grabbed his baton with his other hand. He pulled the sergeant into his cell and forced him onto the cell bed, falling on top of him. Officers immediately entered the cell and grabbed the inmate in a body hold and pulled him off the sergeant. He was forced to the floor, where he continued to be combative. After a brief struggle, officers were able to apply handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, all forced ceased.

The inmate, who is serving a 15 year sentence after being convicted in Erie County for Manslaughter 1<sup>st</sup>, was escorted to the infirmary for evaluation. He was placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges after treatment.

The sergeant and four officers sustained hand, wrist, back, leg, forearm, ankle and shoulder injuries. They were treated by medical staff at the facility and remained on duty.

"Leading up to Memorial Day weekend, while most people are making holiday plans, our members are on the front line, working and being subjected to continued violence at the hands of violent inmates. It is quite clear, that in the one attack at Five Points on May 15, the inmate set fire inside his cell in order to get staff to respond and enter the cell so he could attack them. The inmate, who is serving his third stint in prison, two of which were for felony assault, set the fire intentionally so he could attack staff. Not only did he put staff in danger, but other inmates on the unit at risk, as staff were unable to initially extinguish the fire as they attempted to defend themselves from the attack. This is a constant battle for staff to not only keep order inside the prisons, but also safeguard themselves from unprovoked assaults. I am quite sure that the lawmakers in Albany who supported the HALT Act and other progressive criminal justice policies, were enjoying themselves over the weekend at backyard barbecues while our members are mandated to work long hours staffing the prisons, all the while being assaulted and subjected to incidents like these!"-stated Kenny Gold, Western Region Vice President.