



## ***Five Officers, One Sergeant Injured at Green Haven Correctional Facility***

### ***Four Separate Attacks on Staff Occur at Prison***

#### **For Immediate Release**

**July 24, 2024**

**Stormville, NY** – Five officers and a sergeant were injured at the maximum security correctional facility in a series of inmate attacks in late June and early July. One officer and the sergeant needed to be treated at local hospitals for their injuries.

On Thursday, June 27, an inmate who was scheduled for release out of prison, was being escorted out of a Special Housing Unit to the front gate when he lunged at one of the officers near the elevator and elbowed him in the chest. Staff immediately grabbed him in a body hold and forced him onto the elevator. On the elevator, the inmate remained combative. On the ground floor the inmate was brought into a holding room where he struck a second officer in the chest. He was forced to the floor where he remained combative. Handcuffs were applied and the inmate became compliant. One officer sustained an elbow injury and a second officer sustained shoulder and knee injuries. Both were treated by medical staff at the facility and remained on duty.

The second assault occurred on Sunday, June 30. An inmate was being escorted back to his cell. Once inside his cell, his handcuffs were removed. With his hands free, he elbowed one officer in the side of the face. He was placed in body holds and forced onto his cell bed. Handcuffs were applied again and he became compliant. The officer who was elbowed in the side of the face sustained pain and swelling to his eye. He was treated at the facility and remained on duty.

On Tuesday, July 2, a small inmate uprising was quickly quelled when chemical agents were used inside a mess hall to control a group of inmates from attacking staff. Initially, one inmate was being disruptive and staff removed him from the mess hall into an outside corridor. The inmate continued to struggle with staff when five inmates got up from their seats and began to charge staff. Chemical agents were introduced into the mess hall and quickly stopped the inmates from moving forward towards staff. Once under control, all inmates were removed from the mess hall and decontaminated. The five inmates were placed in Special Housing Units after the incident. Two officers sustained shoulder, knee and ankle injuries in the incident.

The fourth assault occurred on Wednesday, July 17, during the morning meal for inmates. One inmate refused orders to keep moving on the way to the mess hall. When a sergeant approached him, he punched the sergeant in the face, knocking the sergeant to the ground. An officer responded and put the inmate in a body hold and pulled him away from the sergeant. An unidentified inmate came up behind the officer and punched him in the back of the head and ran off. Additional staff arrived and subdued the first inmate and placed handcuffs on him. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant. A review of video identified the inmate who struck the officer in the back of the head.

Both inmates were placed in a Special Housing Unit following the assaults.

The sergeant sustained a laceration under his eye, nose bleeding and shoulder and back injuries. He was transported to Putnam Hospital. The officer sustained shoulder and head injuries. He was transferred to Vassar Hospital for further treatment.

“With the announcement of Sullivan and Great Meadow prison closures this fall the violence is at an all-time high while our staffing levels continue to decline. At the current rate, attacks on staff are going to increase 30 percent from last year. In the past year we have lost 1600 officers through retirement and resignations and those officers have not been replaced as the prison population has grown by 2100 inmates. This is a formula that is doomed to fail and the violence will only get worse. Closing more prisons will not help the problem, it will only exacerbate it. It is penny wise and pound foolish and our members suffer as a result.” – stated Joe Horacek, NYSCOPBA Mid- Hudson Region Vice President.