



***Weapons Seized, Officers Assaulted, Visitors Arrested at Gouverneur Correctional Facility***

***Incidents Occurred in a One Month Period as Single Year Record for Assaults is Broken***

**For Immediate Release**

**November 1, 2024**

**Gouverneur, NY** – Assaults on staff and inmate on inmate assaults statewide set a single year record by the end of October, breaking last year’s record with two months left in the calendar year. The latest statistics mirror what Gouverneur Correctional Facility continues to grapple with high number of assaults and contraband, including multiple make-shift weapons at the medium security correctional facility.

During the month of August, staff recovered 14 make-shift weapons from inmates during pat frisks and searches of the inmate’s living quarters. One inmate was found to have in his possession a metal scalpel just prior to him being transported to a court appearance.

In the same time period, eight staff, including two sergeants, were injured during seven assaults on staff by inmates. The assaults follow the yearlong pattern of violence in which assaults on staff are on pace to increase 24 percent from last year and inmate on inmate assaults on are pace to rise 37 percent. In the last four years assaults have increased by 47 percent and a whopping 118 percent in those categories respectively.

Inmate fights continue to plague the prison. Nine inmates were injured at the facility when they were attacked by other inmates, including one inmate who sustained a fractured jaw and three who sustained lacerations after being cut with a make-shift weapon.

In addition, two visitors were arrested for promoting prison contraband after a K9 alerted on them during inmate visits. Both visitors turned over the drugs, which contained marijuana.

“The statistics just released by DOCCS tell the true picture of the dangerous environment and violence in our state prisons. The statistics don’t lie – our prisons are as violent as they ever have been and our members are being attacked on a daily basis. The system is unsustainable with short staffing, mandatory overtime and a disciplinary system that is so weak inmates know there are no ramifications for their actions. It is wishful thinking to think that the state legislators, who ushered in these progressive criminal justice policies that have contributed to the violence, will do anything to correct the current state that prisons are in when they go back into session in January. Until that occurs, the violence will no doubt continue to set yearly records and our members and inmates who follow the rules, will bear the brunt of that.” – stated Bryan Hluska , Central Region Vice President.