



## ***More Inmate on Inmate Violence at Mohawk Correctional Facility***

*Drugs, Weapons Recovered by Staff, Two Officers Injured*

### **For Immediate Release**

***December 2, 2024***

**Rome, NY** – Five inmate on inmate fights occurred in a 12 day period that resulted in several inmates sustaining injuries, including one who was cut several times with a weapon at the medium security correctional facility as violence continues to plague prisons statewide.

From November 5 until November 17, five inmate fights occurred at various locations at the prison, resulting in multiple inmates being injured. In one incident, an inmate approached an officer's station inside one of the facility dorms and said he had been cut by another inmate. The injured inmate sustained two lacerations to his arm from an unknown weapon.

An officer and sergeant also sustained minor injuries at the hands of two inmates. In the first incident, an inmate inside the mess hall picked up his food tray and threw it at another inmate, missing him and striking the sergeant in the upper body. In the second incident, an inmate who was being frisked for contraband struck an officer in the face with a closed fist. The inmate was immediately put in a body hold and forced to the ground and handcuffs were applied. After the subsequent frisk took place, staff recovered a balloon with paper inside with an unknown drug saturated into the paper. The inmate had the balloon hidden inside his underwear.

Staff also recovered two weapons during cube searches. A sharpened toothbrush was recovered inside of an inmate's locker inside his living cube. The second weapon was recovered as a result of an inmate-on-inmate fight. After the fight was broken up, officers searched the cube of one of the inmates and located a weighted cloth underneath the inmate's bed.

During additional searches at the facility, Phencyclidine, better known as PCP, was located in an inmate's cube during a routine search by staff. The PCP was saturated in paper and hidden inside a saran wrap bundle.

All inmates involved in the inmate fights, assaults on staff and drugs and weapons recovered, face disciplinary charges.

“As we enter the last month of 2024, the onslaught of violence, drugs and weapons at our state prisons continue. In one day at Mohawk, we had three inmate on inmate fights within hours of each other, one resulting in one staff being injured. Thankfully, the sergeant and officer who were assaulted and injured by the two inmates only sustained minor injuries and remained on duty. That is not always the case. More serious attacks on staff are occurring resulting in officers sustaining serious injuries resulting in them being out of work for extensive period of times. When that occurs, it puts strain on staff that already is dealing with shortages and mandatory overtime. The current system remains unsustainable and will continue to be until the State addresses the violence with real solutions.” – stated Bryan Hluska , Central Region Vice President.