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For Immediate Release

## ***Inmate Attacks Sergeant at Livingston Correctional Facility***

### ***Sergeant Sustains Laceration and Concussion During Assault***

**Sonya, NY** –A corrections sergeant received seven stitches and a concussion when an inmate lunged out of his cell and head butted him and the medium security prison.

The incident took place on Thursday, February 23 at approximately 4:13 PM. The inmate, James Baltazar, was in his cell in the special housing unit. A officer assigned to the unit was attempting to give Inmate Baltazar his evening meal through the cell hatch when the inmate reached out through the hatch and grabbed the officer's arm. The officer was able to slide the hatch against the inmate's arm and pull free.

A sergeant was notified of the incident and responded to the scene. He had the inmate taken to the frisk room to be examined. After the examination he was escorted back to his cell. As the door of the cell was closing, Inmate Baltazar stuck his arms in the opening. The sergeant ordered the cell door opened so it wouldn't close on the inmate's arms. When the door opened, the inmate lunged forward and head butted the sergeant above his left eye. The sergeant, and two other officers on the scene, used body holds and forced the inmate back into his cell and restrained him.

The sergeant sustained a one inch laceration above his left eye. He was taken to Noyes Memorial Hospital for treatment. He received seven stitches to close the laceration and was diagnosed with a concussion. He did not return to duty.

One other officer sustained minor scratches to his forearm and left upper eye area. He was treated by medical personal at the facility and returned to duty.

Baltazar, 28, who is serving a 2 to 4 year sentence after being convicted for Promoting Prison Contraband 1<sup>st</sup> in 2016 in Wyoming County, was transferred to Orleans Correctional Facility and placed in a special housing unit.

Baltazar faces disciplinary charges in the attack.

A report of the assault will be filed with the State Police.

“The sergeant was looking out for the welfare of an unruly inmate so his arms wouldn’t get caught in the cell door and be injured. For no reason at all, the inmate chose to lunge forward at the sergeant and head butt him, causing the sergeant to sustain a significant injury. Unfortunately, these type of attacks occur far too often and we need more resources and support to deter them from occurring. If we don’t get that, the assaults will continue to occur at an alarming rate”, stated Joe Miano, Western Region Vice President.

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