



Green Haven Officers Injured During Attack by Inmate

Penalties Need to be Strengthened for Attacks on Officers

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For Immediate Release

Beekman, NY – A Green Haven Correctional Facility inmate serving a 13-year sentence assaulted a female officer and injured several other officers who came to her aid at the maximum security prison.

The April 24 incident occurred as the inmate was returning from an assigned program. When he was ordered into his cell he instead charged the officer and punched her in the face several times, knocking her momentarily unconscious. A second officer radioed for assistance as the inmate turned and attacked him, striking him several times in the face.

After attacking both officers, the inmate walked away and headed down the cell block. A third officer ordered him to stop, but the inmate put the officer in a bear hug and head-butted him repeatedly to the face. The officer put the inmate on the ground as two other officers arrived. The inmate continued to fight with the officers on the floor, kicking and attempting to head butt them.

Officers got the inmate under control and into restraints after another officer applied OC popper spray.

“Tuesday’s incident is another example of how dangerous the environment can be inside our prisons. This attack was completely unprovoked by a violent inmate who no doubt will not be disciplined to the extent needed to deter this from happening again,” said Mike Mazzella, Mid-Hudson Vice President. “More officers are being injured because of the lack of disciplinary measures the department can apply to violent inmates. As this occurs, our members have become hesitant to protect themselves because of the department’s policies on using force to control a violent and dangerous inmate. It is our sincere hope that the Dutchess County district attorney will hold this inmate accountable for his criminal actions.”

The inmate, who was convicted in Westchester County in 2009 for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 3rd and Escape 1st, was transferred to Upstate Correctional Facility.

Five officers were treated at an area hospital and released. The female officer sustained a swollen and bloody nose, bruised forehead and face, and a sprained shoulder. The other officers were treated for abrasions, pain and swelling to arms and hands, a groin injury and torn ligaments to a hand. They did not return to duty.