



## ***Officers, Civilian Staff Injured at Coxsackie Correctional Facility***

### ***Two Separate Inmate Assaults Occur at Maximum Security Facility***

**For Immediate Release**

***October 29, 2020***

**Coxsackie, NY** – Multiple officers were injured at Coxsackie Correctional Facility last week when two combative inmates fought with officers in two separate incidents.

The first incident occurred on Monday, October 19, at approximately 7:35 a.m. in the mess hall. An officer observed an inmate take an unknown object from one of the mess hall workers. The inmate sat down and the officer approached him and ordered him to leave the mess hall so he could be searched for contraband. The inmate refused several orders given by the officer to leave the mess hall. He stood up from the table and swung at the officer, striking him in the forearm. The inmate exited the mess hall and was confronted by a second officer, who ordered him to get on the wall to be frisked. The inmate, who continued to be argumentative, took an aggressive stance at the officer. The officer administered one application of OC spray which had no effect. A second application of OC spray was administered and again, had no effect. The inmate then punched one of the officers in the back of the head. Additional staff responded to the call and the inmate was put in a body hold and forced to the ground. He continued to fight and struggle with several officers who were attempting to get handcuffs on him. Officers were able to force his hands behind his back and apply handcuffs to his wrists.

He was removed from the area and was placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary proceedings.

The inmate, 29, is serving a 16 year sentence after being convicted in Monroe County in 2014 for Attempted Assault 1<sup>st</sup>, Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3<sup>rd</sup> and Promoting Prison Contraband 1<sup>st</sup>.

Seven officers were injured in the incident. All were treated for multiple abrasions, scratches and bruising by facility medical staff. All remained on duty.

The second incident occurred at approximately 12:17 p.m. An officer witnessed an inmate become argumentative with one of the prison counselors. The officer ordered the inmate back into his cell. He refused several times to get back into his cell. The inmate lunged towards the officer and grabbed her uniform shirt, forcing her backwards to the floor. The officer landed on her right knee. She was able to administer one application of OC spray before the inmate turned and ran down the cell block. The counselor chased after the inmate and grabbed him in a body hold until two additional officers arrived on the scene. Another application of OC spray was administered to the inmate. Officers were able to get the inmate's arms behind his back and handcuffs on.

The inmate, 26, was removed from the area and placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary proceedings. He is serving a nine year sentence after being convicted in Kings County in 2015 for Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2<sup>nd</sup> and Attempting to Promote Prison Contraband 1<sup>st</sup>.

Three officers and the civilian counselor were injured in the incident. The female officer was transported to a local hospital with a knee injury. The two other injured officers and counselor were treated by facility medical staff and remained on duty.

"Two more violent attacks at Coxsackie prison, a day after two officers were injured fighting with an inmate who was armed with a make-shift weapon. Now we have ten officers injured in these two attacks along with a civilian staff member, who bravely came to the aid of a female officer. There simply is not enough disciplinary measures that remain to deter inmates from attacking staff. If we continue down this path of reducing or removing discipline for inmates that attack staff, we are going to see serious or life threatening injuries occur in these attacks." - stated Chris Moreau, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.