



## ***Officers Attacked at Wende Correctional Facility***

### ***Seven Officers Injured, Two Officers Exposed to Blood***

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 13, 2020**

**Alden, NY** – Seven officers were injured during an assault by an inmate at the maximum security correctional facility last week. In addition, two officers were treated for blood exposure at an outside hospital.

On Sunday, November 8, at approximately 8:35 p.m., an officer gave an inmate an order to get off the phone and return to his cell. The inmate refused the order. He was given several more orders to return to his cell. The inmate began to comply and just before he was about to enter the his cell, he grabbed a broom handle and came towards staff. He was given orders to drop the weapon but he refused. One application of OC spray was administered but had no effect. The inmate continued to come towards staff. Several more applications of OC spray were administered to the inmate but it had no effect. The inmate grabbed one of the officers in a bear hug and took him to the ground. He grabbed the officer around the neck and slammed his head into the concrete floor and punched him repeatedly in the torso. . A sergeant grabbed the inmate in a body hold to pull the inmate off the officer. Another application of OC spray was administered. The inmate released his hold on the officer on the floor, and went after the officer with the OC spray. Additional staff arrived and the inmate ran down the cell block. Staff were able to stop the inmate and grab him in a body hold and bring him to the ground. After struggling with officers and another round of OC spray being administered, officers were able to get the inmate's wrists into handcuffs.

The inmate was removed from the cell block and escorted to the medical infirmary. During the escort, the inmate spit blood into the face of one officer and kicked a second officer in the face with a bloody boot.

Seven officers sustained injuries in the incident. One officer needed to be transported to an outside hospital for bruising and abrasions. The remaining officers were treated for abrasions and minor injuries by facility medical staff. They remained on duty.

Two officers were taken to an outside hospital for blood exposure.

The inmate, 28, is serving a two to four sentence after being convicted in Queens County in 2019 for Criminal Contempt 1<sup>st</sup>. He was placed in a Special Housing Unit after the attack and faces internal disciplinary charges.

"This was a completely unprovoked attack that injured seven officers and exposed two officers to blood. This again is an example of how quickly things can escalate inside of a prison and how dangerous it can be. It is our hope that the Erie County District Attorney's Office will consider filing criminal charges in this attack and send a message, especially for any inmate serving a short sentence like this case, that they will be held accountable for attacking staff. " – said Mark Deburgomaster, Western Region Vice President.