



Officers Attacked at Five Points Correctional Facility

Violence Against Staff Continues at Prisons

December 23, 2020

Romulus , NY – As DOCCS announced the closure of three correctional facilities yesterday, the violence inside prisons continues to escalate despite the dwindling inmate population and the administration has done little to stem the violence.

On Tuesday, December 8, an inmate attacked an officer who was in the process of escorting him to the infirmary at the maximum security correctional facility. The inmate exited his cell, turned, and hit the officer in the face. Staff immediately responded to the scene. The inmate charged at those officers, who grabbed him in a body hold and took him to the ground. Handcuffs were applied to the inmate and he became compliant.

The inmate was removed from the cell block and placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges.

The officer sustained swelling to his right eye and was transported to an outside hospital for treatment.

The same day, officers were going to conduct a routine cell frisk for contraband. When they approached the cell, the inmate was brandishing a ceramic scalpel blade and threatening to stab and kill any officer who came into his cell. At one point, he took the blade and attempted to

stab a sergeant through his food hatch. He struck the sergeant in the elbow but did not break the skin. The inmate became more agitated and started a fire inside the cell with paper and magazines. The fire was extinguished quickly by staff and decision was made to extract the inmate from his cell. OC spray was utilized on the inmate, which initially was ineffective. The inmate eventually became compliant and officers entered the cell and removed the him without further incident.

On Monday, October 11, two officers were conducting random pat frisks of two inmates for contraband. One of the officers found an unknown object in one of the inmates front pocket. When he pulled the object from the inmate's pocket, the inmate came off the wall and knocked it out of the officer's hand to the ground. The inmate was placed in a body hold by the two officers and put up against the wall. The second inmate came off the wall and began striking one of the officers in the face and body. Additional staff responded to the attack and took both inmates to the floor. The inmates continued to struggle with officers. OC spray was administered to one inmate but initially was ineffective until officers applied handcuffs and he became compliant. The second inmate was still on the ground and had an officer in a choke hold and was restricting his breathing. Staff used force to get the inmate to release the choke hold. He was placed in handcuffs and removed from the cell block.

A search of the area located a sharpened make-shift weapon.

Both inmates were placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges.

One officer sustained bruising and swelling to his right knee, right elbow, midsection and forehead. A sergeant sustained pain and swelling to the left shoulder, hand and lower back. Both were treated by facility medical staff.

“Amidst a significant decline in the inmate population in this year alone, attacks on staff are still on a similar pace to 2019, which was a record year for assaults. Despite the seriousness of this issue, DOCCS has provided no viable solution to better safeguard staff. Yet, they can announce three more prison closures just days before Christmas, potentially uprooting hundreds of officers and their families. 2020 has been a trying year for this country and our members, who have been front line essential workers since this pandemic started, deserve much better from this administration. .” – stated Mark Deburgomaster, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.