



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

“Keeping New York Safe”

Large Inmate Fight in Recreation Yard at Five Points Correctional Facility

Three Officers Sustain Minor Injuries During Attack

April 26, 2021

Romulus, NY – Three officers were injured attempting to quell a large inmate fight in the recreation yard of the maximum security prison.

On Friday, April 9, two officers assigned to the recreation yard observed multiple inmates run over and confront other inmates near the phones in the yard. The inmates, 11 in total, began exchanging punches.

The two officers called for a response to the incident and additional staff arrived in the yard.

As the inmates continued to fight, officers gave multiple orders for them to stop. The inmates refused. Staff administered several applications of OC spray to the inmates. The OC spray was effective and the majority of the inmates stopped fighting.

One officer observed two inmates still fighting. They were given orders to stop. One inmate complied. The other inmate turned and struck the officer on the right side of his face with a closed fist. The officer grabbed the inmate in a body hold and took him to the ground. On the ground, the inmate swallowed unknown contraband. Still struggling with the officer, two additional officers assisted in getting the inmate into handcuffs. Once in handcuffs the inmate became compliant.

All inmates were escorted to the Special Housing Unit where they were treated at the infirmary for minor injuries and each placed in a Special Housing Unit cell pending disciplinary charges.

The officer who was punched in the face sustained bruising to his right cheek and pain to his shoulder. Two officers sustained minor injuries while getting the inmates under control. All were treated by medical staff and remained on duty.

“ The violence that exists in all of our state prisons will continue until DOCCS and our elected officials take a hard look at how dangerous the environment is for staff as well as inmates who follow the rules. A fight the size of this one can escalate very quickly and put staff in serious jeopardy when they try to get it under control. Thankfully only three officers sustained minor injuries but it certainly could have turned much worse. Until the administration and our legislators begin to understand the dangers our members face every day inside our prisons, they will continue to be in harm’s way.” – said Mark Deburgomaster , Western Region Vice President.