



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

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Overcrowd Already Crowded Prisons

September 25, 2008

“The New York State Department of Correctional Services today announced a plan that will jeopardize safety and put our members in harms way”, said Donn Rowe President of the New York State Correctional Officers P.B.A. (NYSCOPBA).

“Their plan is to overcrowd already crowded prisons in New York State”, said Rowe. In 2001 and 2004 the Department Of Correctional Services took the appropriate and proper steps of eliminating double bunks in New York State prisons. At that time the inmate population in New York Prisons was well above capacity at 130%. Currently NYS Prisons are operating at approximately 107% with over eight-thousand inmates in a double bunked situation. “Our members are already understaffed and work in the most dangerous atmosphere imaginable. We definitely understand the idea of saving costs, but doing so at the expense of our member’s safety can not be tolerated.”

While NYSCOPBA realizes the severity of the budget crisis and is willing to help the Department of Correctional Services solve some of their budgetary matters, we have to question the true impact of safety and security for both staff and inmates. “Having worked in New York State prisons for over 27 years, I can not believe that they have figured out a way to make a dangerous job even more dangerous.”

Donn Rowe
President

For additional information or comments contact Donn Rowe at 518-427-1551.