

PRESS RELEASE

STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF NEW YORK STATE CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

The following is a statement from Donn Rowe, President of NYSCOPBA, a 23,000-member union representing the State Security Services Unit, including New York State's prison correctional officers in response to a leaked memo by Howard Glaser, The New York State Director of Operations, that threatens major labor layoffs:

"We are always open to a dialogue with the Governor and his team concerning the many issues that affect our members. However, as contained in the Director of State Operations' recent memo, threatening layoffs to our bargaining unit – one that faces real-life safety threats everyday - is neither productive nor is it in the best interest of preserving New York's safety.

We understand and appreciate that this is a difficult time for our State and its people. And, in this time of sacrifice, we have already given more than most.

In addition to the seven prison closings this year, in the past two years alone we have lost nearly 1,000 officer positions due to cut backs. At the same time the Department of Corrections budget has continued to grow. Meanwhile, the level of violence has spiked throughout the prison system with inmate suicides doubling and violent attacks up by more than 12%. We need officers to keep our jails safe, not more bureaucrats wasting taxpayer money."