



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

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## **Media Release**

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### Green Haven Correctional Facility Locked Down after Large Fight among Inmates

#### *Maximum Security Facility Expected to Lift Lockdown Today*

A large fight among inmates in the yard at Green Haven Correctional Facility left two inmates needing treatment for puncture wounds Monday morning.

The maximum security facility, located in Dutchess County, was locked down after the fight so that the situation could be assessed for security purposes.

The incident occurred at approximately 10:50 a.m. An officer observed several inmates fighting in the yard. The officer entered the yard and was immediately elbowed in the left shoulder by inmate Raynell Burgess, who was waiting by the door. The officer was knocked to the ground. Burgess grabbed the officer's baton from his hands and ran. Burgess then struck inmate Rene Bonilla in the head with the baton.

The officer got to his feet and ordered Burgess to drop the baton, which he did. The officer retrieved his baton from the ground.

The officer then observed inmate Theodore Haynes kicking Bonilla in the face. He ordered the inmate to stop but Haynes continued until the officer used force to get him to comply.

Groups of fights continued. As the officer approached another fight, Burgess, armed with an ice pick type weapon, lunged at him. The officer struck Burgess in the wrist with his baton. He backed away but failed to drop the weapon. Inmate William Coleman then picked up a metal garbage can and threw it at the officer striking him as he attempted to block it.

A response team responded to the yard to assist the officer in gaining control of the inmates. Inmate Burgess was restrained and put to the ground. An ice pick type of sharpened metal was located underneath the inmate.

All of the additional inmates were frisked for weapons with negative results. A search of the yard turned up two additional sharpened weapons that were left on the ground.

A search for contraband of all cells in the housing unit where the inmates were assigned was conducted and three additional weapons were located.

The inmates identified by officers as participating in the fight are:

- Raynell Burgess, 33, serving a 13 year sentence after being convicted in New York County in 2009 for Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2<sup>nd</sup>, Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> and Attempted Coercion 1<sup>st</sup>.
- William Coleman, 38, serving a life term after being convicted in Bronx County in 1998 for Murder 2<sup>nd</sup> and Attempted Murder 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Theodore Haynes, 30, serving a life term after being convicted in Schenectady County in 2001 for Murder 2<sup>nd</sup> and Robbery 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Louis Quiles, 27, serving a 13 year sentence after being convicted in Bronx County in 2011 for Manslaughter 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Alexander Santana, 29, serving a 20 year sentence after being convicted in Bronx County in 2010 for Manslaughter 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Ezza Cromartie, 30, serving a 4 year sentence after being convicted in Queens County for Assault 2<sup>nd</sup>,
- Rene Bonnilla, 28, serving a life sentence after being convicted in Bronx County for Murder 2<sup>nd</sup>, Attempted Murder 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Attempted Assault 2<sup>nd</sup>.

All of the inmates involved in the fighting were placed in a Special Housing Unit.

Burgess sustained two puncture wounds, one to his left shoulder and one to his right shoulder. Cromartie sustained a puncture wound below his right ear and to his chest. Bonilla sustained abrasions to his left scalp, knees and upper and bottom lips. They were treated at the facility hospital for their injuries.

One officer sustained a minor injury and remained on duty.

The preliminary report indicates the fight was gang related. State Police were notified and the incident is still being investigated.

"Monday's incident is a clear indication of the violent culture that exists in our prisons, particularly amongst gang members. The officers that responded to the incident should be commended for their alert and quick actions in getting the incident under control before it escalated any further. The injuries to all involved could have been far more serious without their actions," stated, Mid-Hudson Region Vice President Michael Mazzella.

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