



## **Media Release**

January 5, 2015

### **Officers Assaulted at Green Haven and Sullivan Correctional Facilities**

*Increase in Violence Towards Officers Continues Into 2015*

Stormville, NY - Several correctional officers were injured after being attacked by inmates at Green Haven and Sullivan Correctional Facilities in separate assaults that occurred last December and at the beginning of the new year.

The first incident occurred at Green Haven on December 16 at approximately 12:45 PM. An officer observed Inmate Demetrius Bullock loitering in the doorway of a classroom he wasn't assigned to. The officer ordered the inmate to go back to the class he was assigned to. The inmate initially complied and walked by the officer. The officer smelled an odor of marijuana on the inmate and told him to stop and face the wall. The officer started to frisk Bullock. During the frisk, Bullock turned and elbowed the officer in the face and attempted to run away. The officer was able to grab the inmate and force him to the floor. Another officer responded and helped apply restraints to Bullock. Bullock was transferred to a special housing unit. The injured officer was transported to Vassar Brothers Hospital for pain, swelling and abrasions to his face, pain in his shoulders and abrasions to his elbow.

Bullock, 27, is serving a 3 to 6 year sentence after being convicted for Attempted Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> and Conspiracy 4<sup>th</sup> in Kings County in 2014.

The second assault at Green Haven occurred on December 18 at approximately 9:25 AM. A female officer observed an inmate in one of the hall corridors yelling incoherently. The officer approached the inmate and told him to face the wall. The inmate, Matthew Hoffman, refused the officer's orders. He then turned and punched the officer in the upper shoulder area. The officer grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. Hoffman continued to struggle violently. Another officer responded to the scene and helped restrain Hoffman until restraints could be applied. While the inmate was being escorted to a special housing unit, he lunged at and pushed an officer into a corridor gate. Another officer responded to that incident and he was head-butted by Hoffman in the face.

The three injured officers were treated at an outside hospital for their injuries. They were not able to return to duty. Their injuries are not considered serious at this time.

Hoffman, 31, is serving a 7-9 year sentence for Attempted Assault 1<sup>st</sup>, Burglary 3<sup>rd</sup>, Grand Larceny 3<sup>rd</sup> and Reckless Endangerment 1<sup>st</sup>. He was convicted in Ontario County Court in 2012.

On December 30 at Sullivan Correctional Facility, two officers were injured when they entered an inmate's cell who was attempting suicide and he attacked them when they tried to help. The incident occurred at approximately 4:14 PM. The inmate had tied a shoelace around his neck and attached it to a vent grate. Officers immediately entered his cell and ordered him to remove the shoelace. He refused to comply and resisted the officers attempt to get him free. He bit one officer on the right thumb and kicked another in the side of the head.

Officers were able to restrain the inmate with body holds and remove the shoelace from around his neck. He was removed from his cell to be evaluated.

Both injured officers were taken to Catskill Regional Medical Center for treatment. One was treated for the bite injury that caused the skin to break on his right thumb. The second officer was treated for a slight concussion. Both were treated and released and did not return to duty.

Brooks, 22, is serving a 7 year sentence for Robbery 1<sup>st</sup>. He was convicted in Kings County Court in 2013.

A third incident occurred at Green Haven on January 2, 2015, at approximately 9:10 AM. Inmate Adam Berardino was entering a cell block when he punched an officer in the face. The unprovoked attack caused the officer to sustain a broken nose and loose tooth. Another officer responded to the attack and helped restrain Berardino.

The injured officer was taken to an outside hospital for treatment and was released. He did not return to duty.

Berardino, 31, is serving a 4 to 9 year sentence for two counts of Burglary 3<sup>rd</sup> and one count of Attempted Promoting Prison Contraband 1<sup>st</sup>. He was convicted in Nassau County Court in 2010.

"Last year turned out to one of the most dangerous for our officers who work inside our prisons and protect all New Yorkers from violent criminals. Inmates attacked and assaulted our members on a regular basis. 2014 turned out to be the most dangerous in the past five years. As we enter the new year, our voices will continue to be heard until our members are provided with the necessary resources and staffing to protect them from unprovoked attacks," stated Mike Mazzella, Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.

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