

STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF NEW YORK STATE'S PRISON
CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS UNION ON GOVERNOR-ELECT CUOMO'S VISIT
TO SING SING PRISON

Albany, NY - November 11, 2010 - 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, on Governor-elect Cuomo's visit and comments at Sing Sing correctional facility.

"We are very pleased that Governor-elect Cuomo took a tour of Sing Sing and has made the systemic administrative problems of our prison system one of his top priorities. For the past two years NYSCOPBA has been asking (through legislative testimony and via bill A-11330 which was vetoed by Governor Paterson) for a thorough review of the Department of Correctional Services management of our prison system. We share the Governor-elect's concerns about the management of the prison system and agree that the process must be thoughtful and well managed if we are to save critical taxpayer dollars and keep our prisons safe.

"While our minimum- and medium-security prisons have seen a reduction in inmates, our maximum-security prisons, which hold the most dangerous and hardened criminals, remain at 122% of capacity that they were designed to hold. This is a crisis waiting to happen and an issue that must be addressed as part of the larger budget discussion. We are optimistic that the Governor-elect's management approach will deliver the results that we have been calling for and we look forward to working with him on this important issue."

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