



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

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NYSCOPBA PRESIDENT ROWE, “THERE IS NO SHARING OF THE PAIN!”

Facing a monumental fiscal crisis, the State of New York is making decisions that will impact the lives of all New Yorkers. “NYSCOPBA will not stand silent while its members who provide safety and security within New York State’s prisons are asked to bear more than their fair share of the State’s fiscal pain,” stated NYSCOPBA President, Donn Rowe.

In late September and early November of 2008, President Rowe voiced extreme -opposition to the New York State Department of Correctional Services’ alleged cost savings plan to consolidate several of New York’s prisons, and squeeze even more inmates into already over-crowded cells and dorms. “While they (DOCS) increase security risk, they are cutting vital Correction Officer staff positions,” said Rowe. Additionally, the State now seeks to have Correctional Officers and other civil servants bear even more of the burden associated with the State’s fiscal crisis by asking for concessions or “give-backs” from the State’s labor workforce.

Rowe points out, “We understand that the State is facing difficult times, but the pain must be shared equally across the board. At a time when the Commissioner of the Department of

Correctional Services is cutting vital Correctional Officer positions, squeezing inmates into already over-crowded prisons, and asking our Officers to do more with less, he is also expanding the number of administrators within his agency.”

According to Rowe, the prison consolidations implemented by the Commissioner not only greatly imperil Correctional Officers working in already extremely dangerous environments, they also thwart the intent of a State law designed to ensure that displaced Correctional Officers as a result of prison downsizing are afforded minimal notice prior to any relocation.

“The intent of the Prison Closure Notification Law, enacted just a few years ago, was to ensure that Correctional Officers and their families have at least some notice prior to any necessary relocation resulting from partial or total prison closures.,” adds Rowe. “While the Commissioner may refer to his actions as ‘consolidations’ they are having the same effect as a prison closure.”

According to Rowe, “There’s a growing morale problem within the prisons as a result of this Commissioner’s desire to generate ‘alleged’ savings at the expense of the Officers working inside the walls; and this problem is only going to get bigger if he continues in this same fashion.”

President Rowe explained that NYSCOPBA remains willing to work with the State and the Department in an effort to manage the State’s fiscal crisis. “...but if there is pain to be borne as a result of the struggling economy, it should be borne by all employees of the agency, including

administrators. NYSCOPBA expects fair treatment for its members. We ask nothing more, but we expect and will stand for nothing less,” stated Rowe.

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