



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

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## *"Keeping New York Safe"*

### *Officers Assaulted, Injured at Otisville and Sullivan Correctional Facilities*

*Multiple Officers Treated at Local Hospital*

**For Immediate Release**  
**April 20, 2023**

**Otisville, NY** – Six officers from Sullivan Correctional Facility and one officer from Otisville were treated at a local hospital for injuries that occurred when two inmates attacked them in separate incidents. The assaults occurred following two other attacks at Green Haven and Fishkill last week that left additional staff injured.

The first incident occurred on Wednesday, April 12 in the outside yard of Otisville Correctional Facility. An officer ordered an inmate to put his neck chain inside his shirt. The inmate immediately became confrontational. The officer ordered the inmate to submit to a pat frisk. Initially, the inmate complied and put his hands on a facility van. When the officer approached him, the inmate spun off the van and punched him in the back of the head. He struck the officer a second time, this time in the right eye. Protecting himself, the officer administered OC spray with no effect. Two officers responded to the attack and administered OC spray again. The two officers grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. The inmate remained combative on the ground. The officer who was initially assaulted, applied handcuffs to the inmate while he was being held on the ground by the other two officers. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant.

The inmate, 39, was removed from the yard. After the attack, he was transferred to Fishkill Correctional Facility. He is serving a 20 year sentence after being convicted in Kings County in 2007 for Assault 1<sup>st</sup> and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The injured officer was transported to Garnett Health Medical Center. He received three stitches to close a laceration under his right eye. He was also treated for swelling and bruising to the back of his head. He did not return to duty.

The two officers who responded to the incident were treated by medical staff at the facility for elbow pain and abrasions to the arm. They remained on duty.

On Monday, April 17, six officers needed to be treated at Garnett Health Medical Center for assorted injuries after an inmate faked being unresponsive in his cell and charged and attacked officers who entered the cell to check on his wellbeing at Sullivan Correctional Facility.

Initially, an officer conducting security rounds noticed a mattress had been propped up against a cell door. The inmate in the cell was sitting up against the mattress and did not respond to the officer. A response was called and additional staff arrived at the cell. The inmate continued to be unresponsive to staff. A sergeant on the scene had staff open the cell door so they could enter to check on the welfare of the inmate. When the cell door was opened, the inmate jumped to his feet and charged at staff. An officer armed with a plastic shield pushed the inmate backwards. Several officers grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him back into the cell and onto the cell floor. On the floor, the inmate was able to wrap his arm around an officer's neck and began to choke him. Another officer entered the cell and was able to pry the inmate's arm from around the officer's neck.

While still combative and kicking at staff on the floor, the inmate was placed in handcuffs. Leg restraints were applied next. Once in full restraints, the inmate became compliant. The inmate was removed from the cell and brought to the infirmary to be evaluated.

He was later transferred to Wende Correctional Facility.

Six officers were injured in the incident. Initially they were treated by facility medical staff. Following treatment at the facility, the officers were transferred to the medical center and treated for the following injuries: shoulder, lower back, arm, knee and elbow pain and swelling, a lip laceration and lack of range of motion in the shoulder.

The inmate, 26, is serving a five year sentence after being convicted for Burglary and Robbery 2<sup>nd</sup> in Onondaga County in 2021.

“In ten shorts days we have attacks at four correctional facilities in the Hudson Valley that left multiple officers injured and unable to work as a result of the assaults. That is four too many attacks as far as I am concerned. These senseless, unprovoked attacks on staff continue to go unchecked and without any ramifications. The HALT Act stripped any discipline that remained to deter inmates from attacking staff or other inmates. If this continues without the on-going violence being addressed by the legislature, I am certain there will come a day where an officer is critically injured, permanently maimed or killed at the hands of an inmate. We are in a crisis currently and unless there is action taken to address the violence by our elected officials it will

only get worse. Sadly, one of the officers injured at Otisville is a Little League coach in the community he lives in. His hand injury is serious enough that he will not be able complete all the duties of a coach and the kids that he coaches suffer because of that. His story is one of many officers who volunteer their time and because of injuries cannot do it anymore. – Stated Chris Moreau, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.