



## ***Multiple Staff Injured at Greene Correctional Facility***

*Injuries Occurred Containing Inmate Melee in Visitor Area*

### **For Immediate Release**

***April 16, 2025***

**Coxsackie, NY** – Five officers and a lieutenant were injured suppressing a large inmate fight in the visitor area that included several chairs being thrown which struck two officers before the fight was contained at the medium security correctional facility last weekend.

On Saturday, April 12, inmate visits ended in the Special Housing and Residential Rehabilitation Units (RRU). There were 20 inmates still in the visitor area when one inmate jumped up from his chair and ran over to two other inmates and began exchanging punches. The lieutenant assigned to the visit room called for a response as the melee escalated.

Officers grabbed the first inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground and applied handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, he became compliant. Another inmate in the room began throwing chairs at other inmates. An officer applied OC spray to the inmate, which was effective. Once under control, the inmate was placed in handcuffs. A second inmate joined in and began throwing chairs at other inmates but was quickly grabbed in a body hold and forced to the floor and placed in handcuffs.

A third inmate ran from the frisk area and joined in, throwing chairs, striking an officer in the arm. The inmate then began exchanging punches with another inmate before both were placed in body holds and forced to the ground and placed in handcuffs.

A fourth inmate threw a chair, striking a second officer in the arm before being handcuffed. As the incident was getting under control, an officer observed an inmate attempting to pick up a ceramic razor from the floor but quickly stopped him and seized the weapon.

Once order was restored, the inmates were removed from the visitor's area and brought for evaluation before being placed back in their Special Housing Units and RRU. All inmates involved in the melee face internal disciplinary charges.

All injured staff were brought to the medical facility and were treated for knee, shoulder, elbow, hip, wrist, back and hand injuries. All staff remained on duty after treatment.

"These are extremely challenging times for staff at all state prisons following the non-sanctioned strike. Staffing levels in many facilities are still low and it creates many challenges for officers to maintain order. It is a credit to those staff involved who suppressed the incident at Greene quickly and only sustaining minor injuries. With that large number of inmates in one area, who were already in specialized units for previous discipline infractions, it could have spiraled out of control quickly, but officers did an excellent job containing it swiftly. The unfortunate reality for those officers who handle themselves professionally is this will continue until the system is stabilized, staffed adequately and the on-going violence addressed." - stated Joe Horacek, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.