



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

NYSCOPBA Calls on DOCCS to Halt Labor Day Visiting Expansion Until Facilities Can Be Staffed Without Mandated Overtime

ALBANY, N.Y. — The New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association today criticized the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision's (DOCCS) decision to expand weekday holiday visiting, effective September 7, 2026, saying the change increases operational demand on a workforce already sustained by mandated overtime.

Labor Day is intended to honor the men and women who work. NYSCOPBA said DOCCS chose that week to announce that public visiting is being restored at additional facilities, while the officers who will staff those posts remain unable to use their contractually accrued time off.

Effective September 7, weekday holiday visits resume at additional maximum-security facilities and the remaining medium-security facilities. The Union said the expansion will require more inmate movement, more visitor processing, and more posts to fill — and that those posts will be staffed through additional overtime rather than through an adequate complement of officers.

"Our members are still being forced into mandated overtime. They are still being denied the vacation time they earned under their contract. They are still missing birthdays, anniversaries, children's games, and medical appointments because the Department cannot staff the system it is obligated to operate," said Chris Summers, NYSCOPBA President. "Expanding visiting days while officers cannot take their own days off is not a return to normal operations. It is a public announcement paid for with our members' exhaustion."

NYSCOPBA said it supports lawful, properly staffed visiting for families of incarcerated individuals. The Union said correction officers have kept New York's facilities operating

through chronic shortages, violence, and repeated exposures, and that mandated overtime cannot remain a permanent substitute for a workforce.

“We understand that family’s matter. When do the families of correction officers become equally important?” Summers said. “No one in this Union is opposed to lawful visiting that is staffed at safe levels. What we will not accept is DOCCS adding additional visiting days and times at facility after facility and then acting as though the personnel required to run those posts will appear on their own. They will not. They will be mandated on their already limited days off. “Our members have given this State more hours than it has any right to demand” Summers stated. “NYSCOPBA calls on DOCCS and the Governor’s Office to halt further expansion of visiting days until facilities are staffed to run those posts.”