



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Correction Officers Face Continued Violence, Weapons and Dangerous Drugs at Mid-State and Mohawk Correctional Facilities

For Immediate Release

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Marcy, NY — Correction officers at two New York State correctional facilities continue to confront dangerous conditions as multiple incidents involving inmate assaults, weapons and illegal drugs have occurred at Mid-State and Mohawk Correctional Facilities. The incidents demonstrate the ongoing challenges correction officers face maintaining safety and security inside facilities where weapons and dangerous drugs continue to make their way into inmate housing areas.

Mid-State Correctional Facility

Two officers had urine and feces thrown on them from inmates inside their cells at the facility. On July 20 and officer conducting rounds had urine and feces thrown on him from the inmate's feed hatch, striking him in the face and mouth. The second throwing incident occurred on August 31. An officer walking past the inmate's cell had urine thrown on him striking him in the neck and back.

Lab tests also confirmed Synthetic Marijuana and marijuana that inmates had concealed on them at the facility. In two incidents, officers conducted frisks of two inmates after body scanning in the visit room determined anomalies on both inmates. Both inmates had bundles inside their clothes that contained paper sprayed with liquid. The suspected drugs

came back as K2 and marijuana, respectively. The third recovery occurred when an officer conducted a pat frisk of an inmate and recovered papers that were sprayed with K2.

The series of incidents adds to growing concerns over the presence of weapons and drugs inside the facility and the increasing risks correction officers face during routine security operations.

Mohawk Correctional Facility

Mohawk Correctional Facility has also experienced a series of violent incidents inside inmate housing units.

Between June 6 and August 26, staff determined that four inmates were attacked inside their dormitories by unknown assailants. Several of the victims sustained lacerations that officers determined were caused by unknown weapons. One inmate's injuries were severe enough to require transportation to an outside hospital for additional medical treatment.

At least one of the attacks appears to have been gang-related, with the inmate being assaulted inside his living quarters. The incidents remain under investigation as staff work to determine who was responsible and how weapons were obtained and used inside the facility.

In a separate incident, correction officers recovered a metal shank that had been concealed inside an inmate's state-issued boot. An officer developed information that the inmate was concealing a weapon and conducted a search, resulting in the recovery of the sharpened metal weapon.

The recovery highlights the critical role correction officers play in preventing weapons from being used against staff and other incarcerated individuals.

“These incidents demonstrate the increasingly dangerous environment our correction officers are being forced to work in every day,” said NYSCOPBA Central Region Vice President Bryan Hluska. “Officers are dealing with inmates being assaulted with weapons, drugs being brought into our facilities, and inmates becoming increasingly violent and combative. These aren't isolated incidents—they are a continuing threat to the safety of our members and everyone inside these facilities.”

Hluska added that correction officers are often required to intervene in dangerous situations with limited time to react.

“Our members go to work every day knowing they may be called upon to respond to an assault, break up a fight, search for a weapon or confront an inmate under the influence of dangerous drugs,” Hluska said. “They continue to perform their jobs professionally and

courageously, but they need the resources, staffing and support necessary to keep these facilities secure.”

NYSCOPBA continues to call for stronger measures to address violence, drugs and weapons inside New York's correctional facilities and for policies that prioritize the safety of correction officers and all individuals working and living inside the state's prisons.