



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

NYSCOPBA Calls Attention to Wave of Violence at Franklin Correctional Facility, Inmate Dies Following Assault

Multiple inmate-on-inmate assaults, weapons recoveries, and contraband discoveries raise serious concerns about safety inside medium-security prisons

For Immediate Release

Malone, N.Y. — Correction officers and facility staff at Franklin Correctional Facility responded to a series of violent incidents last week, including multiple inmate-on-inmate assaults, the recovery of several makeshift weapons, and an attack that left one inmate dead from a traumatic brain injury.

The incidents, which occurred between October 17 and October 23, underscore the dangers correction officers face while attempting to maintain order and protect lives inside New York's correctional facilities.

During the week, officers recovered multiple icepick-style and makeshift weapons during pat frisks and dormitory searches. A coordinated search involving a K9 also uncovered additional weapons, a cell phone and charger, suspected drug-saturated paper, and approximately two gallons of homemade alcohol.

On October 22, staff responded to a fight in a facility dormitory and discovered an inmate repeatedly kicking another inmate in the head. The assault continued despite orders to stop, prompting an officer to deploy OC spray, which was effective in stopping the attack.

The injured inmate was found unresponsive. Medical staff administered multiple doses of Narcan without success. He was transported by ambulance to an outside hospital and

later airlifted to Albany Medical Center, where he subsequently died from a traumatic brain injury on October 24.

According to the preliminary investigation, supervisors determined that the deceased inmate had entered the other inmate's cube and initiated an attack. The second inmate was able to thwart the initial assault, and both fell over the cube divider while fighting. Once he gained control, the surviving inmate punched and kicked the other inmate in the head repeatedly as staff arrived.

New York State Police were notified and responded to the facility. The incident remains under investigation.

Other violent incidents throughout the week included:

- **October 17:** An officer recovered an icepick-style weapon from an inmate's pants pocket during a pat frisk.
- **October 18:** An inmate sustained multiple puncture wounds after being attacked by two inmates in his living cube. Both alleged assailants were identified by staff, but the weapon was not recovered.
- **October 18:** Officers recovered an icepick-style weapon hidden in an inmate's locker.
- **October 18:** An inmate sustained a laceration to his cheek and jawline after being attacked by three inmates in a dormitory. The weapon used in the assault was not recovered.
- **October 19:** Two inmates attacked another inmate in the mess hall. After repeated orders to stop, one assailant complied while the other continued the attack. Staff used force to stop the assault, and the injured inmate required treatment at an outside hospital.
- **October 19:** An officer recovered another makeshift weapon during a pat frisk.
- **October 21:** A coordinated K9-assisted dormitory search resulted in the recovery of a weapon concealed in an inmate's sneaker, three additional makeshift weapons hidden in inmate cubes, a cell phone and charger, approximately two gallons of homemade alcohol, and paper believed to be saturated with drugs.
- **October 23:** An inmate was attacked in his cube by another inmate. He escaped into a bathroom, where a second inmate assaulted him. Staff identified both alleged assailants.

- **October 23:** An inmate approached a National Guardsman in a dormitory with a laceration to his face. Staff determined that an unknown inmate had cut him with a weapon.

All inmates involved with hidden contraband and violence against other inmate's were placed in Special Housing Units pending disciplinary charges.

The frequency and severity of these incidents highlight the challenges correction officers and other facility personnel face in responding to assaults, locating dangerous contraband, and preventing violence from escalating.

NYSCOPBA Northern Region Vice President Dana Grammo said:

"When you have multiple assaults, weapons turning up in inmate dorms and during pat frisks, and an inmate dying after a brutal attack, it should be a wake-up call for everyone responsible for the safety and security of our correctional facilities.

"Our correction officers are expected to respond immediately when violence erupts, often in confined spaces and under dangerous circumstances. They must make split-second decisions to stop attacks, protect inmates, and restore order. They do that job every day, but they cannot be expected to overcome every security threat without the staffing, resources, and support necessary to do their jobs safely. Just alone in the last week staff had to respond to over five dozen inmates who were intoxicated on unknown substances. It is a drain on valuable resources.

"The discovery of so many makeshift weapons and other contraband is deeply concerning. Every weapon recovered is one less weapon that can be used to injure or kill someone inside a prison. We need to take these incidents seriously, hold those responsible accountable, and ensure our facilities have the personnel and security measures necessary to prevent violence wherever possible.