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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Cape Vincent Correctional Facility Officers Recover 12 Weapons, 65 Gallons of Homemade Alcohol; Eight Staff Injured During Series of Violent Incidents

For Immediate Release

November 2, 2026

CAPE VINCENT, NY – Correction officers at Cape Vincent Correctional Facility recovered 12 weapons, seized approximately 65 gallons of homemade alcohol and confiscated multiple pieces of paper saturated with synthetic marijuana during a series of searches and security incidents between July and October. Eight staff members were injured while responding to inmate-on-inmate fights and subduing intoxicated or combative inmates.

The incidents highlight the ongoing security challenges correction officers face inside New York's correctional facilities, where homemade weapons, dangerous contraband and intoxicated inmates create an increasingly unpredictable and hazardous working environment.

During the four-month period, officers conducting routine and targeted pat frisks of inmates, along with searches of inmate dormitories, recovered 12 make-shift weapons**,** preventing potentially dangerous weapons from remaining in the hands of inmates.

In addition to the weapons recoveries, officers seized approximately 65 gallons of homemade alcohol during searches. Staff also discovered and confiscated several pieces of paper saturated with synthetic marijuana, commonly known as K2.

The security operations and subsequent incidents came at a cost to staff. Six officers and two sergeants sustained injuries while intervening in inmate-on-inmate fights or attempting to subdue intoxicated inmates who became combative.

Of note, the following incidents occurred at the facility:

- On August 9, an officer heard and inmate screaming from the bathroom. When he entered the bathroom, the inmate had burns to his back when another inmate threw hot liquid on him. The burns were severe enough that the inmate needed additional treatment at an outside hospital.
- On August 20, an officer was injured when an inmate approached him, jumped up on the officer's podium and hit him in the side of the head. The inmate proceeded to pick up a chair and throw it at the officer, narrowly missing him.
- On September 29, officers saved an inmate from committing suicide in his cell. An officer conducting rounds, observed the cell window covered with a sheet. Officers were able to remove the sheet and saw the inmate inside unresponsive with a sheet tied around his neck and attached to the cell desk. Staff immediately entered the cell and were successful in removing the sheet from the inmate's neck. The inmate was removed from the cell and treated at the medical facility at the prison.

"Correction officers at Cape Vincent are constantly working to prevent dangerous situations from escalating, but the number of weapons, drugs and homemade alcohol being discovered inside our prisons is extremely concerning," said **NYSCOPBA Central Region Vice President Jason Whitehead.** "Twelve weapons, 65 gallons of homemade alcohol and synthetic marijuana-soaked paper recovered in just four months is not an isolated security concern. It is a clear indication of the dangers our members face every time they report to work. Eight staff members were injured doing their jobs and protecting the safety and security of these facilities."

"Every weapon recovered represents a potentially serious assault that may have been prevented. Every intoxicated or drug-impaired inmate who becomes combative puts correction officers and other incarcerated individuals at risk. Our members continue to do their jobs professionally under increasingly dangerous conditions, and they deserve the staffing, resources and support necessary to maintain safe and secure facilities."