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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Violent Inmate Attack at Five Points Correctional Facility Leaves Inmate with Multiple Lacerations; Officers Recover Makeshift Gun and Razor Weapon

For Immediate Release

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Romulus, NY - Correction officers responded to a violent inmate attack at Five Points Correctional Facility on November 3, during which three inmates attacked another inmate, leaving him with multiple lacerations to his face and upper body. A subsequent investigation led to the recovery of a makeshift firearm and a ceramic razor believed to have been used as a weapon during the assault.

The incident occurred in the facility's Residential Rehabilitation Unit (RRU), a unit created by the HALT Act that restricts the ability to handcuffs convicts while in programs. An officer assigned to observe programming witnessed one inmate approach another and punch him in the head. The two inmates began exchanging punches and ignored repeated orders from the officer to stop fighting.

The situation quickly escalated when two additional inmates joined the attack, kicking the initial inmate in the upper body while another inmate made stabbing motions toward him.

A facility response was immediately called, bringing additional officers to the scene. One officer secured the inmate initially attacked in a body hold and pushed him against a wall.

All three inmates involved in the attack eventually complied with orders to place their hands against the wall. They were handcuffed and removed from the RRU.

The injured inmate was transported to the medical facility, where staff treated him for lacerations to his cheek, nose, chin, forearm, neck and ear. It was determined that the injuries were consistent with those inflicted by an unrecovered weapon.

Following the assault, officers conducted searches of the inmates' cells. During a search of the cell occupied by the two inmates who joined the initial attack, officers recovered a fabricated firearm measuring approximately nine inches by twelve inches. The makeshift gun was constructed from paper and included a magazine and an attached light pointer. The weapon had no ability to be operational.

Both inmates were subsequently admitted to the Special Housing Unit (SHU). While in the SHU, one of the inmates turned over a black ceramic razor believed to be the weapon used in the assault.

All recovered contraband was secured and placed into evidence.

“This incident is another disturbing example of the level of violence correction officers are forced to confront inside our state prisons,” said NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President Kenny Gold. “Three inmates participated in a coordinated attack that left another inmate with multiple lacerations, and the subsequent recovery of a makeshift firearm and a ceramic razor demonstrates the dangerous contraband that continues to circulate inside our facilities. Our members are expected to maintain order and protect everyone inside these prisons, while risking their own safety, and they continue to face increasingly dangerous and unpredictable situations. The officers involved in the incidents that day at Five Points magnify how professional they are, did just as they were trained, made the facility safer and deserve to be recognized for their actions.”