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**For Immediate Release**

***Inmate Injures Two Central New York Psychiatric Center Staff***

***Inmate Kicks Out Side Window of Transport Van***

**Marcy , NY** – A 33 year old inmate patient from Central New York Psychiatric Center injured two staff members after she had to be forcefully removed from the Queens County Court Room last Thursday afternoon.

The incident occurred at approximately 4:30 PM. The inmate was refusing to leave the court room while screaming and threatening everyone inside the court. Four court officers, two Security Hospital Treatment Assistants and one Safety & Security Officer had to physically remove her from the court room.

She continued to be combative as she was placed in full restraints and placed in a transport van inside the secure parking garage. The transport left the court garage to bring the inmate back to Central New York Psychiatric Center in Marcy. Down the street from the courthouse, the inmate kicked out the side window of the van and again begun yelling and screaming at staff. Staff pulled the van over in an attempt to get the inmate to calm down.

Assisting the staff, was an off duty NYPD officer that witnessed the incident and called additional NYPD officers as a crowd gathered around the van. Once they gained control over the inmate, additional restraints were placed on her until she finally calmed down. NYPD then escorted the transport van out of the city for the trip back to Central New York.

A Safety & Security Officer sustained an injured shoulder. One of the Security Hospital Treatment Assistants sustained knee and pelvis injuries. Both staff members were seen at a local urgent care and have not returned to work at this time.

“This is another prime example of how our members need to have more resources to defend themselves from attacks. NYSCOPBA Security Staff need to have more tools, training and resources so they are adequately equipped to defend themselves from dangerous and aggressive inmate patients. It took four court officers and three staff members to get the inmate under control and she still was able to injure our staff members. Thankfully the injuries were not serious but they certainly could have been during a transport. The Office of Mental Health has to recognize the need for our members to be able to defend themselves in situations such as these. NYSCOPBA has had significant dialogue with NYS concerning our member’s safety in managing this type of population. OMH has failed to enact legislation signed by the governor to help Security Hospital Treatment Assistants and the state legislature is refusing to pass legislation granting Safety and Security Officers greater peace officer powers. New York State needs to do a better job of protecting their employees. Especially those that protect the community.” stated John Harmon, Vice President of Law Enforcement.

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