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**For Immediate Release**

## ***Two Officers Injured in Attack at Green Haven***

### ***Pepper Spray Used on Inmate to Stop Assault***

**Stormville , NY** – Two correction officers assigned to Green Haven Correctional Facility sustained minor injuries when an inmate, serving a 25 year sentence for manslaughter and attempted murder, pulled one of the officers into his cell and punched him several times.

The incident occurred on Sunday morning at approximately 8:20 AM at the maximum security prison. Inmate Anthony Torres, 50, had just returned to his cell but failed to lock the cell gate. An officer, assigned to the cell block, gave him several orders to close the gate but he refused. The officer went to the inmate's cell and attempted to close the cell gate. The inmate grabbed the officer by the shirt with both hands and attempted to pull him into the cell. The officer tried to push the inmate away but was unsuccessful. The inmate punched the officer several times about the body as he tried to pull him into the cell.

During the attack the officer activated his personal alarm and struck the inmate several times as the inmate pulled him into the cell.

The second officer responded to the scene and sprayed OC pepper spray in the inmate's face to get him to let go of the officer's shirt.

The inmate released his grip on the officer but continued to struggle violently with both officers when they attempted to get restraints on him. Two additional officers responded and put the inmate in body holds while the restraints were applied.

Inmate Torres, who was convicted of Manslaughter 1<sup>st</sup> and Attempted Murder 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2005 in Queens County, was removed from the scene and placed in a special housing unit.

Torres, who faces disciplinary charges, stabbed his estranged wife to death and stabbed her boyfriend in Jamaica, Queens in 2004.

Both officers sustained minor injuries and were treated by the facility medical staff.

“Sunday’s incident is a clear example of how providing our members with additional resources, like pepper spray, can help protect them as well as get violent inmates under control quickly. We are very lucky that none of our officers sustained serious injuries as it easily could have turned out that way if the officer did not deploy the pepper spray to thwart the attack. Currently, DOCCS has a pilot program to examine the use of pepper spray. It has proven effective and it should be utilized in all of our correctional facilities to minimize the violence”, stated Michael Mazzella, Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.