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UNPROVOKED ASSAULT ON CORRECTION OFFICER LEAVES HIM HOSPITALIZED

*At Downstate Correctional Facility,
Inmate Brutally Attacks Officer Leaving Multiple Facial Contusions*

Dutchess County, New York – On Sunday, March 26th, an inmate confined at Downstate Correctional Facility, serving a 20 years to life sentence for manslaughter, brutally attacked an Officer after refusing to leave a restricted area and return to his cell.

The inmate struck the officer without warning multiple times in the face with close fist punches. In a struggle to defend himself, the officer returned strikes. The Area Sergeant was notified to the altercation and a response team was able to use mechanical restraints on the now compliant inmate.

The Officer involved was transported to St. Luke's hospital where he received several sutures to treat the injuries to his face.

"As these violent attacks on our members occur, the Governor and the Department seem to turn a blind eye. It's time to arm ALL of our Officers with pepper spray and any other tool necessary for their protection. It's time to impose more severe disciplinary sanctions against the inmates that attack our staff. It's time to staff our Prisons properly and place those Officers in areas that will enhance security for the safety of our members. Our lives depend on it," said **Mike Mazzella, Mid-Hudson Vice President of NYSCOPBA.**

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