



## ***Officer Assaulted, Injured at Fishkill Correctional Facility Inmate Charges Female Officer and Chokes Her***

***For Immediate Release  
February 14, 2019***

**Beacon, NY** – A female correction officer was injured when an inmate charged her and starting to choke her with his hands at Fishkill Correctional Facility.

The incident occurred on Thursday, February 7, 2019, at approximately 9:22 a.m. The officer was assigned to the mess hall and observed an inmate leaving the mess hall. She observed the inmate with bulges in his front pockets. The officer approached the inmate and questioned him about what he had in his pockets. He removed two packaged food items and threw them at the officer. He charged the officer and initially grabbed her around the front of the neck and started to choke her. The inmate then changed position and put the officer in a choke hold, causing her to black out.

Additional staff responded to the scene and used OC Spray to get the inmate to comply. He was placed in mechanical restraints and was removed from the scene and placed in a special housing unit.

The officer was taken to a local hospital for treatment of pain and swelling to her knee and neck, abrasions and a possible concussion. She was unable to return to duty.

The inmate, 54 years old, is serving 12 years in prison for Manslaughter 1<sup>st</sup> after being convicted in 2014 in Kings County.

"In 2018 the number of inmate on staff assaults reached record levels once again. This latest attack at Fishkill is another example of what is occurring on a daily basis in our correctional facilities. With reduced disciplinary measures and penalties, there is no real deterrent that exists to stop these brazen, unprovoked attacks. I am proud that our sister officer was able to fight off the inmate long enough for a responding officer to arrive with pepper spray. The outcome could have certainly been much different. Our statewide elected representatives must understand that weakening the disciplinary system any further will continue to put both officers and civilian staff at risk- stated Mid-Hudson Region Vice President Michael Mazzella.