



## ***Officers Injured by Inmate at Shawangunk Correctional Facility***

### ***Scheduled for Parole in Less Than 24 Hours, Inmate Attacks Officers***

**December 10, 2019**

**Wallkill, NY** – A 31 year old inmate scheduled for release on parole attacked and injured four correction officers at the maximum security correctional facility last week.

The incident occurred on Tuesday, December 3, at approximately 2:50 p.m. A officer witnessed the inmate yelling at civilian counselor in an office. The officer ordered the inmate to leave the office but he refused. He was given a second order to leave the office. He refused again. The inmate then began to get aggressive and come towards the officer. The officer used his OC Pepper Spray on the inmate but it initially had no effect. The inmate charged the officer and punched him several times in the face. Several officers responded to the assault and the inmate was put in a body hold and forced to the ground. On the ground, the inmate continued to struggle. He bit one officer on the right hand, puncturing the skin. The inmate bit the forearm of a second officer during the struggle as well.

Staff eventually got the inmate under control and into mechanical restraints and he was removed from the area.

Four officers were injured during the attack. One officer sustained a deep puncture wound to his hand and fractured rib. A second officer sustained pain and swelling to his face. The third officer sustained an injured ankle, knee and pain and swelling to his forearm. A fourth officer sustained a left shoulder injury.

Several staff sustained minor injuries while getting the inmate into mechanical restraints.

All staff were treated for their injuries by facility medical staff. Two officers needed additional treatment at an outside hospital.

Two officers still have not returned to duty.

The inmate, who was serving a 3 to 6 year sentence after being convicted in Erie County for Promoting Prison Contraband 1<sup>st</sup> in 2014, was scheduled to be released on parole on December 4.

He was picked up and arrested on two counts of felony assault by the New York State Police.

“Less than two weeks after two officers were injured in a unprovoked attack at Green Haven Correctional Facility several officers were injured at Shawangunk by an inmate who was less than 24 hours from being released on parole. It is clearly obvious that there needs to be strict disciplinary measures to deter attacks like these two from happening. Reform advocates refuse to understand that the atmosphere inside our prisons is very violent and more needs to be done to protect staff from violent, unprovoked attacks like this.” – stated Michael Mazzella, Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.