



## ***Synthetic Marijuana Seized at Mohawk Correctional Facility***

### ***Drugs Hidden in Visitor Bathroom***

***February 19, 2020***

Rome, NY – Synthetic Marijuana, commonly known as K2, was seized from inside the hand soap dispenser in the women’s bathroom inside the visitor’s room.

The incident occurred on Saturday, February 15 at approximately 8:30 p.m. A female officer was conducting a routine search of the bathroom after all visitors had left the facility. She found three latex bundles hidden inside the dispenser. The drugs tested positive for K2. They weighed in excess of one and a half ounces. The drugs were taken as evidence.

Two days prior, officers seized a small quantity of K2 from an inmate during a search. Officers were conducting a cube search and pat frisk of an inmate when he reached both hands into his pant pockets. Officers ordered him to remove his hands from his pockets but he refused. They witnessed the inmate spit several items from his mouth onto the floor. Officers got him into body holds and forced him to the floor. During the struggle, the inmate bit one officer on the forearm before taking a plastic bundle and swallowing it. Officers were able to get mechanical restraints on the inmate and he was transported to the infirmary for observation. A small amount of K2 was recovered.

Two officers sustained minor injuries during the struggle but remained on duty.

“Drugs, particularly K2, continue to be problematic for our correctional facilities. Staff do a fantastic job detecting drugs flowing into prisons but as we continually see they still wind up in the hands of inmates. The two incidents at Mohawk last week are a perfect example of that. In addition, three officers were injured at Mid-State Correctional Facility when an inmate, who was being watched by staff, suddenly attacked an officer after he had barricaded himself inside his room. Every day our members are put at grave risk because of the failed policies of DOCCS. This will continue until they make staff safety their number one priority.” – stated Bryan Hluska, NYSCOPBA Central Region Vice President.