



NYSCOPBA Announces Death of Member from COVID-19

Safety & Security Officer from Kirby/Manhattan Psychiatric Center Dies from Coronavirus Complications

***For Immediate Release
April 3, 2020***

Albany, NY – NYSCOPBA sadly announces the death of one its members due to complications from the Coronavirus. William Plantt, 62, a Safety & Security Officer assigned to Kirby/Manhattan Psychiatric Center, died last night after contracting the virus.

Plantt, who lived in Brooklyn, has been assigned as a SSO at Kirby/Manhattan since 2004.

No details are available at this time as to how or when he contracted the virus.

NYSCOPBA issued a statewide press release on Monday, March 30 calling for DOCCS and OMH to allow staff at both agencies to wear PPEs to further prevent the spread of COVID-19 in state correctional and mental health facilities. On Wednesday, April 1, DOCCS issued a memorandum allowing all employees to wear a N95 respirator or surgical-type mask while at work.

OMH has not followed DOCCS decision and continues to refuse to issue masks or let employees bring in their own protective gear despite repeated requests by NYSCOPBA to do so to prevent this deadly virus from spreading to staff and patients.

"First and foremost, on behalf of the NYSCOPBA Executive Board and its membership, I would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to William Plantt's family. He was good man and his death is a tragedy. Like all front line personnel during this pandemic, William came to work every day knowing the risks associated with his job and did so with professionalism and integrity. His death should send a clear message to the Commissioner of OMH that all employees need to be provided with PPEs to protect themselves during this crisis. Not doing so is an injustice to all the men and women who continue to come to work each day and serve the State of New York." – stated John Harmon, NYSCOPBA Vice President of Law Enforcement.