



Officer Attacked at Coxsackie Correctional Facility

Officer Sustains Fractured Skull and Sternum

July 2, 2020

Coxsackie, NY – An inmate at Coxsackie Correctional Facility viciously attacked a correctional officer on Monday, June 29, causing the officer to sustain a serious head injury.

The assault occurred at approximately 3:33 p.m. The officer was escorting the inmate to the showers and took the mechanical restraints off the inmate's wrists. The inmate immediately spun around and punched the officer in the face and tackled him to the shower floor. The inmate landed on top of the officer. The officer struck the back of his head hard on the floor. The officer was able to get free and get up off the floor. The inmate attempted to punch the officer again but missed. The officer was able to defend himself and strike the inmate in the chest. The inmate turned and ran out of the shower area and back to his cell where he closed his cell gate.

Additional staff arrived on the scene and proceeded to remove the inmate from his cell.

The officer who was attacked was taken to the facility clinic where his injuries were assessed. He was transported to Albany Medical Center where he was diagnosed with a fractured skull and sternum.

The inmate, 22 years old, was placed in a Special Housing Unit. He is serving a three year sentence after being convicted in Monroe County in 2019 for Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd. He has past disciplinary history of attacking staff at the prison.

State Police were notified of the attack.

“This absolutely horrific attack on one of my members needs to be a wakeup call to DOCCS and Governor Cuomo as advocates continue to lobby for additional reform to Special Housing Units. The day before the attack, a fellow NYSCOPBA member sent a memo to supervisors at Coxsackie expressing concerns about staffing levels not being adequate to run the inmate showers safely. The following day his concerns came to fruition in this vicious attack. If this isn’t a prime example of why there needs to be measures to restrict violent inmates through Special Housing Units I am not sure what is! Any additional reforms will further put officers in jeopardy” - stated Michael Mazzella, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.