



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

“Keeping New York Safe”

NYSCOPBA Officials Call for Immediate Changes to Protect Staff

Calls on New York State Legislature to Address Increasing Violence at State Prisons

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NEWBURGH, NY – Today, members of NYSCOPBA’s Executive Board called on elected officials to immediately address the rising violence against staff in the state prison system during a press conference held at the Mid-Hudson Regional Headquarters in Newburgh.

According to state data, since 2012 assaults on staff have increased 100% and inmate on inmate assaults have increased 92%. Over that same timeframe, the prison population has decreased by over 20,000 inmates.

For years, NYSCOPBA has called for changes within the prison system that will protect staff from unprovoked violent assaults in a prison population that now overwhelmingly consists of the most violent felons. Unfortunately for the men and women who protect all New Yorkers, those calls have been met with little to no action from DOCCS and state legislators.

The incidents that NYSCOPBA reports on a weekly basis only highlight a fraction of the dangerous working conditions that exist for the men and women of NYSCOPBA. As the violence continues to rise, the resources staff have to combat the violence have been severely diminished over the last several years as discipline has been significantly reduced. Unfortunately, that trend will continue with the hastily passed HALT legislation that will go into effect next year.

These reforms will only lead to more violence on sworn and civilian staff at the hands of inmates that recognize there is little or no discipline left for their actions.

Instead of listening to false narratives - the facts speak for themselves. They paint an indelible picture of violence against staff and a very dangerous work environment for our members.

“The time to act is now! Our elected officials must stop ignoring the facts and educate themselves on the environment that truly exists behind those walls. Until they understand that our members are under siege and begin to enact reforms to address the violence, we will not sit idly by as officers get seriously injured at the hands of inmates. We will use every recourse at our disposal to force effective change that will improve safety for everyone that work and are incarcerated in our correctional facilities.” – stated Chris Moreau, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.