



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Multiple Officers Injured During Inmate Fight at Coxsackie Correctional Facility

Three Officers Need Treatment at Local Hospital

April 29, 2021

Coxsackie, NY – Eight officers were injured at Coxsackie Correctional Facility last week when two inmates began fighting and refused multiple orders from staff to stop.

A sergeant and two officers were transported to a local hospital for treatment of injuries sustained attempting to stop the fight.

On Tuesday, April 20, the sergeant observed two inmates begin to exchange punches in the mess hall at approximately 7:35 a.m. As the inmates continued to fight, a response was called and several officers responded to the mess hall. The inmates were given several orders to stop fighting but ignored them all. Staff administered OC spray on four different occasions as the inmates continued to fight. The OC spray was ineffective.

As the inmates continued to fight on the floor of the mess hall, the sergeant and another officer grabbed one of the inmate’s shirt and pulled him off of the other inmate. Once under control, the inmate became complaint. Two officers grabbed the second inmate by his waistband and shirt and pulled him off the floor. The inmate continued to struggle with officers. They used body holds and forced him to the floor and with assistance from other officers they were able to get him into handcuffs.

Once in handcuffs, the inmate was complaint. Both inmates were brought to the infirmary to be treated for their injuries. After treatment, one inmate was placed in a Special Housing Unit. The second inmate was placed in a cell. Disciplinary charges on both are pending.

The sergeant sustained pain and swelling to his knee, ankle, lower back, right shoulder and hip. One officer sustained pain and swelling to his right hand and thumb. A second officer sustained pain and swelling to his right hip, right shoulder and redness to his eye. They were treated and released at the hospital and did not return to duty.

Five officers sustained minor injuries attempting to break up the fight and get the inmates under control. They were treated by the facility medical staff and remained on duty.

“Despite calling on state legislators to make meaningful policy changes to protect staff, here we are once again reporting on multiple officers injured from an incident at Coxsackie. While the officers did not sustain injuries from being attacked this time, they nevertheless were injured by two inmates who refused to listen to several orders to stop fighting. The violence numbers speak for themselves. The politicians elected to represent us must understand the gravity of danger that exists daily for our members and address the violence that exists in our prisons before someone gets critically injured or killed” - stated Chris Moreau, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.