



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

# ***"Keeping New York Safe"***

### ***Officers Seize Drugs at Gouverneur Correctional Facility***

### ***Union Officials Once Again Demand Secure Vendor Program***

#### **For Immediate Release**

**May 14, 2021**

**Gouverneur , NY** – Drugs were once again seized in inmate packages at the medium security prison prompting NYSCOPBA to once again call on DOCCS to re-install the Secure Vendor Program to help stem the flow of drugs getting into prisons throughout the state.

On Monday, May 10, an officer processing packages opened a can of fish and discovered four green cellophane bundles inside the can. The bundles contained a green leafy substance that was determined to be synthetic marijuana, commonly known as K2.

The drugs, which weighed 93 grams, were mailed from an address in Brooklyn.

On Wednesday, May 12, an officer in the mail room noticed abnormalities in four cans of food mailed to an inmate. A K9 in the mail room at the time, alerted on the cans. The cans were opened and each contained plastic bundle hidden inside. Inside each bundle was a green leafy substance determined to be K2.

The drugs, which weighed 104 grams, were mailed from Rochester.

In addition to those seizures, an officer conducting a pat frisk of an inmate on Tuesday, May 11, felt a bulge inside of the inmate's pants. The inmate was taken to another room so a full frisk could be conducted. The inmate voluntarily removed a latex bundle from inside his pants and turned it over to the officer. The bundle contained two strips of Suboxone, multiple sheets of

paper that appeared to have been saturated with an unknown drug, and 37 small packets that contained synthetic marijuana.

The drugs were seized as evidence.

The inmate, 41, was placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges. He is serving a six year sentence after being convicted for Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance 3<sup>rd</sup> in Dutchess County in 2018.

**“As successful as staff has been stopping drugs from getting into the hands of inmates through mailed packages, drugs are still making their way inside of state prisons. Unfortunately, drugs are still going to get into the hands of inmates until DOCCS wakes up and re-installs the Secure Vendor Program. At the end of April, at Marcy Correctional Facility, a civilian needed to be hospitalized after being exposed to the deadly drug Fentanyl that was saturated in a towel inside an inmate package. Having the Secure Vendor Program in place could help avoid potential deadly situations like that. DOCCS needs install that program immediately!” – stated Bryan Hluska, NYSCOPBA Central Region Vice President**