



CORRECTION OFFICERS' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
"PATROLLING THE TOUGHEST PRECINCTS IN NEW YORK"

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HORIZON SHOULD BE SHUT DOWN IMMEDIATELY!

The following statement can be attributed to COBA President Elias Husamudeen:

"In less than 3 days, up to 25 Correction Officers assigned to the ACS Horizon Juvenile Facility have been assaulted and injured.

The Mayor and the Advocates have minimized these brawls and decided that this is acceptable by stating, "there have been some incidents involving youth and officers."

In a completely tone deaf statement, the person who forced officers to be transferred using the threat of being disciplined, DOC Commissioner Cynthia Brann said, "the officers hurt Wednesday showed courage and bravery in the early days of this historic transition." . . . "We thank them again for their commitment to their law enforcement duties and their presence in this facility, which will help make this transition a success."

A spokeswoman for the Administration for Children's Services, which runs Horizon said in a statement, "We are in a transitional period " and that these were "non-serious and minor injuries."

The last officer assaulted from Horizon was kept in the hospital over night for observation. He has a serious head injury.

It appears that almost everyone is prepared to sacrifice the life of Correction Officers for this social experiment.

This is looking a lot like the south during the 60's, when the state and local government officials refused to get involved to protect the rights of all of its citizens.

Why are the lives and careers of Correction Officers being marginalized and discounted by these City and State officials?

Correction Officers are resigning from the agency rather than face the danger at Horizon. One cited the lack of safety tools like OC spray and stated, "I went to the Department with a clean record, I don't want to leave it with a Criminal Record."

Martin Luther King Jr. said, "There comes a time where silence is betrayal" -- Where are Governor Cuomo, Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, Attorney General Underwood, Public Advocate Leticia James, Bronx DA Darcel Clark and Attorney General Jeff Sessions? Crimes such as "gang assaults" are being committed inside this Horizon facility.

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If the state, city and federal government refuses to step in and do something immediately, we will be forced to take our safety in our own hands.

These 16&17 year-olds are not the Kalief Browders of the world. They are not in for open containers, turnstile jumping or stealing a book bag.

Well over 40 percent of them are there for felonies – most have been remanded for crimes such as murder and attempted murder and others for gun charges.

This is why the Kennedy Foundation isn't here bailing out the 16&17 year olds from Horizon.

The city is on notice that it must take action today to make Horizon a safe workplace before a Correction Officer loses his or her life or Horizon must be shut down.”

Elias Husamudeen
COBA President

