



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

Press Release

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President
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COBA TO PUBLIC ADVOCATE TISH JAMES AND THE CITY COUNCIL: EITHER ACT NOW TO PROTECT CORRECTION OFFICERS OR THE BLOOD OF CORRECTION OFFICERS WILL BE ON THEIR HANDS!

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

"Last night, an inmate housed in an Enhanced Supervision Housing unit at the Otis Bantum Correctional Center on Rikers Island, who is charged with murder and three assaults, lashed out and attacked a correction officer as he was completing his tour.

The inmate threw scolding hot water on the officer and then proceeded to punch him repeatedly. The officer was transferred to the emergency room at New York Cornell Hospital and treated for 1st and 3rd degree burns and a broken nose.

This same inmate was responsible for assaulting another correction officer just last year in the same exact housing unit.

This assault marks the fourth vicious assault on a correction officer since February 10th when Correction Officer Jean Souffrant was brutally beaten by four members of the Bloods, leaving him with a fractured neck.

We have come to expect zero action from the Mayor and his Correction Commissioners over the past four years. So, we are calling on New York City Public Advocate Tish James and the entire New York City Council to act now to protect us. The Mayor is willing to have the blood of correction officers on his hands, are you?

What are you going to do about this recent assault on our Correction Officer? This was done by an inmate in another one of these alternative to Punitive Segregation Housing units (ESH).

These programs and units are void of any real sanctions against assaultive inmates.

We demand that all hot pots be removed from the jails immediately. It's the least that can be done and we are calling on you to ensure the DOC complies with this request immediately.

Arresting inmates and increasing their bails isn't the only thing that needs to be done, as Bronx DA Darcel Clark has said.

Transferring inmates to other jurisdictions where punitive segregation and inmate sanctions exists, isn't helping us here in the city.

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No more talk. No more excuses.

It's time for you to take action against the perpetrators of this violence against us. It's your job to keep the jails safe.

Nothing has been done by the Mayor and his Correction Commissioners. It's time for them to be held accountable and for you to use the power of your office to help protect correction officers

How many more correction officers have to get their nose and jaws broken, have urine and feces splashed at them, and have their neck broken before you act?

We demand that you take action and that you take action now!"

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