



**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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## **FOLLOWING COBA'S REPEATED DEMANDS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, THE STATE OF NEW YORK HAS ISSUED A SEVEN DAY WAIVER ALLOWING CORRECTION OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO HORIZON TO USE PEPPER SPRAY TO TERMINATE INMATE ASSAULTS**

NEW YORK- COBA President Elias Husamudeen today announced that the State of New York has issued a seven day waiver, giving New York City Correction Officers the ability to use chemical agents (aka pepper spray) at The Horizon Juvenile Facility in The Bronx.

With the exception of Horizon, Correction Officers are equipped with and use pepper spray at every single DOC facility as a first line of defense to break up inmate on inmate fights and inmate assaults on Correction Officers.

"Correction Officers at Horizon have been basically working with their hands tied behind their backs by not being able to use pepper spray to terminate inmate fights," said COBA President Elias Husamudeen. "Every day that goes by without the use of this invaluable tool, increases the chances for Correction Officers to be seriously injured, if not killed by assaultive inmates at Horizon. We're hopeful that this temporary waiver will be extended and made a permanent part of our equipment once it is clear that it has helped reduce assaults on Correction Officers."

More than 40 Correction Officers have been injured during violent inmate brawls since the facility opened a week ago, with one Correction Officer sustaining a broken nose over this past weekend.

COBA spent the last several months testifying before the City Council about the City's poor planning and preparedness to execute the Raise The Age implementation and despite numerous warnings from COBA, Mayor de Blasio's Administration simply looked the other way which only exacerbated the current crisis.

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