



Department of Human Services

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

Thalia Wright
Commissioner of Human Services

For Immediate Release:

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Incident at Monroe County Children's Detention Center

On Sunday, June 20 at about 2:00 p.m., a fight broke out between youth offenders at the Monroe County Children's Detention Center (CDC) in Rush. The incident started between two members of rival gangs who are housed at the CDC, with the aggressor seeking retaliation for a recent crime committed in the city of Rochester.

Approximately 11 youth were involved in the incident, which happened outdoors while two groups of youths were being moved between buildings.

Six Youth Detention Workers attempted to break up the fight, but were outnumbered. During the altercation, one female staff member sustained a finger injury and a bruised sternum when a youth pushed through a gate she was holding closed. No youths were injured during the altercations.

Detention center workers were able to secure the facility before Monroe County Sheriff's Deputies and supervisors responded to the scene for backup.

The primary instigator of Sunday's fight has been transferred to a special section of the Monroe County Jail. Both the instigator and his target are detained on murder charges.

The Sheriff's Office is working with CDC staff to determine if additional charges will be filed against the youth who participated in the melee.

"This is another example of the serious and dangerous population we currently have housed at the Monroe County Children's Detention Center," said Thalia Wright, Monroe County Commissioner of Human Services. "Fortunately, this situation did not result in more serious injury. But continuing staffing shortages and an increase in violent offenders at the CDC have made the situation at the facility increasingly dangerous."

This is the second incident at the CDC in recent weeks that led to staff injuries and a transfer of residents to the Monroe County Jail. In May, 10 juvenile offenders were moved to the jail following a fight that injured four Sheriff's Deputies and one detention center worker.

That event happened the day after the Monroe County Sheriff's Office began assisting CDC staff with an ongoing rise in violent incidents. Following that incident, deputies remained at the CDC for a week, maintaining security and assisting CDC staff with training and implementing new protocols. After those trainings and security protocols were set up, MCSO deputies left the facility back in the hands of the CDC staff.



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“I’d like to commend the MCSO Road Patrol and Jail deputies who responded to and received additional adolescents into our jail from the CDC,” said Sheriff Todd K. Baxter. “I want to reiterate the staff at the CDC did a great job trying to deal with a tough situation that they continue to face every day. Our deputies remain prepared to assist the CDC in any way possible in this non-conductive environment.”

Currently, 10 juveniles previously housed at the CDC are being held at the Monroe County Jail. There are 19 youth now being housed in the facility. Relevant state agencies as well as the parents of all youth involved in Sunday’s altercation have been notified.

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