

Attica inmate sentenced for attack on guards

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An inmate who attacked and injured two Attica Correctional Facility guards last year was sentenced Wednesday to six to 12 years in state prison.

Delanta Spires, 29, received the sentence in Wyoming County Court.

County Judge Michael M. Mohun ordered the time to be served consecutive to the 10 years Spires was already serving for a 2012 first-degree robbery conviction out of New York City.

“This case, once again, underscores my office’s commitment to aggressively prosecute any major crime that occurs within the prison system,” District Attorney Donald O’Geen said in a news release.

He continued, “It is and will continue to be a long-standing policy of my office to prosecute these severe kinds of crimes because it provides a real deterrence to whomever wants to commit a crime within the walls of the prison and it creates a safer and secure environment for the good men and women who serve within those walls.”

The incident in which Spires injured the corrections officers occurred Aug. 21, 2013, in Attica’s C Block.

Spires was given prescribed medication and was caught trying to hide the pills in his mouth instead of swallowing them. Inmates sometimes fake taking the drugs and then sell them inside the prison.

Spires sucker punched one officer. The guard was hit in the head, knocked out and suffered multiple fractures in his face and jaw.

Two other corrections officers were injured during the incident. One was transported to a hospital for treatment after Spires bit him on the arm.

The third guard was treated at United Memorial Medical Center for what was thought to be a minor knee injury that occurred as he responded to the incident. It turned out to be a serious knee injury.

The officer with the injured knee and the one who was knocked out have not yet returned to work. The guard who was punched in the face will have surgery, O’Geen said.

A grand jury returned a six-count indictment against Spires on Oct. 29, 2013. He was charged with four counts of second-degree assault, Class D felonies and two counts of assault on a police officer, which are Class C felonies.

Spires appeared Feb. 27 in County Court and pleaded guilty to three reduced charges of attempted second-degree assault, with the stipulation of a sentence of six to 12 years. Spires faced seven to 15 years in prison if convicted of the most serious charge, assault on a police officer.

Spires is now housed at Clinton Correctional Facility.