

# Onondaga County Sheriff's Office News

## Kevin E. Walsh

Sheriff



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## Justice Center Inmate Charge with Assaulting Staff

**Syracuse, New York-** Onondaga County Sheriff Kevin E. Walsh reports that a Justice Center Inmate has been charged with assault after launching an attack on Justice Center Staff.

This morning, at approximately 8:20 am, Custody Deputy Frederick Smith (38), was attacked by inmate Joel Flores (31), of 523 Winton Street. Deputy Smith was conducting a tour of the upper tier in the Justice Center's Pod 5c, when Flores launched his surprise assault. Flores began punching and kicking Deputy Smith, forcing him to fall onto the upper tier floor, where Deputy Smith continued to struggle with Flores.

Deputies Ronald Reinsmith (58) and Trent Tanner (55), who were also assigned to the housing unit, radioed for assistance and responded to the upper tier in attempt to gain control of Flores. Flores began fighting with Deputies Reinsmith and Tanner until additional deputies from within the Justice Center arrived on the scene.

Deputies Fred Smith and Trent Tanner sustained several injuries and were transported to University Hospital by Rural Metro Ambulance. Deputy Ronald Reinsmith was also injured during the assault and was transported to University Hospital by Justice Center Staff.

Sheriff's Detectives were called to investigate the incident and subsequently charged Flores with assault in the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree. Flores was place in administrative segregation pending further outcome of the investigation.

Flores was one of 45 inmates being housed in the Justice Center's Special Housing Unit. Flores was originally being held at the Justice Center on charges of assault in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, resisting arrest, and criminal mischief in the 4<sup>th</sup> degree, petit larceny and burglary in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree.

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