

Student With Knife Stabs 2 School Safety Agents

By DAN ROSENBLUM | Posted: Monday, April 27, 2015 5:00 pm

Two School Safety Agents were injured last week after a melee with an emotionally-disturbed student wielding a knife in a Staten Island school cafeteria.

History of Mental Illness

The incident occurred April 21 around noon at Gaynor McCown Expeditionary Learning School in New Springville when a male student “with a history of mental illness was acting irrational and was in possession of a knife,” the NYPD said.

A school employee told the Assistant Principal that 18-year-old Demarra Spicer might be armed, according to an account of the incident provided to this newspaper by the union representing the SSAs, Teamsters Local 237. He then “became nervous and wanted to leave the school” before allegedly brandishing the blade and striking the officers.

The agents received minor injuries while subduing the student: a 50-year-old officer was cut on her finger, requiring three stitches, and a 51-year-old officer had a cut and a bite mark on his hand. A third officer wasn’t injured but a shirt and uniform were slashed.

The SSAs were taken to Richmond University Medical Center for treatment. The incident was caught on two security cameras. Mr. Spicer was brought to the 121st Precinct and charged with two counts of second-degree assault and 10 other counts related to the incident. No students were injured, according to a DOE spokesman.



A Close Call

A CLOSE CALL: A School Safety Agent in Staten Island displays a slashed uniform after helping to disarm an 18-year-old who allegedly brandished a knife in a school cafeteria. Two officers were injured in the April 21 scuffle, one of whom required three stitches.

Council's Different View

The attack came a week after a City Council hearing on tracking the use of police in schools, the role of SSAs in “restorative justice” reforms and potentially removing metal detectors in some schools. Local 237 President Greg Floyd said the incident demonstrated that removing scanners could endanger students and school staffers.

Mr. Spicer is also expected to appear in Staten Island Criminal Court to answer a summons for underage possession of a knife that was issued in January.