



PORTAGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE - JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

May 8, 2021

Portage County Sheriff's Office

On Friday, May 7th at approximately 8:30PM, Sheriff's Dispatch received a call from the Portage-Geauga County Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) reporting a fight broke out within the center which was described as a "ALL OUT BRAWL" involving an unknown number of subjects. Upon arrival Deputies learned that a total of seven juvenile detainees were involved. Three Correction Staff were on site with one additional operating their central control. Upon commands by the correction staff three of the detainees immediately returned to their housing units while the other four were causing severe damage to the housing pod. Three of the four detainees attempted to escape with one being secured immediately and two successfully escaped their POD area. Upon the arrival of Deputies, the building was secured with the assistance of the Ravenna Police Department and the Ohio Highway Patrol. A search of the Building located the remaining detainees who broke into other areas of the building causing further damage to the facility. Fire extinguishers were taken by detainees and used in an attempt to gain access and take control of the Centers "Central Control" area by harming the Detention Officer manning that post. Foam from the fire extinguishers was also used to cover windows so arriving deputies would have no visual of the areas. Once all Detainees were secured Mantua-Shalersville EMS and Fire evaluated all Detention Staff and Detainees for injuries suffered during the brawl. Deputies filed 28 Felony charges against four of the juvenile detainees which include Aggravated Riot, Assault, Escape, Aiding Escape, Resisting to Lawful Authority, Vandalism, Possession of Criminal Tools, and Disrupting Public Services.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ralph Spidalieri".

Ralph Spidalieri

Chief Deputy

Portage County Sheriff's Office