

CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
2715 ATLANTIC AVE.
ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. 08401



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 12, 2026

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Atlantic City Police Charge Several After Altercation During Demonstration

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — On September 12, at approximately 11:00 a.m., a demonstration occurred in the 2700 block of Atlantic Ave.

The demonstration began without incident. During the demonstration, however, an altercation involving several individuals occurred within the crowd. As officers exited the Public Safety Building to respond to the incident, they encountered several protesters who had moved into the street and another protester who was occupying the designated access area, which had been left open to ensure safe ingress to and egress from the Public Safety Building.

Officers directed the individuals to clear the access point and street. Individuals refused to comply with those directions and were arrested.

Officers also investigated the original altercation that occurred among several individuals within the demonstration crowd. Individuals determined to have been involved in the altercation were charged and arrested. One individual sustained minor injuries during the altercation and was transported to AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center for treatment. That individual was subsequently issued a summons.

“The constitutional right to peacefully protest is fundamental and is respected by the Atlantic City Police Department,” said Chief James Sarkos. “That right, however, does not extend to physically obstructing access to a public safety facility, preventing police officers from safely entering or exiting the building, or interfering with the public’s ability to obtain police services.”

ARRESTED: Diana Chaparro, 50, of Hammonton, NJ

CHARGES: 2C:12-1A (1) – Simple Assault, A Disorderly Persons Offense

ARRESTED: Jose Salazar, 18, of Princeton, NJ

CHARGES: 2C:12-1A (2) – Simple Assault, A Disorderly Persons Offense; 2C:39-6I (1)– Illegal Possession of a Chemical Device (Pepper Spray), A Disorderly Persons Offense

ARRESTED: Cristian Moreno-Rodriguez, 31, of Atlantic City, NJ

CHARGES: 2C:29-1A – Obstruction of Justice, A Disorderly Persons Offense

ARRESTED: Keli Smith, 41, of Egg Harbor Township, NJ

CHARGES: 2C:29-1A – Obstruction of Justice, A Disorderly Persons Offense; 2C:29-2A (1) – Resisting Arrest, A Disorderly Persons Offense

ARRESTED: Anthony Diaz, 30, of Newark, NJ

CHARGES: 2C:29-1A – Obstruction of Justice, A Disorderly Persons Offense

ISSUED COMPLAINT: Devon Barber, 28, of Atlantic City, NJ

CHARGES: 2C:12-1A (1) – Simple Assault, A Disorderly Persons Offense

These charges are merely an accusation and not proof of guilt. In all criminal cases, a charged defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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