

CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

2715 ATLANTIC AVE.
ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. 08401



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 23, 2026

Atlantic City Police and Atlantic County Sheriff's Office Apprehend Wanted Fugitive

The Atlantic City Police Department and Atlantic County Sheriff's Office collectively worked together to apprehend a wanted fugitive after shooting a firearm.

On July 23, 2026, at 1:25 PM, Lieutenant Joseph Rauch was at the intersection of South Carolina Avenue and Bacharach Boulevard when he heard a single gunshot. He then observed a man running from the area as others scattered.

Thomas Butler fled towards the Atlantic County Courthouse, where he encountered members of the Atlantic County Sheriff's Office who began to pursue Butler while he was in possession of a firearm. Butler was ultimately apprehended by Officers Adrian Nunez-Santos and Michael Zuniga of the Atlantic City Police Department several blocks away. Butler dropped the firearm before he was taken into custody without further incident.

An investigation determined that Butler fired a single gunshot at another male who was not injured. Butler was found to have an active arrest warrant after he escaped from a corrections facility in Delaware.

ARRESTED: Thomas Butler, 27, of Smyrna, DE.

CHARGES: Aggravated assault, unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, unlawful possession of an extended magazine, certain person not to possess a weapon, and fugitive from justice.

Butler was remanded to the Atlantic County Justice Facility. 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.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact the Atlantic City Police Department Violent Crimes Unit at 609-347-5858 or submit a text anonymously to tip411 (847411). Begin the text with ACPD.

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