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Pleasantville man charged in attempted carjacking in Absecon

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By JENNIFER BOGDAN, Staff Writer

ABSECON - A Pleasantville man has been charged with impersonating a police officer after he allegedly brandished a gun and badge while attempting to gain entry into a car traveling on Route 9 early Wednesday morning.

Police said Carlos Diaz was standing at a small bridge just north of Holy Spirit High School at about 3:30 a.m. As a car traveling north approached, Diaz, 31, allegedly attempted to flag down the vehicle showing what appeared to be a police badge.

When the car slowed down, Diaz allegedly pulled out a gun. The car then maneuvered around him and the occupants contacted police, who said they located Diaz in the area.

Police said the weapon Diaz displayed was a BB gun designed in the style of a handgun. The badge Diaz allegedly displayed was a bail bondsman's badge. Diaz told police he was laid off from a local bail bonds company, Sgt. Robert Ponzetti said.

In addition to the badge and gun, police confiscated brass knuckles from Diaz, police said. He was charged with carjacking, possession of a handgun, two counts of aggravated assault, possession of brass knuckles and impersonating of an officer.

Diaz was being held in the Atlantic County Jail in lieu of \$150,000 bail.

The names of the two people in the car were not released.

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