

NJ cops accused of sexual assault committed 'separate and independent acts,' authorities say

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The two South Jersey police officers charged Monday with sexual assault of a minor and official misconduct are accused of committing "separate and independent acts," authorities said.

Atlantic City police officer Andre Corbin, 43, of the Mays Landing section of Hamilton is charged with two counts of official misconduct, two counts of sexual assault and endangering the welfare of a child — all second-degree crimes. He is also charged with fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct.

Brigantine officer Ralph M. Pereira, a 43-year-old resident of that city, is facing five charges — two counts apiece of sexual assault and endangering the welfare of a child and one count of criminal sexual conduct.

Atlantic City Prosecutor Jim McClain announced the charges Tuesday evening.

Both officers were involved with a 16-year-old girl, McClain said in the release. Each held a position of authority over a victim.

The prosecutor's office declined to say whether the same girl was allegedly assaulted by both men, the Press of Atlantic City reported.

Corbin has been arrested before, the Press reported. In 2008, he was charged with aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury. The charge was tossed the next year, though, for "insufficient evidence."