

North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State

NEWS

December 7, 2023

For Immediate Release

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Elaine F. Marshall
Secretary of State

Durham County Man Charged with Selling More than 1,000 Pairs of Counterfeit Shoes, in Addition to Drug and Weapon Charges

RALEIGH – A Durham man is facing felony counterfeit trademark charges following the seizure of more than 1,000 pairs of sneakers and boots with an estimated retail value of nearly \$192,000. The estimated retail value is the amount the genuine trademarked items would sell for.

During the search of the retail store in Durham, agents also uncovered illegal weapons and drugs.

Derris Levar Batiste, 44, of Durham is facing seven felony charges including criminal use of a counterfeit trademark, possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of a stolen firearm, trafficking opium or heroin, possession with intent to manufacture, sell, or deliver a Schedule II controlled substance, along with an additional felony charge because it was within 1000 feet of a park, and maintaining a building which is used for keeping or selling a controlled substance.

The Durham County Sheriff's Office and agents with the North Carolina Secretary of State's Anti-Counterfeiting Task Force discovered counterfeit items including 984 pairs of Nike sneakers, 86 pairs of Adidas sneakers, 36 pairs of Timberland boots, and 11 pairs of Nike/Louis Vuitton shoes. Blazer Investigations also provided assistance in the case.

“Not only are consumers getting inferior quality goods when they buy counterfeits, but they're supporting criminals who harm honest manufacturers and merchants,” said N.C. Secretary of State Elaine Marshall. “We don't want consumers to get taken during this season of giving by buying counterfeit products.”

Secretary Marshall created the N.C. Anti-Counterfeiting Task Force in 2004. Since its founding, the Task Force has worked more than 7,500 cases and taken more than \$190 million in counterfeits off the streets.

The North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State has the statutory duty to enforce laws that protect the holders of state and federally registered trademarks.

Suspected counterfeit goods can be reported to the Secretary of State's Office at anticounterfeit@sosnc.gov.