

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Jury convicts woman in counterfeit merchandise case; 2 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The most recent trial session led by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team resulted in a jury's conviction of a woman who was found with more than 200 pieces of counterfeit trademarked merchandise. Another two defendants entered guilty pleas. The proceedings were held in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Daniel A. Kuehnert, Superior Court Judge, during the week of March 13, 2017.

Tammy Renee Howard, 45, was tried for felony criminal use of a counterfeit trademark. The jury found Howard *guilty* as charged. Judge Kuehnert sentenced her to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As a condition of her probation, Howard must serve 45 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail. In June 2015, authorities from the North Carolina Secretary of State's Office, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department executed a search warrant at Howard's home. More than 200 pieces of counterfeit trademarked merchandise – including handbags, purses, wallets, sunglasses and watches – were located in the home and seized. An expert in the identification of counterfeit trademarked goods confirmed that all of the seized merchandise were counterfeit trademarked goods. Howard had been purchasing the counterfeit merchandise in New York or ordering them from China and then selling the items through her business, "Store on Wheels."

Henry Zepeda-Ramirez, 22, pled guilty to misdemeanor larceny. Zepeda-Ramirez was sentenced to 205 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Tyler Huff, 17, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) two counts of obtaining property by false pretenses. Huff was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Huff must serve 45 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](http://www.facebook.com/charmeckda) and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.*

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