

Gastonia Police Department

NEWS RELEASE

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Car Seized in Drug Case to Lead Veteran's Day Parade; Wanted by Police: Previous Car Owner Merrill Baker

Gastonia Police want to send a message to drug dealers: If you sell drugs, we will take your car.

A 2003 Cadillac has been awarded to Gastonia Police through District Court as an illegal proceeds forfeiture in a felony drug case. The Cadillac, which previously sold for \$27,500, was also outfitted with about a \$12,000 package of spinner wheels, rims and lambo doors.

Police now own the vehicle and have added a few touches of their own: decals, blue lights and a siren. Police plan to use the Cadillac leading today's Veteran's Day Parade which starts at 11 a.m. at Broad Street and Main Avenue. The car will be used in the future for police recruiting, Crime Prevention and anti-drug programs.

Police will be distributing flyers featuring the Cadillac and its previous owner, Merrill Baker, during today's parade because the car is being debuted and police are looking for Mr. Baker who faces four felony drug charges.

Mr. Baker is described as black male, 27-years-old, 5'6" tall, and he has resided in the Shelby area. Anyone with information on Mr. Baker's whereabouts is asked to call Gastonia Police at (704) 866-6702 or (704) 866-3300.

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