

# MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT



Public Information Office  
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Subject: **STATEMENT ON CHASSIDY SAUNDERS MURDER**

On Saturday, January 16, 2021, at approximately 7:00 p.m., Chassidy Saunders – a beautiful, loving, and vibrant 6-year-old girl – was killed on the 5500 Block of NW 6<sup>th</sup> Place, while she was attending a party. Chassidy’s life was taken from her in a hail of bullets intended for someone else. From the moment the shots which tragically ended Chassidy’s life were fired, the Miami Police Department has worked tirelessly to identify those responsible for her death and bring them to justice. In the days following Chassidy’s murder, the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office recognized the existence of a potential conflict of interest. State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle’s Office rightly recused itself from the case, which was transferred to the Office of Broward State Attorney, Harold F. Pryor. While we recognize that nothing can bring back Chassidy, the Miami Police Department’s Homicide Unit has successfully established sufficient probable cause to charge Mr. Warneric Anthony Buckner (DOB: 05/18/2001) with Chassidy’s murder. On June 28, 2023, Mr. Buckner was charged with one count of second-degree felony murder and two counts of attempted first degree murder via a sealed information filed by the Broward State Attorney’s Office. Mr. Buckner is currently in federal custody on unrelated charges. Because the charging document in this case is under seal, we cannot provide further comment regarding the specifics of this investigation and the charges filed against Mr. Buckner. I do, however, want to express the Miami Police Department’s continued support for Chassidy’s family. The Miami Police Department is fully committed to the prevention of gun violence and to holding those who carry out these crimes, especially those who victimize our community’s children, accountable for their actions.

I also wish to acknowledge the tireless work of the detectives, crime scene investigators, officers, and professional staff of the Miami Police Department who made the filing of these charges possible, as well as the Office of Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle; the Office of Broward State Attorney Harold F. Pryor; the Miami-Dade Police Department, under the leadership of Director Alfredo (Freddy) Ramirez, III; and the Miami Field Office for Homeland Security Investigations, under the leadership of Special Agent in Charge Anthony Salisbury.

Manuel A. Morales  
Chief of Police

Prepared by:  
Reviewed by:  
Case: **210116-0003357**  
Transmittal Date: **June 29, 2023**

Manuel Morales, Chief of Police

NEWS RELEASE