



# **KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE STATE ATTORNEY**



## **ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Two Charged in 2016 Murder of FIU Student**

Miami (July 27, 2021) Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle and Miami-Dade Police Director Alfredo “Freddy” Ramirez III announce two arrests in the December 2, 2016 homicide of 21-year-old Michael Zaldua, a Florida International University student and freelance photographer.

Zaldua was shot and killed in an off-campus parking garage connected to the 4th Street Commons apartment complex in Sweetwater. Arrested today were 25-year-old Donterio Rashad Fowler, a Pinellas Park resident, and 23-year-old Keondre Quamar Fields, a St. Petersburg resident. Both individuals are being charged with First Degree Murder with a Deadly Weapon as the alleged perpetrators in the death of Michael Zaldua. On the date of the homicide, both Fowler and Fields were attending school in Miami-Dade County.

At the scene of the homicide, investigators located cash scattered around the victim’s body, a loaded Glock magazine also near the victim’s body, and a firearm inside of his jacket pocket. A large amount of blood was prevalent at the crime scene over which a vehicle had driven through, leaving a clear tire impression. A subsequent search of the victim’s car revealed several large size Ziploc bags containing suspect marijuana and a small baggie of suspect cocaine. Additional evidence was gathered since the homicide and supplemented the original investigation, leading to the charging of Fowler and Fields.

“When a loved one is killed and there is no arrest, the family tragedy only deepens as time passes and questions remain unanswered,” commented Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle. “Hopefully, the arrests of the alleged perpetrators of this homicide will provide some solace to Michael Zaldua’s family in the knowledge that the Miami-Dade Police Department and my prosecutors never stopped searching for those responsible for his death.”

“This case is another example that the tireless and determined work of the Miami-Dade Police Department Homicide Bureau and the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office is constant,” said Director Alfredo “Freddy” Ramirez III. “Loved ones deserve to know and deserve proper closure.”

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