

Office of the State Attorney
Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida
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MELISSA W. NELSON
STATE ATTORNEY

311 West Monroe Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202-4242
TEL: (904) 255-2500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: David Chapman
Phone: (904) 255-3004
Cell: (904) 524-6626
ChapmanD@coj.net

Feb. 25, 2021

DUVAL COUNTY GRAND JURY INDICTS BAER, HYDE FOR FIRST-DEGREE MURDER

State Attorney Melissa Nelson today announced the return by a Duval County grand jury of indictments charging two defendants with First-Degree Murder in longstanding cold cases.

The grand jury returned First-Degree Murder charges for:

- **William Baer Jr. S.A. No. 20CF032948AD.** Baer also is charged with Kidnapping with a Weapon, Armed Robbery, Armed Burglary, and Aggravated Battery. Baer, a former Jacksonville Sheriff's Office detective, and a co-defendant were arrested in July 2020 for the 1999 murder of local businessman Saad Kawaf. The case is being prosecuted by State Attorney Melissa Nelson and Chief Assistant L.E. Hutton.
- **Ronnie Hyde. S.A. No. 17CF012484AD.** Hyde also is charged with 25 counts of Possession of Photographs/Sexual Performance by a Child. Hyde was arrested in March 2017 for the 1994 murder of 16-year-old Fred Laster. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant State Attorney Alan Mizrahi.