

DETECTIVE TESTIFIES IN COP'S KILLING - HE TELLS OF SUSPECT'S TALK WITH MOM

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Friday, February 6, 2009

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A Detroit teen accused of fatally shooting an officer told his mother that she should have reported as stolen the car he was driving the night Officer Mason Samborski was shot, Oak Park Detective Jim Vernier testified Thursday.

Jonathan Belton , 16, of Detroit allegedly made the comment while in custody at the Oak Park Public Safety Department after the shooting.

The teen is charged as an adult with first-degree murder and murder of a peace officer in Samborski's Dec. 28 death in an Oak Park apartment building. He was bound over to Oakland County Circuit Court. He also faces two counts of possession of a firearm in commission of a felony.

Belton is scheduled to be in circuit court Feb. 24 for arraignment.

Police have said Samborski stopped **Belton** , who was driving without a license, and intended to take him to an adult at the Rue Versailles apartment complex, where **Belton** said he lived.

Vernier testified in 45-B District Court in Oak Park during the preliminary exam, which started last month. He said **Belton** also told his mother that she should get his T-shirt off of the gate. Deputy Nichole Gradinscak, a forensic lab specialist with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, testified that a white T-shirt was found on a fence near the apartment complex.

Belton 's mother, Jawana **Belton** , said after the hearing that she and her son never discussed the situation while at the department. Detective Sgt. Gary Miller, of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, testified that records for Samborski's cell phone show 20 calls made to **Belton** 's family and friends after Samborski was shot. Miller said police assume that **Belton** made those calls.

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo

CAPTION:

Suspect **Jonathan Belton** , 16

CAPTIONWRITER: Slain Officer Mason Samborski

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Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS; NEWS

Page: 5B

Index Terms: shooting; homicide; police; juvenile

Record Number: dfp0000676974

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