

## **Witness: Lies led to cop's death**

Detroit News, The (MI) - Friday, January 23, 2009

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Teen girl testifies boy charged in officer's slaying asked her **to** pose as relative, resulting in skirmish, shooting.

By Mike MartindaleThe Detroit News

OAK PARK — A preliminary exam for a Detroit teenager charged in the slaying of a police officer began Thursday with two witnesses testifying how Jonathan Belton — or someone who resembled him — fled an apartment building after the shooting.

Belton, 16, is charged with the Dec. 28 slaying of Oak Park Police Officer Mason Samborski, 28, who was killed in the line of duty after a traffic stop.

Police say Samborski determined Belton did not have a driver's license and took him **to** an Oak Park apartment in the 10 Mile and Greenfield area, where he expected **to** turn him over **to** an adult. Belton's friend, Kendesha Jackson, 15, told Oak Park District Judge David Gubow that Belton had called her from the back of a police car asking her **to** pretend she was his mother.

"I told him that wasn't going **to** work," said Jackson, who instead posed as Belton's sister.

But Samborski, a four-year veteran and married father of a daughter, saw through the ruse and Jackson said she heard Belton say he didn't want **to** go **to** jail, **to** which Samborski responded: "Are you getting smart with me?"

Jackson testified that Belton ran down the hallway with Samborski in pursuit. She said she shouted for him **to** stop as he and the officer struggled. Another neighbor, Eric Washington, testified that he heard the noise and a woman's voice saying "It ain't that serious," and a few seconds later, a gunshot rang out.

Jackson said she looked out in the hall and saw Belton standing over Samborski, pointing a handgun down at his motionless body. Washington, who lived on the second floor, said he saw someone who resembled Belton, stare at Samborski's body before running away.

Belton later called back Jackson **to** apologize for what he had done and **to** ask what she had told police, she testified. When she told him she told police she had heard a gunshot but didn't see him shoot Samborski, she said Belton said something "slick" and said "That's good." He surrendered **to** police several hours later.

The exam was adjourned until Feb. 5.

Edition: 2-dot

Section: Metro

Page: 2B

Record Number: det34653691

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