

16 - year - old sought in fatal shooting of Oak Park police officer

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By Mike Martindale

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OAK PARK – Police continue to look for a **16 - year - old** teen believed to be responsible for the **fatal shooting of an Oak Park police officer** early this morning.

Lt. Mike Pinkerton with the **Oak Park** Public Safety Department said "multiple crews" are on the lookout for Jonathan Belton, who **police** believe is involved with the **shooting death of Officer** Mason Samborski, a four- **year** veteran **of the Oak Park** department, after a traffic stop.

The **shooting** happened around 12:30 a.m. after Samborski, 28, pulled over a **16 - year - old** driving without a license. Samborski allegedly drove the teen to the Rue Versailles apartment complex to turn the teen over to an adult when a struggle ensued and Samborski was shot. Pinkerton wouldn't comment on where Samborski was shot or if he was shot with his own gun.

"We don't know why this traffic stop was made," Pinkerton said.

Police are seeking Belton, who is believed to be driving a 1997 Jeep Grand Cherokee, blue or green **in** color. Anyone with information about the vehicle or teen is asked to call their local **police** department immediately.

Pinkerton wouldn't confirm or deny if Belton has Samborski's gun.

Pinkerton said Samborski was married with a young daughter. Funeral arrangements are being determined. **Oak Park police** , meanwhile, are banding together to find the suspect.

Being shot on the job "is something you understand is a possibility every time you come to work but when it hits your department, you realize how real that possibility is," Pinkerton said.

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