

## Teen arrested in officer's death

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Police say 28-year-old was shot during struggle at Oak Park apartment complex after traffic stop.

By Maureen FeighanThe Detroit News

OAK PARK — Oak Park Public Safety Officer Mason Samborski of Howell had wanted to be a police officer for a long time, said his father, Ken Samborski.

While a student at Michigan State University, Samborski, 28, worked for the East Lansing Police Department. And after graduating, he went through police and fire training and joined the Oak Park Public Safety Department four years ago.

"He was awesome," said Ken Samborski of Brighton. "I've never seen a kid with a heart of gold like that."

But Mason Samborski's public safety career ended early Sunday morning, when the young father was shot to **death** after a traffic stop **in** Oak Park. A 16-year-old Detroiter, whom Samborski allegedly pulled over and then escorted to a nearby apartment complex where a struggle ensued, is being held **in** Oak Park custody and likely will be charged today or Tuesday.

"Our officers are heartbroken," said city Public Safety Director John McNeilance. "But we're going to get through this."

Jonathan Belton, the **teen arrested in** the shooting, turned himself into the Detroit Police Department around 2:15 p.m. Sunday after police spent hours looking for him. He was accompanied by his father, pastor and family friends, said Detroit Police spokesman James Tate.

"Jonathan is a good kid, brought up **in** the church," said Lodonn Nash, his aunt, one of several family members inside the Public Safety Department on Sunday afternoon after Belton's arrest.

"This is out of character ... We just have to put it all **in** God's hands."

The shooting — which marks the first **death** of an Oak Park police officer since 1973 — happened about 12:30 a.m.

Police said Samborski, who was working alone, pulled over a Jeep Cherokee around 10 Mile and Greenfield, **in** which he found a 16-year-old driver without a license. Police were still investigating why the Jeep was pulled over.

After stopping the Jeep, police said Samborski took the **teen** to the nearby Rue Versailles apartment complex, east of Greenfield, to turn him over to an adult. While he was investigating the situation, police said a struggle ensued, and Samborski was shot.

McNeilance wouldn't say where Samborski was shot, if he was shot with his own gun or if the weapon was recovered. Samborski was wearing a bullet-proof vest. He was taken to Providence Hospital **in** Southfield, where he was pronounced dead.

Sunday afternoon, one of the apartment building's doors was covered with plastic and a small strip of police tape.

Daniel Greenbaum and his wife, Gillian, live **in** the Versailles Biarritz apartments, just east of the Rue Versailles complex where the shooting occurred. He said other than an incident last year, when someone was chased by police, the area is usually pretty quiet and safe.

"I was pretty shocked," said Greenbaum. "I was awake last night (when it happened) and I didn't hear anything."

Back at the Oak Park Public Safety Department, pictures of Belton — front and side views — hung on the record department's window throughout the day.

Officials wouldn't say whether the **teen** had had previous run- **ins** with police.

Lt. Mike Pinkerton described Samborski, who was married with a 1-year-old daughter, as "as a good kid" who was helpful and caring. His dad agreed.

"He was a just genuine, genuine kind man," Ken Samborski said.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

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