

## Teen charged with killing Oak Park cop sent to jail

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By Mike Martindale

The Detroit News

**OAK PARK** – An **Oak Park** District judge ordered a 16-year-old Detroiter pending charges in the **killing** of a police officer moved out of a county juvenile facility **to** the Oakland County **Jail**.

Jonathan Belton is **charged with** the Dec. 28 slaying of **Oak Park** Officer Mason Samborski, 28, killed in the line of duty when he apparently tried **to** give a break **to** an unlicensed teenage driver following a traffic stop. Belton has been held in Oakland County Children's Village since his arrest that day but assistant prosecuting attorney Ken Frazee asked District Judge David M. Gubow **to** have Belton moved **to** the **jail** for the safety of other juveniles.

Frazee said information collected during the investigation of the case – concerning Belton's involvement in matters including possible gang activity – made him a risk **to** others. Gubow said part of the placement order will include his instructions that Belton is be kept separate from other prisoners in the **jail** .

Prisoners 17 years of age or older are routinely placed in the Oakland County **Jail** . Because of the violent nature of the crime Belton's juvenile status was waived and he is being tried as an adult in the slaying of Samborski, a four-year veteran who is survived by a wife and daughter.

Samborski was fatally shot after taking Belton **to** an apartment complex in the 10 Mile-Greenfield area where he was **to** be turned over **to** an adult after stopped for driving without a license. For still unexplained reasons, investigators believe the pair struggled in a hallway of the apartment and Belton was able **to** wrestle Samborski's gun away from him and fire the weapon.

A preliminary exam scheduled **to** determine whether there is enough evidence **to** move the case over **to** Oakland Circuit Court for trial was scheduled for Friday. Gubow also approved a request **to** adjourn that hearing until Thursday, Jan. 22.

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