

## Teenager charged in officer's death

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Detroiter, 16, may be tried as an adult after Oak Park cop is shot after traffic stop Sunday.

By Mike MartindaleThe Detroit News

OAK PARK — Holiday garland decorates a wall of the Oak Park Public Safety Department, but there was no cheer there Monday.

Instead officers silently mourned Officer Mason Samborski, 28, a four-year veteran of the department who was fatally shot **in** the line of duty Sunday. Near the decorations, a photo of the person police believe is responsible — Jonathan Belton, 16, of Detroit — remained taped to a window of the records department.

Belton, who surrendered to police more than 12 hours after the Sunday morning shooting, was brought on Monday before an Oakland Probate Court referee, who ordered him held **in** Children's Village under "secured custody" without bond due to the charges — murder and use of a firearm **in** a **death** . An assistant prosecutor has until Monday to decide whether Belton will be **charged** as an adult.

"It's a senseless, senseless thing ... (Samborski) was a great guy, very enthusiastic and he loved his job," recalled Oak Park Lt. Michael Pousak. "We still have investigators trying to put it all together but we believe we know the person responsible is **in** custody."

Visitation for Samborski, the city's first officer to die **in** the line of duty **in** 35 years, will be from 2-8 p.m. today at St. Patrick's Church at 711 Rickett Road **in** Brighton. Services will be at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at the church.

Samborski of Howell was well-liked **in** the department. He is survived by his wife and 1-year-old daughter.

Oakland Probate Court Referee David Barnes said the charges against Belton are as "severe" as they come and ordered the teen held **in** Children's Village detention facility without bond.

Several of Belton's friends and family, including his mother, were **in** court as he was led **in** and out, handcuffed and shackled **in** leg irons.

He mouthed "I love you" toward them and patted a manacled hand over his heart.

Later his mother, visibly distraught, could be heard telling others "he is a good kid" as she was escorted down a hallway and out of court.

Investigators revisited an apartment complex at 10 Mile and Greenfield roads, where Samborski drove Belton about 12:30 a.m. Sunday, presumably to turn him over to an adult residing **in** the building. Minutes earlier Samborski discovered Belton did not have a driver's license on him during a traffic stop.

Pousak said citizens who heard a hallway struggle and gunfire called police about the shooting. Samborski, who suffered a gunshot wound to the head — believed to be from his own handgun — was rushed to Providence Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

After the shooting, Belton was the subject of a manhunt conducted by police from several Metro Detroit agencies, Pousak said. The **teenager** surrendered to police at a Detroit precinct about 4 p.m. Sunday.

Defense attorney Wright Blake and assistant prosecuting attorney Kenneth Frazee both waived their respective rights to a probable cause hearing before Barnes on the pending juvenile offenses.

"I was just retained yesterday," Blake later told reporters.

"I know what he has told his family, but I need time to look at (police reports) before I say anything about this."

If tried and convicted as an adult, Belton could face up to life **in** prison. As a juvenile, he could be held **in** a juvenile facility until he turns 21 years old.

Belton, who was attending Ferndale Adult Education classes, is on probation for a juvenile offense of assault and battery **in** Detroit, Blake confirmed.

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