

STOP SIGN MISSING TEEN KILLED AS CAR RUNS INTO MINIVAN

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Ebony Jackson, 16, of Detroit is dead and her family is in mourning because of a stop sign that was nowhere to be seen.

And angry residents in the area say more missing signs could mean more tragedies.

At 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, police say, **Jackson**, her stepsister and parents were driving north on Burt Road in a minivan when they approached busy Puritan Avenue near Grand River on Detroit's northwest side.

But the stop sign that was supposed to be in place on Burt had been knocked over in a previous accident and the city had not replaced it.

When the minivan went through the intersection, it was struck in the right front by a car going west on Puritan. The force of the impact overturned the minivan.

By the time **Jackson** reached the hospital, she was dead. Her stepsister, Crystal Thompson, also 16, was in fair condition Tuesday at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills.

Leslie Thompson, their 38-year-old father and the driver of the minivan, was treated and released, as was his wife, Denise Thompson, 37.

Two occupants of the car, ages 17 and 15, were also treated and released.

A police spokesman was not aware how long the sign at Burt and Puritan was down. City officials responsible for roads and signs were not available for comment late Tuesday.

But residents who live near the scene say they are outraged that the city has not replaced the sign. Several say there are other stop signs missing in the area.

"It's sad. They often have no stop signs out here," said Jodie Foster, 27. "The city needs to pay attention to us."

Foster blames a missing stop sign at Puritan and Dolphin for her two parked cars getting hit by motorists.

Pat Mitton, 51, is also aware of missing stop signs.

"That's neglect. I live right here on Puritan and it's like a racetrack. The city just isn't following through on things like that."

Melissa Brinkley, 25, said of the accident, "I think that's very tragic. It's terrible. I don't know why they won't put the signs up."

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Page: 3B

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