

Funeral starts for student killed in HFCC shooting

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Author: Tanveer Ali / The Detroit News

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By Tanveer Ali

The Detroit News

Ecorse — Friends and family said goodbye today to a 20-year-old Henry Ford Community College student who was killed by a schoolmate last Friday.

At the funeral services at Mount Zion Baptist Church, those who knew Asia McGowan lauded her commitment to dance and many achievements, but said her life ended too soon.

"She was just a beautiful spirit. She was my sister," Tasha McGowan said of her sister. "She did everything she said she was going to do."

Anthony Powell, 28, killed McGowan in a campus classroom and then committed suicide by turning the shotgun on himself, police said. **Powell** had a history of posting rants online and previously threatened to kill himself.

Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick told people assembled at Mount Zion Baptist Church that she will push for legislation to help those with mental health issues before they become violent.

"As we leave here, the first day of the rest of our lives, just know that Asia lives," the congresswoman told the people assembled in the Ecorse church. Kilpatrick (D-Detroit) said she would call her legislation Asia's Law.

Asia's father, Turhan McGowan, said his daughter's death has left the family feeling hollow.

"We're torn between anger and sorrow," he said. "The guy killed himself; we had to let him go. But we could feel her absence."

Family friend Wanda Drayton of Ecorse said the death stings. Her daughter was friends with McGowan.

"This whole thing really hurts," Drayton said. "She had a talented future."

A fund in Asia McGowan's name was set up by her friends and former teachers from Ecorse Community High School. Donations can be made at any National City Bank in her name.

Meanwhile, HFCC also set up a memorial fund and is accepting donations. All proceeds from the theater department's performance of "The Odyssey" at 7 p.m. Saturday will go toward the fund.

Proceeds from both funds will go to McGowan's family to pay for the funeral.

tali@detnews.com (734) 462-2094

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