

## Foundation renamed to honor slain church activist

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DETROIT -- A foundation aimed at helping young people of African descent this evening will be renamed in honor of a slain 19-year-old Detroiter.

The body of **Osakwe "Sok" Jahi** was pulled from the Detroit River on July 6. He had been shot at least once, Detroit Police said.

Mr. **Jahi** had spearheaded efforts for the fledgling foundation, under the auspices of the Shrines of the Black Madonna of the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church.

The foundation's mission is to build schools and nurseries and to offer scholarships and mentors. It also aims to build an educational and social service complex at the Beulah Land Farm, in Calhoun Falls, South Carolina.

Mr. **Jahi** was studying construction management and business at Eastern Michigan University. His death shocked members of the church who were looking forward to Mr. **Jahi** to complete his studies and return to work in the community. No suspects in his murder have been identified by police.

He grew up in the church and along the way met many members who counted on his quick smile and bear hugs, said Paul Lee, church spokesman.

"We are hurt," Lee said. "Most members of the church felt...he would become a leader."

Mr. **Jahi** was well-regarded as a youth organizer and worked to sign up young people for church efforts and for the Black Slate Inc. The slate, the shrines' influential political action committee, has lent support in numerous elections and has been called on by the likes of former Mayor Coleman A. Young.

The Shrines of the Black Madonna have churches in Detroit, Atlanta and Houston and officials expect mourners from across those cities to attend the funeral service.

At the time of his death, Mr. **Jahi** was spearheading the foundation that will bear his name. Longtime family friend Sala Adams said she first saw Mr. **Jahi** 's leadership potential up close last year when he organized a trip to the Beulah Land Farm for college friends. He wanted to show them what he was helping to plan.

"He always was (energetic)," Adams said. "He had great ideas and a warm smile."

Survivors include Mr. **Jahi** 's mother, Hanifa **Jahi** ; his father Chinua Lateef; two brothers, Tau Abebe Brown and Sonwande Hemphill; three sisters, Rukiya Johnson and Kamaria and Chinzera Hemphill and numerous other relatives.

A funeral service is scheduled for 6 p.m. today at the Shrines of the Black Madonna of the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church, 7625 Linwood in Detroit. Mr. **Jahi** will be cremated after the service.

Memorial donations can be made to the **Jahi** Foundation of the Pan African Church Orthodox Christian Church, care of the Akwaaba Community Center, 8045 Second Ave., Detroit, Mich. 48212.

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