

# Detroit man's funeral 'full of love'

Gebel, Meira . Detroit Free Press ; Detroit, Mich. [Detroit, Mich]18 Nov 2018: A.1.

[ProQuest document link](#)

---

## FULL TEXT

"He was so looking forward to his first child. He'd been out shopping all day for his baby boy and was looking forward to being a great dad."

Oliver Gantt, Family spokesman, on Theoddeus Gray

Friends and family of Theoddeus Gray filled a Detroit church with songs and prayer at a funeral service on Saturday for the 29-year-old man who was fatally shot by police Nov. 4 in St. Clair Shores.

A collage of photographs, including Gray, smiling with friends and family, was displayed near the entrance of Jamison Temple Baptist Church. The service began at 11 a.m., and nearly 30 minutes later, there was only standing room. A poem called "Justice for Theo" was read by a young woman, and the pastor spoke of the value of human life.

"It wasn't a sad occasion," said Oliver Gantt, a family spokesman who attended the ceremony. "It was hurtful for the parents and those who loved him, but there was a lot of love in that room, wall-to-wall. It was (a) beautiful home-going service."

St. Clair Shores police fatally shot Gray outside of a baby shower for his first child on Nov.4 at Lakeland Manor on Harper. Macomb County Sheriff's Office is investigating the circumstances.

Gantt, who wasn't at the baby shower, said that Gray's family told him Theoddeus Gray had been shaking hands and greeting people before something happened in the hall —an exchange of words —between Gray and his pregnant girlfriend's family.

Police said officers responded to the hall, where there were about 70 people in attendance, after receiving calls of a man with a rifle outside. Officers matched the description to Gray. After ignoring several demands from police, Gray began to flee on foot, according to a news release from police.

A police dog was then deployed, and police say Gray fatally shot the dog, named Axe, with a handgun. Officers returned fire, fatally shooting Gray. He was taken to an area hospital and pronounced dead.

Gantt said the family hired an independent medical examiner, and the information he has received is that Gray was shot from behind at least 10 times from the head down.

Authorities have not released details on the number or location of wounds, and the Free Press has requested a copy of the autopsy report through the Freedom of Information Act. The cause of Gray's death was multiple gunshot wounds and the manner of death was homicide, said Lisa Croff, spokeswoman for the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office.

Gray's body will be interred at Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery, near 14 Mile and Gratiot Avenue in Clinton Township. His casket on Saturday was covered in red roses and white daisies.

Gray's family declined to be interviewed. Media were not allowed inside the service on Saturday.

Sergeant O'brien with the Macomb County Sheriff's Office told the Free Press on Saturday that the shooting incident remains under investigation.

No dashcam or body camera video, or reports of the incident, have been released. It remains unclear when more information will become available.

The information officials have released so far has raised questions about what happened that night.

"First they said there were reports a rifle, and then they say it's a handgun? Which one is it?" said Gantt.

A memorial service for Axe, a four-year-old German Shepard, was held on Nov. 14 at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in St. Clair Shores.

"There is zero proof that Theo shot that dog," Gantt said. "The bullets beat the dog to Theo."

Gray, of Detroit, was the only child of parents Theoddeus and Tracy. He was born on May 12, 1989 in Detroit and had long been a member of Pastor Homer Jamison's church, according to a memorial service program. He graduated from Clintondale Alternative High School and had a "contagious spirit." It also said Gray was "smooth, charismatic" and had a charming smile.

He enjoyed shopping, dressing sharp, and from a young age embraced a career in rap. He was known as "Bands Thee" and was popular on social media. One of his YouTube videos has nearly 50,000 views. Gantt said that Gray was working on a full-length album at the time of his death.

"He was so looking forward to his first child," said Gantt. "He'd been out shopping all day for his baby boy and was looking forward to being a great dad."

Reporter Christina Hall contributed to this report. Follow Meira Gebel on Twitter @MeiraGebel.

"He was so looking forward to his first child. He'd been out shopping all day for his baby boy and was looking forward to being a great dad."

Oliver Gantt, Family spokesman, on Theoddeus Gray

CREDIT: Meira Gebel

## DETAILS

Subject:	Memorial services; Grief; Deadly force; Love; Funerals
Location:	Macomb County Michigan Detroit Michigan
Publication title:	Detroit Free Press; Detroit, Mich.
First page:	A.1
Publication year:	2018
Publication date:	Nov 18, 2018
Section:	News
Publisher:	Gannett Co., Inc.
Place of publication:	Detroit, Mich.
Country of publication:	United States, Detroit, Mich.
Publication subject:	General Interest Periodicals--United States
Source type:	Newspapers
Language of publication:	English
Document type:	News
ProQuest document ID:	2134721477

**Document URL:** https://search.proquest.com/docview/2134721477?accountid=14026

**Copyright:** Copyright 2018 - DETROIT FREE PRESS - All Rights Reserved.

**Last updated:** 2018-11-20

**Database:** Global Newsstream

## LINKS

[Check SFX for Availability](#)

---

Database copyright © 2019 ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved.

[Terms and Conditions](#) [Contact ProQuest](#)