

experienced officers and sergeants as well as junior officers. This will effectively balance our law enforcement activities citywide and ensure that all residents of the community receive equal law enforcement protection. The question is whether or not all areas of a community will receive equal law enforcement protection. Included in the handout is an article from the Omaha World-Herald which broke down the assignment of these officers. You will notice that in the district which is called the northeast precinct, 15 officers with one year or less of experience are assigned there; in northwest Omaha only one officer with one year or less experience; in the southwest precinct only five; in the southeast only five. The total of new officers assigned throughout the rest of the city is eleven. That is throughout the rest of the city. In my area 15 are assigned, a greater number of officers with one year or less are assigned in my area than are assigned throughout the rest of the City of Omaha. When it comes to the experience level of the officers the one having the officers with the greatest number of years of experience again is southwest and for those who may not be aware of how the City of Omaha is laid out, the southwestern part of the city is considered the affluent, stable, easy, plush, plum assignment. The officers can ride around. There is very little for them to do and it is deemed by some that this is a reward to aspire to after you've been on the force for a certain number of years. That should not be the way that officers are assigned. The primary of the police department is to ensure the public's safety throughout the city, based on experience and ability that is acquired through experience. There has to be a redistribution of these officers and the spreading of these new officers so they don't all congregate in the area where those with greatest experience are actually needed. For some people, as those representing the union have argued, is that when these new recruits come out of police school they are qualified to work anywhere in the city and by implication are as qualified as any other officer on the force. To accept that argument is to give the additional argument that a person straight out of police school should be considered for a promotion. You would never make a rookie a sergeant, a lieutenant or even a corporal because there are certain abilities that come as a result of experience. If experience does not make any difference and if all officers are equally capable, why is it that the rest of the city would not want all of these new officers in their area? No area of the city should be mishandled in the way that it currently occurring under the police contract. This whole subject should not be one that is