

opportunity to assign officers. He has the opportunity to assign 50 percent of the officers and does so in equal proportions around the city. The northeast part of the city receives, in addition, 20 to 30 percent more officers in addition to the officers that they already have. Those officers do have less seniority but it's additional officers with less seniority, not an inequitable situation, by any means. And I...I want you to think of the makeup of Omaha when you're discussing safety issues. We're talking about a division at 42nd and Dodge Street into four equal portions of the city. You're talking about bringing officers...the closest responding officers in for whatever the situation may be. I received a letter from the Woman Police Officers Association against 717. Their information is that the two officers who responded to the radio call concerning Scott Baldwin...you all received the information this morning, were the only two officers available at that time. And unless all of the officers assigned to that area had substantial experience, there is always the possibility that two officers with less experience would be assigned to the call. They pull officers in from any area of Omaha that need be to answer a call. If the officers in one area are tied up, they pull them in from any of the other areas if they're not tied up. We're not talking about a huge metropolis, although to some people it may seem to be. We're talking about a relatively small, 10, 15-minute drive from one area and extended on the edge of area to another and if they're right there at 42nd and Dodge area, just a minute or two. It's very equitable at this time. The police officers bargain this inequitable situation. It's very different from what Senator Chambers is making it out to be. It is definitely not racism by any stretch of the imagination. And if southwest Omaha could have those additional 10 to 15 officers that northeast Omaha is receiving, we would take them because we have women being raped in the parking lots at our mall in the middle of the day. We have children bringing guns to school. We have drug problems in our school. We have probably more robberies than northeast Omaha. We have traffic accidents of which we need those police officers too. So it's definitely not what it's being made out to be. And if and when I get the opportunity to offer more information, I will. But I want you to know that most or all of the information being given to you by Senator Chambers is not correct and I will be rebutting it if we need to go past the bracketing motion. And I will be doing it with information that is documented, not just rhetoric. And I ask you to support the bracket motion on this bill to see if the City of Omaha can solve this problem that