

that veterans office...veteran officers would...would perform any different, and that...that the previous similar incidents by veteran Omaha police officers have been involved in the same kind of incident that Senator Chambers...that prompted this bill, the Scott Baldwin incident, that they resulted in similar outcomes. Who can stand here and assume that a senior officer will handle something any better, worse or different than an officer with less experience? We're talking about personalities of people. I believe that when these officers are trained for the many months that they do train and work with officers with more experience, that they are very well trained, every single one of them. I'm proud of every single police officer in the Omaha Police Department. These are people who give a lot of time away from their families, a lot of time to...to train and be the best that they can be. And if you are agreeing with this kind of...of assumptions of Senator Chambers', then you're telling me that...that these officers who have less experience aren't as good as the senior officers. Well, where's the evidence to support that? In many cases maybe they're better. We should talk more about individuals instead of assuming that because you have more senior officers, or less senior officers that it's less safe, or more safe. And you have to realize, too, again that...that the breakdown of quadrants is at 42nd and Dodge Street. You could take one step from the south side over into the northeast side, and that's all it would take to...to walk across the street into...into a different quadrant. These officers are assigned, 50 percent senior officers in every area. I think it's very equitable. I think we have the evidence to support that it's very equitable at this time. I, too, am very concerned about public safety. It has nothing, as far as I'm concerned, to do with public safety. I would like to turn more to the area of breaking into the collective bargaining agreements. What we've done here is gone ahead and...and broken into the collective bargaining agreements between the City of Omaha and the Omaha Police Department. What...what did they give up to get this kind of...of control? Are we going to allow them whatever we are taking away from them with this kind of legislation? Is anybody considering that? Who is...who is backing this? You're talking about a police chief, of course. But all the city council members that I've talked to say, let us handle it, stay out of it. I have letters to prove that. This new letter today from the Police Chiefs Association, Jim Skinner is the Chief of Police in Omaha, and he's also the President of that association. I have letter, after letter, phone call, after phone call from police officers giving me as much