

think the issue of public safety is one that the Legislature has an obligation to deal with. I'm saying in the record that were this not a black community that's affected this way the Legislature would behave differently. I say categorically that I think racism is the driving force. One of the main lobbyists for the bill has made me the issue so what I will do, to be frank, if you don't pass the bill whether you are upset about the way that I've dealt with other bills on the floor is of no moment to me, I want the record crystal clear that the Legislature knew that a preponderance of the rookie officers were assigned to the African-American section of the city; that it is acknowledged by people on the floor of the Legislature that not being assigned to that area is a benefit or a boon to the officers who've been on for some period of time. Others have said they understand why these experienced officers don't want to be assigned in that area even if they're needed. I will raise the money to file a lawsuit. I will hire a lawyer and if a court agrees with my position that this is an issue of public safety, that even if a political subdivision attempts to bargain it away under the law and the Constitution it cannot do that. Then I will achieve the same purpose. As Senator Hall said, it will cost money, it will take time, but I'm willing to assume that burden and that cost because I think it is that essential. I would have the mayor called and the chief called to point out the restrictions on them in providing equal law enforcement throughout the city. Regardless of what Senator Witek says, who is not an expert, what Senator Hall says, who is not an expert in law enforcement, if you show anybody who understands the deployment of law enforcement officers that more than half of the new officers are put in one quadrant of the city they will tell you that is not a proper deployment of person power. That has been put into the record time and time again. There have been articles published to that effect, so I have the record which shows the impact of this provision in the contract. In the same way that I have taken traffic tickets to court to get the Supreme Court to make statements on the law that the Legislature would not and the Supreme Court in some cases has made those statements, this is far...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...this is far more important than that. I shouldn't have to assume the responsibility. I shouldn't have to raise that money and spend some of my own, but I'm going to do it. I would rather that you adopt Senator Ashford's