

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, unlike Senator Lynch, I hope that those who voted for the bill before will continue to support it. As you all know, a police department is a paramilitary organization. It does not exist for the convenience or the whim of the employees. It exists to ensure public safety. In order for that to be accomplished, the chief of police needs those management prerogatives to deploy personnel so that they will be utilized in the most effective manner. As I have stated before and I am glad that it wasn't necessary to state it this time in response to something Senator Hall or Senator Lynch said, experience is considered to be a valuable enhancer of a person's ability to do a job. We know that many people can be experienced meaning they've done something for a long time and not improve at how they do it. Ordinary people though do improve. They learn more. They recognize which situations are truly law enforcement matters and which are the types of things that are not worthy of creating a law enforcement contact. This comes with experience. When you have a city divided into four parts or quadrants and you have 26 brand new officers and more than 50 percent of them, 15 of the 26, are concentrated in 1 quadrant, that is not an appropriate deployment of personnel. Senator Lynch wants to imply that somehow the chief of police in Omaha is not credible in the things that he said to various ones of you, that the mayor in talking to you about this issue lacks credibility, that somehow I was able to bequile the Nebraska Association of Police Chiefs so that they would support what has been described as a bad bill. In addition to that array, we add the League of Municipalities. Now many of you have dealt with the League on a number of issues. I'm sure that you realize that I do not control that association. They are not supporting this bill as a favor to me. I did not approach the League. I did not even know in advance that they were going to testify on behalf of the bill. It is seen as an issue of statewide concern. It goes to management prerogatives. That's what we're talking about, not a legitimate issue that ought to be subject to collective bargaining. Things that pertain to the essence of public safety should not be negotiable. This is one of those items. I hope that you will continue to support this bill.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator