

observe and not be set upon by the police to identify himself or herself and account for why he or she has the audacity to be walking down a street in the United States of America. We ought to make these cities think very carefully about the types of conduct they're going to criminalize...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and the way to do it is to attach a price tag.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Chambers, your light is on next so if you wish to continue, you may.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, I do. I can give you another example of where holding a city accountable has gone farther in correcting improper conduct by the police than any rules or regulations by that city's police department and, obviously, I'm talking about the notorious City of Omaha trying its best to equal Chicago in all of the negatives. They were conducting high speed chases that resulted in deaths and injuries to private citizens who were not a part of the chase. They would run police cars through people's yards, into people's yards, they crashed police cars against each other, like demolition derby, a great, good old time. And, people who monitored their transmissions during the chase would hear the police officers' voices rise to a shrieking level, just like people out hunting. And, what they did, in a very recent one, was knock down a telephone booth, fortunately nobody was in it, the police cruiser did this. Two cruisers, skidding around in the mud in one of the parks, ran into each other. Well, some time ago the Legislature agreed to make the political subdivision for which these erring officers worked responsible in damages to innocent third parties who are harmed as a result of one of these chases. Although I had argued...and I had sponsored the amendment and got help from the rest of the body in passing it. Nothing had diminished the high speed chases in Omaha. But, because of the number of cases that they lost and settlements that they had to reach under this provision, they changed the regulations in Omaha relative to high speed chases, and it was so effective that now they're sending their lobbyist down here to tell the Legislature to take away this liability. We want to continue to chase, we want to continue to harm innocent third parties, but we don't want the city to be liable. When you make them pay, when there is a price tag for this improper conduct, then the conduct begins to