

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
General Affairs Committee May 22, 2019

BRIESE: [00:00:00] [RECORDER MALFUNCTION] --the General Affairs Committee. My name's Tom Briese. I'm the senator for District 41, which includes nine counties in central-northeast Nebraska. I'm Chairman of this committee. We're here today for the purpose of conducting one confirmation hearing. We'll be-- at this time I'd like to encourage everyone to turn off or silence any cell phones or electronic devices, anything that makes noise. We're a committee equipped with electronics. You may see members referencing their iPads, iPhones, or other electronic devices, I can assure you, just researching the matters before us. With that, I would go to introduction of members. [00:00:36][36.2]

ARCH: [00:00:36] Senator John Arch, Papillion: District 14.
[00:00:40][4.0]

LOWE: [00:00:41] John Lowe from District 37, which is Kearney and the south half of Buffalo County. [00:00:46][4.9]

LOGUEN BLAZEK: [00:00:47] Loguen Blazek, legal counsel for General Affairs. [00:00:49][1.4]

MOSER: [00:00:50] Mike Moser from District 22; that's Platte County, Stanton County, and the connection between the two of Colfax County.
[00:00:57][7.3]

ALEX DeGARMO: [00:00:58] Alex DeGarmo, committee clerk.
[00:01:00][2.0]

BRIESE: [00:01:01] And we have a page with us. [00:01:03][2.0]

DANA MALLETT: [00:01:03] I'm Dana, the committee page. [00:01:03][0.0]

BRIESE: [00:01:06] Thank you, Dana. And with that, we will proceed to the appointment hearing for Mr. James Patterson. Mr. Patterson please come up; have a seat. Please state and spell your name for the record and share with us anything you would like to. [00:01:18][12.4]

JAMES PATTERSON: [00:01:20] Good afternoon. I appreciate you taking the time out of your schedule to, to hear me and to consider me. My name is James Patterson; and that's J-a-m-e-s Patterson, P-a-t-t-e-r-s-o-n. I am-- I have a number of titles. I'm a pastor. I serve on-- I have a nonprofit that I lead, been doing it now for about 20-some years, working with kids. Attended a graduation last night, got another graduation tonight, another one tomorrow night, had a

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graduation this past weekend, so-- but we serve. And that would be my opening statement. [00:02:08][48.0]

BRIESE: [00:02:08] OK. Very good. Thank you. Any questions from the committee? Go ahead, Senator Moser. [00:02:16][7.6]

MOSER: [00:02:17] What's your interest in being on the Commission on Problem Gambling? [00:02:21][4.6]

JAMES PATTERSON: [00:02:23] Well, it's another way to serve. I've, I've had one family that I can think of who had some problems in gambling and in the community that I serve. You don't know about things until things sort of blow up and you're asking why they're always coming up short. And in this single-- in this family with a single-- in this home with a single parent, the problem was they were-- how they were using their resources. So this is another way to serve people who have experienced some difficulties. [00:03:07][44.0]

MOSER: [00:03:09] What kind of gambling were they addicted to? [00:03:11][3.0]

JAMES PATTERSON: [00:03:13] She was going across the river. [00:03:14][1.0]

MOSER: [00:03:16] To the casinos? [00:03:16][-0.2]

JAMES PATTERSON: [00:03:17] Casinos, yes. [00:03:17][0.3]

MOSER: [00:03:19] OK. Thank you very much. [00:03:19][0.2]

JAMES PATTERSON: [00:03:19] You're welcome. [00:03:20][0.1]

BRIESE: [00:03:21] Thank you, Senator Moser. Anyone else? Senator Arch. [00:03:24][2.6]

ARCH: [00:03:24] I'm, I'm interested in hearing about the North Omaha Good News Bears and, you know, you've been involved in that for, you said, 20? [00:03:30][6.2]

JAMES PATTERSON: [00:03:31] Started in 1991. [00:03:31][0.1]

ARCH: [00:03:36] Yeah? [00:03:36][0.0]

JAMES PATTERSON: [00:03:36] We wanted to make a difference in our neighborhood after I was selected as pastor of this church, after about a year. And just down the street from us was one of the more heavily patrolled areas in North Omaha. And when you'd ride down the

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street you would see kids standing around playing, and you didn't see too many adults hanging around. And so on a Saturday afternoon, some of us dressed up like clowns, with a boom box playing rap music and with various colored fliers and walking down the street. And it was very uncomfortable doing this, but we felt like the objective was worth it. And where we saw a kid, we passed out fliers and asked them, do you belong to any clubs? And would you like to take field trips? How would you like to belong to something in which you could purchase toys, prizes, and gifts on a regular basis and it didn't cost you anything? And they say, yes, yes, yes. And we said, well, the one requirement is a parent have to sign you up. And if you show up by 4:30 this afternoon, you can participate in a free ice cream sundae. And we signed up 30 kids that afternoon and launched the club. And it's been going since, since '91. [00:04:51][75.2]

ARCH: [00:04:54] Yeah. Well, that's great. And this is a reappointment for you. Correct? [00:04:57][2.7]

JAMES PATTERSON: [00:04:57] It is. [00:04:57][0.1]

ARCH: [00:04:57] How many years have you served so far?
[00:04:59][1.3]

JAMES PATTERSON: [00:04:59] This is just my first reappointment.
[00:05:00][1.1]

ARCH: [00:05:00] OK. [00:05:00][0.0]

JAMES PATTERSON: [00:05:00] So this would be starting the third year.
[00:05:05][4.2]

ARCH: [00:05:09] OK. Thank you. [00:05:09][0.0]

JAMES PATTERSON: [00:05:09] You're welcome. [00:05:09][0.0]

BRIESE: [00:05:09] Thank you, Senator Arch. Anyone else? Well, seeing no further questions, we really appreciate what you've done for your community and your willingness to serve here. And thank you for coming to see us here today, and we'll proceed with your appointment then. And that will conclude the hearing on your appointment. Thank you.
[00:05:28][18.8]

JAMES PATTERSON: [00:05:29] Thank you, senators. Appreciate your time. Thank you. [00:05:32][2.8]

BRIESE: [00:05:32] You bet. Thank you.