

Talk of federal post flatters Patterson

By Susan Mahoney
staff writer

Wanting to "lower public expectations" about a possible Bush administration appointment, L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County prosecutor, said he is not expecting a call from the president-elect.

"I've heard nothing yet," he said. "It's flattering to hear your name, but I won't be disappointed if it doesn't happen."

Patterson said the only job he would consider taking in Washington D.C. would be a "cabinet-level ap-

pointment as a drug czar." He said if he got the high-level position, he would be in charge of fighting "the pervasive influence of drugs" nationwide.

Patterson said he is not holding his breath, but if George Bush were to personally call him and ask for his assistance, he would have a difficult time turning the offer down.

THE COMPETITION for the drug czar job is fierce, he said. The possible appointees are all high-caliber professionals, he said.

"I am in excellent company," he added.

National Republican Committee chairwoman Ronna Romney said Patterson's chances of a Bush appointment are "pretty good." But Patterson has not been aggressive enough in pursuing a Washington D.C. job, she added.

Romney said Patterson is qualified for many jobs in the capital. Whether or not he will want to uproot is the question.

"Brooks is not a Washington person," she said.

Moving to Washington is a tremendous adjustment for anyone, she said.

Romney speculated on the kind of chief anti-drug official Patterson would be if chosen.

"His style is open. You would probably see a lot of press coverage and public pressure," she said. "And you'd see a lot of convictions."

PATTERSON SAID Bush would choose his drug czar by inauguration day. And if Patterson isn't packing his bags for the nation's capital, he will be joining the law firm of Bar-

bier and Tolleson, 300 Park St., Birmingham, in January.

But Patterson may be called back to serve the county again.

He may be appointed special prosecutor in the Oakland County rapist case. Steve Szeman was charged with raping eight county women.

Prosecutor-elect Richard Thompson will decide if Patterson will serve as special prosecutor.

"If his (Patterson's) services are available, we will consider him," Thompson said. "He has volunteered his services, so it would be free to the county."



L. Brooks Patterson

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