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## Official under fire for e-mails

NAACP chapter president says Danbury Common Council member circulated racist messages

By Brian Koonz  
STAFF WRITER

DANBURY — The Rev. Ivan S. Pitts, president of Danbury's chapter of the NAACP, said Monday he will hold a press conference today alleging that a Common Council member circulated racist and offensive e-mails to at least two Common Council members and an employee of the Planning Department.

The Common Council member is reportedly Pauline R. Basso,

a Republican at-large member. Basso declined to elaborate on the allegations Monday night.

"I really have nothing to say," Basso said when reached by telephone at her home. "I sent an apology and that's it."

Pitts, who also serves as pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Danbury, will provide copies of the alleged e-mails at a planned 1 p.m. press conference in front of City Hall on Deer Hill Avenue.

Pitts said he learned of the al-

leged e-mails last month. The e-mails in question were not sent from City Hall computers.

"I received an anonymous packet almost two weeks ago that contained printouts of five or six e-mails," Pitts said Monday night.

"These e-mails, in my opinion, were racist and hateful toward three specific groups: African women, Latino immigrants, and one very long

e-mail with several pictures of negative and fearful images of the Muslim faith."

Pitts refused to identify Basso by name. He said the alleged e-mails were sent from April through August 2007.

Pitts said he originally tried to handle the situation "quietly and privately" at City Hall. But Pitts wasn't pleased with the response, so he opted for a press conference instead.

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"I just felt like someone was trying to pacify me," Pitts said. "And believe me, this has nothing to do with 99 percent of the people in my congregation."

"For me, for the NAACP, for the New Hope Baptist Church... this is not an issue of immigration. It doesn't matter where you stand on immigration. This is not a political issue."


"This is about human dignity and human value. It's about respect and worth. It's about those who have the privileges we have

in this country to be stewards over those who don't have those privileges," Pitts said.

With Election Day just a month away, Pitts insisted the timing of these allegations is not political. But rather, Pitts said, he felt compelled to come forward.

"You can't legislate someone's heart," Pitts said. "But how can someone serve their entire constituency when they have, at the very minimum, devalued a portion of that constituency?"





I'M HERE  
BECAUSE I SENT  
TOO MANY JOKES  
ON E-MAIL!







# 44%

of businesses monitor  
outgoing employee email









**Corporate  
Spying  
Vs.  
Government  
Spying**

**The courts  
have, so far,  
been far  
friendlier to  
corporate  
spying than  
to  
government**







**Government organizations and corporations are already discussing the use of RFID-enabled badges that potentially let them track employees' on-site positions, and using GPS-enabled cell-phone tracking technology to monitor their employees' movements' offsite.**









**It is up to the us, the developers, to make the difference.**