# New York City Mayor Faces Backlash for Remarks on Migrant Lifeguards



**New York City Mayor Criticized for Remarks on Migrant Lifeguards**

**New York City, May 14, 2024:**  
New York City Mayor Eric Adams is facing backlash after suggesting that migrants could fill lifeguard vacancies because they are "excellent swimmers." The remarks were made during a City Hall briefing, where Adams referenced the city's lifeguard shortage and the large number of migrants, many of whom arrived after crossing bodies of water.

Critics quickly condemned the comments as racist and divisive. The New York Immigration Coalition criticized the mayor, with CEO Murad Awawdeh stating the remarks were "dehumanizing and divisive." Social media users also voiced their discontent, questioning Adams's reasoning and his familiarity with the lifeguard certification process.

Despite the criticism, Adams's office defended the comments. Communications Chief Fabien Levy highlighted the ongoing migrant crisis and persistent lifeguard shortages. Adams reiterated that streamlined work permits could help fill critical roles like lifeguards, food service workers, and nurses.

Approximately 200,000 migrants have arrived in New York City since spring 2022. The city's beaches, set to open on Memorial Day weekend, faced over 500 lifeguard vacancies last year, prompting partial closures. The base pay for lifeguards has been increased to $22 per hour, with a $1,000 bonus for the peak season.

Adams's comments are part of ongoing discussions about migrant employment and the strain on New York's sanctuary city status.

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