



THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
JULIE MENIN

COUNCIL MEMBER, 5TH DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

June 29th, 2022

Mayor Eric Adams
New York City Hall
City Hall Park, Broadway,
New York, NY 10007-1222

Re: Increasing Wages for New York City Lifeguards

Dear Mayor Adams,

With schools let out for the year and the heat of the New York summer only beginning, New York City residents are reliant on public pools for recreational and educational purposes. In order for New Yorkers to enjoy the complete benefits of such public pools, the proper ratio of lifeguards to swimmers must be present. However, New York is facing a significant lifeguard shortage, which limits pool capacities. The New York City Parks Department notes that it has hired fewer than half of the 1,400-1,500 certified lifeguards that were anticipated to work at pools and beaches this summer.

This is an important issue for many constituents in my Council District which is home to the John Jay Park Swimming Pool. Even though City pools just opened for the summer yesterday, we have already heard from many constituents expressing concern about the pool's limited operations and closure due to the lifeguard shortage. At yesterday's opening day, the John Jay Park swimming pool was forced to close early and turn residents away, despite a significant demand.

Part of the staffing shortage is related to the wages the city pays its new lifeguards. I suggest that New York City increase the incentive for new lifeguards by increasing the hourly rate from \$16 per hour to \$20. Although New York State has implemented this raise, it is not being offered for city lifeguards who continue to receive only \$16 an hour. I hope the Administration can take swift action to apply the \$20 an hour New York City lifeguard salary, so that constituents can enjoy city pools this summer.

We look forward to your courtesy and cooperation in regard to this matter and I look forward to your favorable response.

Sincerely,

Julie Menin

New York City Council Member Julie Menin
5th Council District