

MITT CATCHES HEAT FOR ADS Bloomy strikes back after Romney speaks of immigration 'problem' in N.Y.C.

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Body

A NEW **MITT ROMNEY** RADIO **ad** aimed at Republican voters worried about illegal **immigration** takes a point-blank shot at New York - and Mayor Bloomberg didn't hesitate to fire **back** yesterday.

"**Immigration** laws don't work if they're ignored. That's the **problem** with cities like Newark, San Francisco and **New York City** that adopt sanctuary policies," says the 60-second **ad** for the ex-governor of Massachusetts. "Sanctuary cities become magnets that encourage illegal **immigration** and undermine secure borders."

The **ad**, running in Iowa and New Hampshire, is a thinly veiled attack on GOP presidential rival Rudy Giuliani, who is competing with **Romney** for conservatives who want a crackdown on illegal aliens.

Bloomberg has been mentioned in speculation as a possible independent candidate for President in 2008, although he said in a TV interview that aired yesterday that he's not running and has no interest in the No. 2 spot, either.

Romney's attacks focus on the city's policy under both Bloomberg and Giuliani to encourage illegal aliens to report crimes, seek medical care or send their kids to school without fear of being turned in to **immigration** authorities.

Bloomberg, echoing comments he made earlier this month **after** a previous **Romney** attack, said immigrants are key to the city's future.

"I'm very proud of our ability to attract people and, once they get here, to make sure that they get the necessary services and let them become productive members of society," the mayor said, without specifically criticizing **Romney**.

"We have been accepting people into this country to do kinds of work that contributes to our well-being, and we should continue to do that," he added.

Asked if the **ad** was directed at Giuliani, Bloomberg or both, **Romney** spokesman Kevin Madden said the spot simply "informs voters where Gov. **Romney** stands on the issue of enforcement of our **immigration** laws."

A Giuliani aide sniped that the **Romney** spot "conveniently forgets that his plan [as Massachusetts governor] to deputize state troopers that never went into effect did absolutely nothing to cut down on the number of illegals working in his yard. Let's hope his plan to secure the borders is more effective than that."

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