

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



September 18, 2007

Reply to Attn of:

LS01(DMW)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/William J. Bierbower

SUBJECT: Blanket Approval for MSFC Employees to Attend a Reception and IMAX Movie Showing Sponsored by Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation

In accordance with 5 CFR. § 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

NASA employees have been invited to attend a reception and IMAX movie showing of "In the Shadow of the Moon" Sponsored by Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation (BATC), to be held at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, on Thursday, September 27, 2007.

This combined event will be a widely-attended gathering of local elected officials, community leaders, members of the business community, including chamber of commerce officials, and government employees. The combined reception and movie showing are valued at \$15.00 per person and approximately 260 individuals have been invited to attend. The event is fully funded by BATC. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2).

I have determined that free attendance at the above mentioned event is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The attendance of NASA employees at the event will help to raise NASA's profile with state and local business and governmental leaders, will contribute to community relations, and will support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information about its activities. Given the purpose of the event, the broad attendance anticipated, and the modest market value of this event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having employees attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, NASA employees that have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect BATC are not covered in this determination and should contact Devinti M. Williams, at (256) 544-0012, to seek

a determination pursuant to 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(3)(i), regarding their participation in this event.



William J. Bierbower
Chief Counsel