

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Langley Research Center
100 NASA Road
Hampton, VA 23681-2199



October 20, 2008

Reply to Attn of:

141

TO: 106/ Office of the Director

FROM: 141/ Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at Northern Virginia Technology Council Annual Banquet, October 27, 2008

On October 27, 2008, the Northern Virginia Technology Council will hold its Annual Banquet in McLean, Virginia. In addition to invited NASA personnel, invitees will include NVTC members and guests, including NASA contractors and others from Virginia's government, business, technology, and academic communities. Approximately 600 people are expected to attend the banquet, which is sponsored by NVTC and a publicly-available list of member sponsors. The event will contribute to an improved working relationship with regional and technology business leaders, and an opportunity to disseminate timely and accurate information about NASA.

In accordance with the Standards of Conduct for the Executive Branch, 5 CFR §2635.204(g), and 14 CFR §1207.103, I find that the events meet the definition of a widely attended gathering. The attendees will represent a diversity of views and interests. I conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence any NASA personnel in the performance of their official duties.

I have determined that it is in the best interest of the government for invited NASA employees and their invited guests to attend the event in their official or personal capacities, in accordance with NASA leave policies. Invitees may therefore attend and participate in the reception and accept food, refreshments, and entertainment furnished without charge to other attendees as part of the event.

Please call the Office of Chief Counsel at 757-864-3221 if you have any questions or for additional ethics guidance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael N. Madrid".

Michael N. Madrid
43221