

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



November 14, 2011

General Law Practice Group

Reply to Attn of:

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA employees at the Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC) Annual Fall Banquet on November 14, 2011

On November 14, 2011, the Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC), a nonprofit organization under 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code, will host its Annual TechCelebration reception and banquet in the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner in McLean, VA, from 5:30 PM – 9:15 PM. Co-sponsors of the event include NVTC member organizations. The organization is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

The event will feature keynote speaker NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden, Jr. Approximately 700-800 people are expected to attend, including representatives from NASA and other Federal Agencies, the White House, Members of Congress and staffers, State and local officials, non-profits, academia, technology companies, and the general public. The estimated cost of the event, including all food and beverages, is \$250 per person. I find that the event meets the requirements of a “widely attended gathering” as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. Attendance at the event will allow NASA attendees to exchange information regarding NASA technology and various NASA programs.

NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsor, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490, may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event.

Moreover, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

Kathleen T. Spear
for Adam F. Greenstone