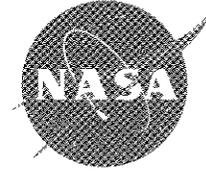


National Aeronautics and Space Administration
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



January 24, 2012

Reply to Attn of:

LS01 (PAW)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/Audrey D. Robinson

SUBJECT: Approval for MSFC Employees with Senior Institutional or Project Responsibilities to Attend Reception and Premiere of Hallmark Hall of Fame Movie "A Smile as Big as the Moon" Sponsored By the State of Alabama Department of Tourism

In accordance with 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2) and (3) and 14 C.F.R. 1207.103(c)(4), I make the following determination:

Certain MSFC employees with senior institutional or project responsibilities have been invited to attend a reception and movie showing sponsored by the State of Alabama Department of Tourism at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Davidson Center Digital Theater, One Tranquility Base, Huntsville, Alabama, on January 27, 2012. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m. and the movie showing is at 6:15 p.m. This event premieres the Hallmark Hall of Fame movie on Space Camp entitled "A Smile as Big as the Moon."

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of members of the Alabama Congressional Delegation and members of their staff, Governor of Alabama Robert Bentley, the Director of the Alabama Tourism Department, NASA employees, local elected officials and members of the public. The reception and movie showing is valued at \$50.00 per person. Approximately 350 individuals have been invited to attend. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2).

The Alabama Department of Tourism is one of the leading economic development organizations for the State which uses its resources to promote tourism throughout the State. Toward that end, it advertises and promotes the tourist attractions of the State, one of which is the U.S. Space & Rocket Center (USSRC) and its renowned Space Camp programs. In fact, the Alabama Tourism Director serves on the board of USSRC.

The USSRC is an agency of the State of Alabama which serves as the visitor information center for Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC). The USSRC is committed to educating the public about the history of the U.S. Space Program and the work that is done at MSFC.

The MSFC Center Director and other senior NASA employees have been invited and plan to attend this movie premiere event.¹ NASA personnel who have been invited to attend this event presently or may in the near future have extensive interaction with the State of Alabama or involvement in matters relating to USSRC. These personnel are similarly situated in that they each have senior leadership responsibilities that could significantly influence current or future agreements with the State or USSRC or could significantly affect the interests of the State or of USSRC.

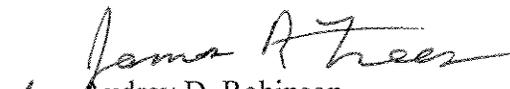
I have determined that free attendance of these individuals at the event is in the interests of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The attendance of these NASA officials at the event will help to raise NASA's profile with state and local business and governmental leaders, 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 social event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having these individuals 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 in the positions identified above may accept free attendance at the event and may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. Gifts of a copy of the book A Smile as Big as the Moon (\$19.95 value), a DVD of the movie (\$19.95 value), and a movie poster (de minimis value) are to be provided to all attendees. NASA employees and/or their accompanying spouses or guests may accept unsolicited gifts having an aggregate market value of \$20 or less per source per occasion. *See* 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(a). Accordingly, these NASA employees or their guests may accept the book or the DVD, but not both, since the aggregate value of these two tangible items exceeds \$20.00. Alternatively, these NASA employees or their guests may accept both the DVD and the book if they pay the full \$39.90 value of these items.

The State of Alabama Department of Tourism and the USSRC are not lobbying organizations and are not registered as such under the Lobbying Disclosure Act.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Patricia A. Watson at 256-544-0056.


Audrey D. Robinson
Chief Counsel

¹ These personnel include the MSFC Center Director, the Manager of the Academic Affairs Office, the MSFC Exhibits Manager and Media Relations Specialist, the Director of the Office of Human Capital, and the Director of the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.