

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

George C. Marshall Space Flight Center
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812

September 5, 2012



Reply to Attn of: LS01 (AMM)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/Audrey D. Robinson

SUBJECT: Approval for NASA Employees with Senior Institutional or External Relations Responsibilities to attend the 2012 Annual Outing Sponsored By the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

Certain NASA employees with senior institutional or external relations responsibilities have been invited to attend the 2012 Annual Outing sponsored by the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) at Ditto Landing on September 20, 2012. The purpose of the event is to honor NASA and the Military.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of representatives of Redstone Arsenal, NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, other government representatives, aerospace industry members, small businesses, local elected officials, and the community. A reception with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served at a cost of approximately \$22 per person. Approximately 300 people from the community are expected to attend. The reception is fully funded by the Chamber of Commerce. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR §2635.204(g)(2).

The Chamber of Commerce is the lead economic development organization for Huntsville/Madison County, providing assistance for business expansion and recruitment, and delivering information regarding available sites, labor force, workforce development, taxation, finance programs and incentives. Members of the Chamber of Commerce include many NASA contractors and suppliers.

Attendance of NASA employees with senior institutional or external relations responsibilities at this event would be in the best interest of NASA, since it will further NASA programs and operations. NASA personnel invited to attend this event have, or may soon have, duties that involve frequent interaction with the Chamber of Commerce and may substantially affect the Chamber's interests or the interest of a majority of the Chamber's members.¹

¹ Based on the invitation list provided, those personnel, identified by position, are: Acting Center Director; Associate Director Technical; Director and Deputy Director, Office of Center Operations; Director and Deputy Director, Office of Human Capital; Director and Deputy Director of Procurement; Director, Deputy Director, and

These personnel are similarly situated in that they each have senior institutional or external relations responsibilities for NASA that may involve significant community relations responsibilities that could significantly influence Chamber programs and activities.

I have determined that attendance of these senior institutional and external relations leaders at the 2012 Annual Outing is in the interest of NASA because it will further agency programs and operations, help to raise NASA's profile with state and local business and governmental leaders, enhance community relations, and support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information about its programs.

Given the purpose of the event, NASA's interest in it, the broad attendance anticipated, and the reasonable market value of the event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having these senior institutional and external relations leaders 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. Free attendance by employees whose duties do not affect the Chamber's members is addressed in a separate determination.

The Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce is not a lobbying organization and is not registered as such under the Lobbying Disclosure Act.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Annette Metcalf Coffel at 256-544-0025.



Audrey D. Robinson
Chief Counsel

Department Heads for the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications as listed herein: Supervisor, Business Planning and Integration Office; Supervisor, Public & Employee Communications Office; Supervisor, External Relations Office; Supervisor, Performance and Capabilities Management Office; Supervisor, Engineering Cost Office, Lead, Protocol and Events; Industry Relations Specialist; Protocol Specialists.

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Reply to Attn of: LS01 (AMM)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/Audrey D. Robinson

SUBJECT: Blanket Approval To Attend the 2012 Annual Outing Sponsored By the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

Several NASA employees have been invited to attend the 2012 Annual Outing sponsored by the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce at Ditto Landing Pavilion on September 20, 2012. The purpose of the event is to honor NASA and the Military.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of approximately 300 representatives of Redstone Arsenal, NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, and other government representatives, the aerospace industry, small businesses, local elected officials, and the community. A reception with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served at a cost of approximately \$22 per person. The event is fully funded by the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce. 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 social 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. NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce, or a majority of its members, are not covered in this determination and should seek a specific determination from this office pursuant to 5 CFR 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding their participation in this event.

The Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce is not a lobbying organization and is not registered as such under the Lobbying Disclosure Act.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Annette Metcalf Coffel at 256-544-0025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Audrey D. Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Audrey D. Robinson
Chief Counsel