

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



May 15, 2013

Reply to Attn of: 30

TO: Distribution

FROM: Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at Virginia Air and Space Center Reception, Hampton, VA, May 28, 2013

The Mayor of Hampton, the Hampton Roads Military & Federal Facilities Alliance (HRMFFA), the NASA Aerospace Support Team (NAST) and the Virginia Air & Space Center (VASC) are hosting a reception at the VASC on May 28, 2013. The organizers expect approximately 150 local elected officials, community leaders, and representatives of the aerospace industry, including about 30 NASA employees. The reception will include food and beverages of a cost around \$35 per person.

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g) and 14 C.F.R. §1207.103, I find that the event meets the definition of a "widely attended gathering." I also find that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend this event because it will further agency programs and operations. NASA invitees will have the opportunity to discuss the Administration's FY 2014 Budget, and exchange information on NASA programs. I further conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that attendance and accepting the food and refreshments offered may appear to improperly influence any NASA personnel in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA employees who have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the reception.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the hosts, and NASA employees who are in non-career positions in which Executive Order 13490 requires signing an ethics pledge, are not covered by this determination and should seek a determination from their ethics counselor pursuant to 5 CFR 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding their participation in these events.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Kenneth Goetzke at 757-864-7390.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael N. Madrid".

Michael N. Madrid
Chief Counsel and
Deputy Designated Agency Ethics Official