

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



February 12, 2015

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the American-Lithuanian Business Council Reception at the Embassy of Lithuania, on February 25, 2015

On February 25, 2015, the Embassy of Lithuania, along with the American-Lithuanian Business Council, a nonprofit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, will host a reception at the Library of Congress, Members Room, in Washington, D.C., at 12:00 p.m. The event is to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Independence of the Republic of Lithuania.

Approximately 500 people have been invited to attend, including Members of the Lithuanian Government, representatives from other Federal agencies and academia, members of Congress and Congressional staff, Embassy officials and members of the Diplomatic Corps, and members of the Lithuanian-American business community. The estimated cost of the reception, including all food and beverages, is \$85 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. In addition, attendance at the American-Lithuanian Business Council will allow NASA representatives to discuss NASA's programs and plans with the other attendees. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the Business Council or a majority of its members, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490, may accept an invitation for themselves and an invited guest from the Business Council for free attendance to the event.

Moreover, NASA employees whose duties substantially affect the host, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. §2635.205(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

Attendees are reminded of the \$20 gift exception at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(a), which provides that employees may accept gifts valued at no more than \$20 per occasion (and no more than \$50 from one source in a calendar year).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam F. Greenstone', written in a cursive style.

Adam F. Greenstone