

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



October 21, 2014

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 Interstellar Screening and Reception on November 5, 2014

On November 5, 2014, Paramount Pictures and Northrup Grumman will host a screening of the film "Interstellar" and reception at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., at 6:30 p.m. Paramount Pictures controls the invitations.

Approximately 500 people have been invited to attend, including members of Congress and the public, personnel from the media, and employees of other Federal agencies. The estimated cost of the reception, including the screening and all food and beverages, is \$60 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 various NASA programs. Accordingly, NASA employees and their guests (subject to the exceptions noted below) who have been invited to attend may accept free attendance to this event.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event hosts, such as by way of contracting duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in these events from their local ethics counselor to attend under the widely attended gathering exception. Moreover, NASA employees who are in non-career positions in which Executive Order 13490 requires signing an ethics pledge may only attend if they reimburse the sponsor the value of the food and refreshments they consume and any gift items accepted for themselves and their guests.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone".

Adam F. Greenstone