

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



September 19, 2013

Reply to Attn of: LS01 (AMM)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/Audrey D. Robinson

SUBJECT: Widely Attended Gathering Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees At the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Wernher von Braun Memorial Dinner

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 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Wernher von Braun Memorial Dinner sponsored by The National Space Club. This event is scheduled for Wednesday, October 9, 2013, at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center Davidson Center for Space Exploration. The evening begins with a reception and cash bar at 5:30 p.m., and dinner at 7:00 p.m. The Guest Speaker is Mr. Dennis Tito.

The National Space Club (NSC) was founded on October 4, 1957, to stimulate the exchange of ideas and information about rocketry and astronautics, and to promote recognition of U.S. achievements in space. The NSC is a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(6) of the IRS code that does not employ lobbyists, and which has both individual and corporate members, including NASA contractors.

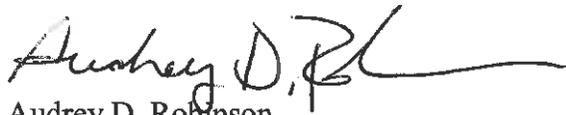
This event will be a widely-attended gathering of NSC members, NASA and military members, and state and local elected officials, as well as other community leaders. Besides more than 90 NASA employees, representatives of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, and the U.S. Army Missile Defense Agency have been invited. It is also expected that community leaders, state and local elected officials, and representatives of private industry will be in attendance. The event is valued at \$75.00 per person and approximately 800 people are expected to attend. 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 elected officials, military, governmental, and community 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 reasonable market value of this 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. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the NSC or a majority of its corporate members – including NASA employees who are in non-career positions for which they are required to sign an ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490 – may accept an invitation for free attendance to the dinner. NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the NSC, 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.

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", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Audrey D. Robinson  
Chief Counsel

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



September 19, 2013

Reply to Attn of:

LS01 (AMM)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/Audrey D. Robinson

SUBJECT: Widely Attended Gathering Determination Regarding Attendance by  
NASA Employees With Senior Institutional or Project Responsibilities  
At the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Wernher von Braun Memorial Dinner

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 project responsibilities have been invited to attend the 25th Annual Dr. Wernher von Braun Memorial Dinner sponsored by The National Space Club, scheduled for Wednesday, October 9, 2013, at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center Davidson Center for Space Exploration. The evening begins with a reception and cash bar at 5:30 p.m., and dinner at 7:00 p.m. The Guest Speaker is Mr. Dennis Tito.

The National Space Club (NSC) was founded on October 4, 1957, to stimulate the exchange of ideas and information about rocketry and astronautics, and to promote recognition of U.S. achievements in space. The NSC is a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(6) of the IRS code that does not employ lobbyists, and which has both individual and corporate members, including NASA contractors.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of NSC members, NASA and military members, and local elected officials, as well as other community leaders. Besides more than 90 NASA employees, representatives of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, and the U.S. Army Missile Defense Agency, have been invited. It is also expected that community leaders, state and local officials, and representatives of private industry will be in attendance. The event is valued at \$75.00 per person and approximately 800 people are expected to attend. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR §2635.204(g)(2).

Most of NSC's members are companies that are currently providing contractual services to NASA, or will seek to provide contractual services to NASA in the future.<sup>1</sup> Some NASA personnel invited to attend this event presently, or may in the near future, have extensive

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<sup>1</sup> See file for listing of NSC corporate membership.

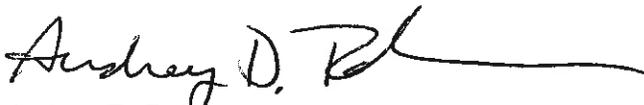
involvement in matters relating to members of NSC in their pursuit to provide, or seek to provide, contractual services to NASA.<sup>2</sup> These personnel are similarly situated in that they each have Senior Institutional or Project responsibilities that could significantly influence current or future contracts for a majority of the NSC's corporate members. Alternatively, they may have duties that could significantly affect the interests of the NSC itself.

I have determined that free attendance of these senior institutional leaders at the event is in the interests of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The attendance of these senior 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 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 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. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the NSC or a majority of its corporate members – including NASA employees who are in non-career positions for which they are required to sign an ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490 – may accept an invitation for free attendance to the dinner for themselves and a guest or spouse.

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



Audrey D. Robinson  
Chief Counsel

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<sup>2</sup> Center Director; Deputy Director; Associate Directors; SLS Program Office, Manager and Deputy Manager; SLS Program Office Chief Engineer and Deputy; Program Support and Operations Office Supervisor; Boosters Office Supervisor; Engines Office Supervisor; Stages Office Supervisor; SLS Office Chief Engineer; Advanced Development Office Supervisor; Flight Programs and Partnerships Manager and Deputy Manager; Science and Technology Office Manager and Deputy Manager; Chief Engineer; Engineering Directorate Director and Deputy Director; Michoud Assembly Facility Director and Deputy Director; Supervisory Contract Specialist; Industry Relations Specialist; and Lead Public Affairs Specialist; Office of Procurement Director and Deputy Director; Small Business Specialist; Supervisor Space Transportation Support Office; Supervisor Engineering Support Office; External Relations Office Supervisor; Protocol and Events Office Lead; Chief Financial Officer; Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications Director and Deputy Director; and Lead Public Affairs Specialist; Chief Counsel and Deputy Chief Counsel.