

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

**John H. Glenn Research Center**  
**Lewis Field**  
Cleveland, OH 44135-3191



May 22, 2023

Reply to Attn of: G

TO: Distribution

FROM: G/Chief Counsel, Deputy Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the  
2023 Ohio Space Forum

The Dayton Development Coalition (DDC), a non-profit economic development organization, will host the 2023 Ohio Space Forum at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. It is a three-day event beginning on May 22, 2023, with a community reception to be held at the NASA Visitor's Center in the Great Lakes Science Museum from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The agenda for May 23 runs from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with several NASA GRC and Headquarters speakers, along with other industry leaders. That event is followed by a networking reception until 6:00 p.m., also at the Hilton Hotel. The third day run is limited to tours of NASA GRC from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. This event will focus on increasing awareness of GRC's unique contributions to space technology, with high priority and relevance to the nation and the state.

The DDC has an open invitation through its website to congressional, general and military/federal attendees, as well as students and local universities. Federal employees are charged \$150.00, which includes all events over the three-day period. Attendees will hear a diversity of views or interests from business leaders, congressional leaders, academia, NASA personnel, and employees of federal agencies. Topics include Ohio's Space Strategy, Ohio's Key Role in National Security Space, and a panel discussion on Critical Space Technologies.

I have determined that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will provide an opportunity for the attendees to exchange ideas and views pertaining to NASA programs and operations. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined by 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(2).

The NASA employees, including those employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13989, who do not have a significant role in a matter affecting the interests of the sponsor, may accept the invitation for free attendance to the event for themselves and a guest. In those circumstances, I find that the Agency's interest in attendance outweighs any concerns that the individual may be, or may appear to be, improperly influenced in the performance of his or her duties.

However, NASA employees who have a significant role in any pending matter affecting the interests of DDC, such as procurement duties, program management, or negotiating or administering a Space Act Agreement, should seek a separate determination from my office as to whether they may accept the invitation. Attendees are reminded to exercise any COVID-19 precautions appropriate to their individual situation.

Callista M. Puchmeyer

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