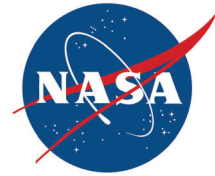


National Aeronautics and Space Administration

John F. Kennedy Space Center
Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899



Reply to Attn of: CC

TO: Distribution

FROM: CC/Acting Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees for the NG-20 Commercial Resupply Service (CRS) Mission Viewing and Reception at Kennedy Space Center, Florida, January 29, 2024

Northrop Grumman Corporation will host a Launch Viewing and Reception of the NG-20 CRS Mission no earlier than Monday, January 29, 2024, at Kennedy Space Center and Cocoa Beach, Florida, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Approximately 500 guests are expected to attend the event, serving food and refreshments. This event is by invitation only. Guests include Members of Congress, Congressional staff, NASA personnel, state and local officials, academia, U.S. and International industry representatives, and personnel from other federal agencies involved in space launch activities. The value of the refreshments is approximately \$115 per person.

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g), Gifts of Free Attendance at Widely Attended Gatherings, I find this event meets the requirements of a widely attended gathering, and I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend this event because their participation will further Agency programs and operations. Specifically, this event allows NASA employees to honor and show support for employees who have participated in the launch, and to recognize important contributions to U.S. aerospace efforts. This event also provides a forum for the attendees to disseminate information on NASA's ongoing activities and to discuss matters of interest to NASA with a diverse group of fellow attendees. Because of these benefits to NASA and having considered the factors enumerated in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(4), I also find that the Agency's interest in the invited NASA employees' attendance outweighs the concern that such employees may be, or may appear to be, improperly influenced in the performance of official duties.

Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsor may accept an invitation for complimentary attendance at these events. NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the sponsor, such as by way of procurement duties or administration of Space Act agreements, should seek an individual determination regarding participation in this event from the KSC Office of the General Counsel. However, NASA employees in non-career

positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13989 may only attend the reception if they reimburse the sponsor the fair market value of the event. An honor basket will be provided.

You 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 for each occasion (and no more than \$50 from one source in a calendar year). We understand that Northrop Grumman will be offering a gift bag valued at approximately \$17. NASA employees in non-career positions who have signed the ethics pledge may only accept a gift item if they reimburse the sponsor.

Thomas Browder Date: 2024.01.23
16:01:20 -05'00'

Thomas M. Browder III
Agency Designee