

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



January 28, 2026

Reply to Attn of:

CC

TO: Distribution

FROM: CC/Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the Texas Space Commission Artemis II Pre-Launch Reception

On February 5th, 2026, the Texas Space Commission will host a reception at 6 p.m. at Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, Cape Canaveral, Florida. The event is celebrating the Artemis II launch at Kennedy Space Center.

The hosts have invited approximately 350 persons to attend. Attendees will have a diversity of views or interests and will include NASA employees, industry partners, members of academia, community leaders, local government officials, and guests of invitees. NASA invitees may bring one guest if authorized. The projected cost for the event, encompassing all food and beverage expenses, is \$34 per attendee. For those attending with a guest, the total estimated cost is \$68. The Texas Space Commission is the organizer and sponsor for the event, and Space Center Houston and the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership are cosponsors of the event. Attendance at this event will allow NASA attendees to exchange information regarding various NASA programs. 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 provide an opportunity for the invited persons to exchange ideas and views pertaining to NASA's policies, programs, and operations.

NASA employees who do not have a significant role in a matter affecting the interests of the sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event. In those circumstances, I find that the Agency's interest in attendance outweighs any concern that the individual may be, or may appear to be, improperly influenced in the performance of his or her duties.

NASA employees who have a significant role in any pending matter affecting the interests of Texas Space Commission, Space Center Houston, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, or other sponsors, such as procurement duties, program management, or

negotiating or administering a Space Act Agreement, should seek a separate determination from their local ethics counselor as to whether they may accept the invitation.

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). Employees may accept any item(s) that are under or at the \$20 gift exception rule.

Charles Vinson

Digitally signed by Charles
Vinson
Date: 2026.01.30 09:55:34 -05'00'

Alex Vinson
Agency Designee