Inviting Public Officials to Your Activity

(Updated December 12, 2017) DISCLAIMER: This resource is not a substitute for Utah Code, and it is not intended to be comprehensive or an authoritative statement of law. This is used to give some examples but does not cover every scenario. For further legal information, please consult Utah Code (36-11, 20A-11), other appropriate legal resources, or contact the Utah Lieutenant Governor's Office.

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*Defined Terms (Utah Code Annotated 36-11-102):

"Meeting" means a gathering of people to discuss an issue, receive instruction, or make a decision, including a conference, seminar, or summit.

"Tour" means visiting a location, for a purpose relating to the duties of a public official, and not primarily for entertainment, including:

(a) viewing a facility; (b) viewing the sight of a natural disaster; or

(c) assessing a circumstance in relation to which a public official may need to take action within the scope of the public official's duties.

"Event" means entertainment, a performance, a contest, or a recreational activity that an individual participates in or is a spectator at, including a sporting event, an artistic event, a play, a movie, dancing, or singing

"Approved activity" means a tour or a meeting:

- (a)(i) to which a legislator is invited; and
- (ii) attendance at which is approved by:
 - (A) the speaker of the House of Representatives, if the public official is a member of the House of Representatives; or
- (B) the president of the Senate, if the public official is a member of the Senate; or (b)(i) to which a public official who holds a position in the executive branch of state government is invited; and
- (ii) attendance at which is approved by the governor or the lieutenant governor.

"Food reimbursement rate" means the total amount set by the director of the Division of Finance, by rule, under Section 63A-3-107, for in-state meal reimbursement, for an employee of the executive branch, for an entire day [\$42 as of December 2017].

Legislative groups described in 36-11-102(8)(b)(vi))

["Expenditure" does not mean: food or beverage that is provided at an event, a tour, or a meeting to which the following are invited]:

- (A) all members of the Legislature;
- (B) all members of a standing or interim committee;

(C) all members of an official legislative task force; (D) all members of a party caucus; or

(E) all members of a group described in Subsections (8)(b)(vi)(A) through (D) who are attending a meeting of a national organization whose primary purpose is addressing general legislative policy.