

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



March 19, 2019

Reply to Attn of:

Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity

Ms. JoAnn Newman
President and Chief Executive Officer
Orlando Science Center
777 E. Princeton Street
Orlando, Florida 32803

Dear Ms. Newman:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (“NASA” or “the Agency”) has completed its compliance review of the Orlando Science Center (“OSC” or “the Center”), a recipient of NASA financial assistance. The Agency conducted this limited scope review pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (“Title VI”), NASA’s Title VI implementing regulations at 14 C.F.R. Part 1250, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs receiving Federal financial assistance through NASA, and NASA’s Policy Guidance on the Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination as It Affects Persons With Limited English Proficiency (68 Fed. Reg. 70039). Copies of the regulations and policy guidance are enclosed.

NASA conducted the review to determine whether OSC is in compliance with NASA’s Title VI regulations and policy guidance; specifically, to ensure that the Center was taking adequate steps to ensure meaningful access to its programs and services to persons with limited English proficiency (“LEP”) and that the Center is providing equal opportunity (EO) regardless of national origin. Please also find enclosed a copy of NASA’s report of the compliance review.

NASA finds that OSC has completed a Four-Factor Analysis and Language Access Plan (“LAP”), as required in the Agency’s LEP Guidance. However, in order to be fully compliant with NASA’s Title VI regulations and LEP Guidance, the Center needs to significantly revise its LAP. In particular, the Center needs to explain how it will accomplish specific elements within its LAP, especially the section regarding language assistance measures. The Center needs to provide an updated LAP that conforms to the requirements for full compliance identified in the report within three months of the date of this correspondence.


Although the Center is not in full compliance with all LEP requirements, it is undertaking some efforts to provide meaningful access for LEP persons that NASA finds promising, especially the recently built Kidstown exhibit. OSC designed this fully interactive exhibit with bilingual signage throughout.

NASA stands ready to provide further technical assistance to OSC to meet its LEP obligations under Title VI and NASA regulations and guidance. For additional civil rights technical assistance, you may also wish to visit our MissionSTEM website at <http://missionstem.nasa.gov/>. The MissionSTEM website is designed to assist NASA grant recipients in meeting their compliance obligations under NASA's EO laws and regulations. The site provides a host of information and resources on compliance requirements as well as promising practices of our grant recipients.

Please be advised that in the interest of transparency, ODEO posts completed Title VI compliance reports on our MissionSTEM Web site, which is accessible to the public. The report and related records also may be requested through the Freedom of Information Act at 5 U.S.C. § 552. However, the reports are written to prevent revealing personal information that could result in an unwarranted invasion of privacy.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact David Chambers, Civil Rights Program Manager, EO Complaints and Programs Division, at 202-358-2128 or David.R.Chambers@NASA.gov.

Sincerely,



Stephen T. Shih
Associate Administrator
Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity

Enclosures

Cc: Debra Gordon, Vice President of Operations