

also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by following the online instructions for accessing the dockets. DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement is available for review in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000, (65 FR 19477–78).

The petition, supporting materials, and all comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated below will be filed and will be considered. All comments and supporting materials received after the closing date will also be filed and will be considered to the extent possible. When the petition is granted or denied, notice of the decision will be published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to the authority indicated below.

DATES: *Comment Closing Date:* April 23, 2012.

Authority: (49 U.S.C. 30118, 30120; delegations of authority at CFR 1.50 and 501.8)

Issued on: March 16, 2012.

Claude H. Harris,

Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2012–6852 Filed 3–21–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–59–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Financial Research Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of Financial Research, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of establishment of the Financial Research Advisory Committee and solicitation of applications for Committee membership.

SUMMARY: The Treasury Department has determined that it is in the public interest to establish the Financial Research Advisory Committee. A Charter for the Committee has been prepared and will be filed no earlier than 15 days following the date of publication of this notice. This notice establishes criteria and procedures for the selection of members.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrea Ianniello, Office of Financial Research, Department of Treasury, (202) 622–3002.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, (Pub. L. 92–463, 5 U.S.C. App. 2 § 1–16, as amended), the Treasury Department intends to establish the following advisory committee, pursuant to its Charter:

Title: Financial Research Advisory Committee.

Purpose: The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice and

recommendations to the Office of Financial Research (OFR) and to assist the OFR in carrying out its duties and authorities. The OFR will benefit from the knowledge, experience, and perspective of academics, researchers, industry leaders, government officials, and others.

Statement of Public Interest: It is in the public interest to establish, under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Financial Research Advisory Committee (“Committee”). The Committee shall be a continuing advisory committee with an initial two-year term, subject to two-year re-authorizations. The Committee provides an opportunity for academics, researchers, industry leaders, and other qualified individuals to offer their expert advice and recommendations to the OFR, which among other things, is responsible for collecting and standardizing data on financial institutions and their activities and for supporting the work of federal financial regulators and researchers. These views will be offered to the Director of the OFR on a regular basis. There exists no other source within the Federal government that could serve this function.

Background

The OFR was established under Title I of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Pub.L. 111–203, July 21, 2010). The purpose of the OFR is to support the Financial Stability Oversight Council (Council) in fulfilling the purposes and duties of the Council and to support the Council’s member agencies by:

- Collecting data on behalf of the Council, and providing such data to the Council and member agencies;
- Standardizing the types and formats of data reported and collected;
- Performing applied research and essential long-term research;
- Developing tools for risk measurement and monitoring;
- Performing other related services;
- Making the results of the activities of the OFR available to financial regulatory agencies; and
- Assisting such member agencies in determining the types and formats of data authorized by the Dodd-Frank Act to be collected by such member agencies.

Objective, Scope, and Description of the Committee

The Committee will advise the OFR on issues related to the responsibilities of the office.

The Committee shall provide its advice, recommendations, analysis, and

information directly to the OFR. The OFR may share the Committee’s advice and recommendations with the Secretary of the Treasury or other Treasury officials. The OFR will share information with the Committee as the Director determines will be helpful in allowing the Committee to carry out its role.

Members will be selected by the Department from persons that are recognized experts in the fields of economics, financial institutions and markets, statistical analysis, financial markets analysis, econometrics, applied sciences, risk management, data, information standards, technology, or other areas related to OFR’s duties and authorities, or may be representatives of sectors related to OFR’s duties and authorities. Members should also have experience as a widely-recognized academic or research expert in a field related to OFR’s duties and authorities, as a senior leader or respected professional within an industry sector related to OFR’s duties and authorities, or as a financial regulator or official in an area related to OFR’s duties and authorities.

Appointments will be made with the objective of creating a diverse and balanced body with a variety of interests, backgrounds, and viewpoints represented. The Committee shall consist of not more than 30 members.

The Committee will be chaired by a member selected by OFR.

The Committee will function for a two-year period before renewal or termination. It will meet at such intervals as are necessary to carry out its duties. Each year, the Committee intends to conduct one orientation session, as needed, approximately two public meetings, and several work sessions.

The meetings are open to public observers, including the press, unless prior notice has been provided for a closed meeting.

No person who is a Federally-registered lobbyist may serve on the Committee. Membership on the Committee is limited to the individuals appointed and is non-transferrable. Regular attendance is essential to the effective operation of the Committee.

Application for Advisory Committee Appointment

There is no prescribed format for the application. Applicants may send a cover letter describing their interest, reasons for application, and qualifications, and should enclose a complete professional biography or resume.

Some members of the Committee may be required to adhere to the conflict of interest rules applicable to Special Government Employees, as such employees are defined in 18 U.S.C. 202(a). These rules include relevant provisions in 18 U.S.C. related to criminal activity, Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch (5 CFR part 2635), and Executive Order 12674 (as modified by Executive Order 12731).

In accordance with Department of Treasury Directive 21-03, a clearance process includes fingerprints, tax checks, and a Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal check. Applications must state in their application that they agree to submit to these pre-appointment checks.

The application period for interested candidates will extend to April 16, 2012. Applications should be submitted in sufficient time to be received by the close of business on the closing date and should be sent to Andrea.Ianniello@treasury.gov or by mail to: Office of Financial Research, Department of the Treasury, Attention: Andrea Ianniello, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., MT-1330, Washington, DC 20220.

Cyrus Amir-Mokri,

Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions.

[FR Doc. 2012-6941 Filed 3-21-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-25-P

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Meeting Cancellation

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of meeting cancellation.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the cancellation of the open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Taxpayer Burden Reduction Project Committee scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 2012 at 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time via teleconference, which was originally published in the **Federal Register** on February 14, 2012, (Volume 77, Number 30, Page 8329).

The meeting is cancelled pending renewal of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Charter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Audrey Y. Jenkins at 1-888-912-1227 or (718) 488-2085.

Dated: March 14, 2012.

Shawn Collins,

Director, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.

[FR Doc. 2012-6750 Filed 3-21-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Meeting Cancellation

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of meeting cancellation

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the cancellation of the open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Small Business/Self-Employed Decreasing Non-Fileers Project Committee scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 10 a.m. Eastern Time via teleconference, which was originally published in the **Federal Register** on February 14, 2012, (Volume 77, Number 30, Page 8329).

The meeting is cancelled pending renewal of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Charter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Robb at 1-888-912-1227 or (414) 231-2360.

Dated: March 14, 2012.

Shawn Collins,

Director, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.

[FR Doc. 2012-6857 Filed 3-21-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Announcement of Competition Under the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2011: Project REACH Homelessness Mobile App Contest

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: To provide software which can operate on smart phones and tablet devices that can simplify access to resources available to the homeless and the caregivers and caseworkers who serve them, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces a prize competition under Section 105 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2011, Public Law 111-358 (2011) (the "Act").

DATES: Competition begins 12 p.m. March 22, 2012. Entries will be accepted until 11 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, July 27, 2012. The Grand Prize Winner

will be announced on or before November 9, 2012, at 11 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Matthew Webb at the Office of the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, at (202) 632-9550. (**Note:** This is not a toll-free number.) *See also*, Section 11, below.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

As a member of the White House Council for Community Solutions and founder of the non-profit Jon Bon Jovi (JB) Soul Foundation, Jon Bon Jovi approached the former White House Chief Technology Officer to ask about ways that volunteers could find shelters in the neighborhood of the JB Soul Kitchen, a community restaurant in Monmouth County, New Jersey that is sponsored by his foundation. He was subsequently referred to the VA Chief Technology Officer and the Director of the VA Innovation Initiative (VAi2), who began to explore solutions. They recognized that this was not just a local problem and that finding a solution that would allow service providers to refer their clients to other resources (including food, shelter, and clinical services) could substantially advance Secretary Eric K. Shinseki's goal of ending Veteran homelessness by 2015. Because JB Soul Kitchen has been intimately involved in the development to the project, because they do not have any pecuniary interest whatsoever in the outcome, nor will they gain from this voluntary affiliation, and because they serve Veterans as part of their "neighbor in need" population, we decided that it was an ideal venue for contestants to demonstrate their entries as a defined beta test site. VAi2 recognized that working closely with this private organization, rather than solely focusing on VA facilities, would benefit Veterans because homeless Veterans do not and should not exclusively use VA facilities; encouraging JB Soul Kitchen's close participation helps to emphasize the need to include private providers and would encourage software developers to include these organizations within their developed entries.

The Project Real-time Electronic Access for Caregivers and the Homeless (REACH) contest is being sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs through the VA Innovation Initiative, in support of the Administration's goal to end Veteran homelessness by 2015. This is an apps-development challenge to help the people who help the homeless more easily find essential services. It is