



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 15, 2008

CONTACT: Ron D'Amico
617-954-2168

**NEW LEGISLATION GIVES GO-AHEAD FOR HYNES CONVENTION
CENTER TO BEGIN RESTAURANT SPACE CONSTRUCTION**

*Nearly 20,000 Total Square Feet Of New Space Will Generate Additional Revenue And
Capitalize On The Facility's Success*

Boston- The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) today announced that legislation passed by both the House and Senate and signed by Governor Deval Patrick, will allow work to commence on the construction of approximately 20,000 square feet of new restaurant space as part of the \$18 million renovation plan for the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center. The renovations also include needed technological, environmental, and safety upgrades to the facility.

“For the last two decades, the Hynes has proven itself to be a valuable asset to Boston, breathing life into the economy of the Back Bay and the city overall, and these improvements will make the facility an even stronger economic engine for the neighborhood and the region,” said James E. Rooney, Executive Director of the MCCA. “This legislation will allow us to provide attendees with an improved facility that will further enhance their convention experience while generating new revenue for the MCCA and taxpayers and ensuring the future viability of the Hynes.”

The newly signed law allows contractor F.L. Caulfield to begin work that will amount to a \$4.7 million contract. These improvements will take approximately six months to complete and include “core and shell” work including demolishing the existing administration space on the east side that faces the Prudential Plaza, as well as rooms on the corner of Boylston and Dalton Street. Crews will install new plumbing, electric, mechanical, heating and air conditioning systems, in order to support the restaurant operations. Caulfield will also repair the sidewalk along Boylston Street, upgrade two elevators, and give the Hynes a new, energy efficient front entrance.

The restaurant space on the east side of the Prudential Plaza will be 10,459 square feet total, and the space on the corner of Boylston and Dalton Street will be 9,511 square feet total, equaling 19,970 square feet of new space.

Construction will not interrupt or negatively impact convention bookings or business. The MCCA will continue to work closely with the City of Boston, local neighbors and businesses through the design, development and implementation process.

As part of the \$18 million upgrade, the MCCA will update the technological and audio/visual capabilities of the convention center, making the facility more engaging and functional for the increasing number of high-tech and medical conferences booking the Hynes. These upgrades include improved wireless and cell service, visual information systems in common areas, and a complete overhaul of the facility's audio systems.

The Hynes' safety and security systems will be upgraded to more current standards by replacing the fire alarm system, installing life safety equipment stations, new room security systems in all exhibition halls and meeting spaces and a complete upgrade of the internal security camera and communications systems.

To maintain the Hynes' award-winning architectural state, the renovation plan also includes aesthetic updates such as replacing the carpet and paint in common areas and meeting rooms, which have not been changed since the facility was opened in 1988.

In addition to these improvements, the MCCA will implement environmentally friendly changes to the Hynes such as new lighting, insulation, air and water systems that will increase the building's energy and water efficiency making it more "green."

About F.L. Caulfield

F.L. Caulfield is a DCAMM-certified contractor based in Dorchester, MA. With more than 60 years of experience, they are qualified in tenant fit-outs, renovation and new construction of laboratories, healthcare facilities, commercial buildings, schools, and government buildings. Recent projects include the Avon Comprehensive Breast Center at Massachusetts General Hospital, the U.S. Postal Service Barnes Building at 495 Summer Street and the Douglas McArthur Elementary School in Waltham, MA.

About the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center

The John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center had been operating as Boston's premier convention facility since 1988. It is located in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood and is connected to a complex of 3,500 hotel rooms and two malls with more than 200 retail stores and restaurants. It was first opened in 1965 as the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Auditorium and later remodeled and opened as a convention center in 1988. In 2006, the Hynes Commission, citing overwhelming evidence, determined that the facility was successful in the convention industry and a significant economic generator for both the city and state.

###