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**MCCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HONORED FOR LONGTIME SUPPORT OF
BOSTON'S FIRST NIGHT CELEBRATION**

MCCA Executive Director James E. Rooney was honored this month by Mayor Thomas M. Menino and the board of directors and staff of First Night Inc., for his and the MCCA's longtime support of Boston's historic New Year's Eve celebration.

"The site of our afternoon Family Festival, the start line for our Grand Procession, and home to a full schedule of evening events -- the Hynes Convention Center -- is truly First Night's home base on New Year's Eve," First Night board chairperson Jan Beaven said during a February 5 ceremony at the Parkman House. "Jim is the most accommodating and generous host we could ask for...Jim clearly loves the idea that our event celebrates Boston and that it brings the public into these public buildings...Jim's contributions will ensure that the First Night tradition remains prominent on the landscape of Boston for many years to come."

"Both myself and the MCCA are honored to play an integral role in First Night, a world-renowned event that makes this city unique," said Rooney. "By building community and celebrating diversity through its neighborhood programs, First Night allows Boston to not only revel but grow stronger."

The MCCA has supported First Night Inc. for more than 25 year, not only for its famous New Year's Eve celebration that attracts an audience of millions but also for its year-round youth programs that engage 1,500 children throughout the city's neighborhoods.

About the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA)

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority owns and oversees the operations of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA and the Boston Common Parking Garage. In 2008, the MCCA hosted 239 events at the BCEC and the Hynes with 914,549 attendees, generating 627,544 hotel room nights and \$522 million in economic impact for Greater Boston.

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