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**MCCA ANNOUNCES AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND
MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES COMING TO BOSTON**

Boston Convention & Exhibition Center Draws Meeting of 5,000 Attendees from New York City

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority today announced with its award winning facility and customer service, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) will hold its 39th International Convention at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC) in summer 2010, bringing one of America's largest labor unions to the City of Boston. The event will take place June 21-July 2, 2010 and attracting over 5,000 attendees.

The MCCA was in the process of making a sales pitch to AFSCME to come to Boston for 2012 and 2014, as they had originally chosen the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City for their 2010 International Convention. But when New York could not meet the events needs for 2010, discussions started about the possibility of shifting to Boston.

“The MCCA welcomes the diverse group of people from AFSCME who share a common commitment to public service,” said James E. Rooney, Executive Director of the MCCA. “Once again, our award-winning services and facilities have drawn another major meeting with thousands of attendees to Boston. The meetings industry is very competitive and like our sports teams, it is always nice to score a victory over New York.”

Occurring every two years, the AFSCME International Convention is the organization's major vehicle in launching campaigns for reform in public service policies, and is often host to local and national politicians seeking union support. The 2010 event has already booked over 26,000 hotel rooms, and is expected to generate \$12.5 million in economic impact for Boston.

“The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees selected Boston because of its deep labor history. We look forward for our attendees to enjoy the best of what Boston has to offer from dining, shopping and historical attractions,” said Diane Burke, Director of Conference and Travel Services.

The 2008 AFSCME conference will be held in July in San Francisco and is expected to feature a keynote speech by the Democratic nominee for President.

Labor union history in Boston is recorded as far back as the days of the British colonies, when shoemakers and barrel makers formed guilds in 1648. Pre-Revolution incidents like the Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party are pivotal events in the labor history of not just Boston but the United States. The Women's Educational and Industrial Union, which focuses on healthy living and working for women in America, was founded in Boston in 1877 by Dr. Harriet Clisby and still exists today. Labor conventions in Boston go as far back as 1903 when the American

Federation of Labor held their national meeting. In 1919, the Boston police became the first documented public service workers to strike.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees is one of the largest labor unions in the United States, with more than 1.4 million members. It represents employees in health care, sanitation, corrections and other public service sectors. Boston is home to the headquarters of AFSCME Council 93, one of 59 councils in 46 states. The council also has offices in Springfield, New Bedford and Wakefield.

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 fiscal year 2007, the MCCA hosted at the BCEC and the Hynes 265 events with over 772,000 attendees that generated over 580,000 hotel room nights and over \$478 million in economic impact for Greater Boston.

Large upcoming events at the BCEC includes the Yankee Dental Conference 33 attracting over 28,000 attendees 1/30/08 through 2/3/08, the International Boston Seafood Show drawing 28,000 attendees 2/19 through 2/28 and the AIIM ON DEMAND Conference & Expo bringing 35,000 attendees 3/3/08 through 3/6/08.

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