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## **FRIENDS OF THE FORT POINT CHANNEL NAMES MCCA DIRECTOR AS PRESIDENT**

### ***James E. Rooney Becomes Second President of Organization***

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) and the Friends of the Fort Point Channel today announced that MCCA Executive Director James E. Rooney has been named President of the Friends of Fort Point Channel, becoming only the second individual to hold the title since its formation in 2004. As Vice President of the organization for two years, Rooney worked with outgoing President Neil Gordon and the Executive Committee.

“I am enthusiastic about taking on this position at such a critical time as development continues to occur around this tremendous asset called the Fort Point Channel,” said Rooney. “I share the vision of many who live in the area and have invested in this district that the Channel has tremendous potential to be both a more active and vibrant neighborhood and workplace as well as a visitor destination in the City of Boston. Because the BCEC neighbors the Fort Point Channel and attracts hundreds of thousands of people to the area each year, I value the responsibility and opportunity.”

The Friends of Fort Point Channel is a non-profit organization committed to making the Fort Point Channel an exciting and welcoming destination for all of Boston’s residents, workforce and visitors. The Friends, incorporated in 2004, is led by a Board of Directors consisting of neighborhood residents, advocates, public agencies and private landowners, and its efforts are funded by voluntary contributions and by foundations. Supporting the work of the Friends are standing committees that include directors, as well as other committed volunteers and representatives.

“I as well as the directors of the Friends of Fort Point Channel are thrilled in anticipation of Jim’s fresh ideas and reshaping vision of the neighborhood we value so much,” said Deb Carey, Executive Director of the Friends of the Fort Point Channel. “We welcome him into this new position and are optimistic of an even brighter future for the Fort Point Channel.”

Currently serving as the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA), Rooney oversees the operations of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC), the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, the 1350-space Boston Common Parking Garage and the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA, which includes a 6,700-seat arena, as well as convention and meeting space. The MCCA exists to generate significant economic activity for the state by attracting conventions, tradeshow and other events

to its world-class facilities in Boston and Springfield, and Rooney is responsible for its \$52 million annual operating budget.

Rooney has renewed the vision and management of the MCCA, closing the operating gap at the Hynes to its lowest in its 20-year history while opening the BCEC to rave reviews from customers. Since Rooney took over the MCCA, bookings at the new BCEC have exceeded projections and conventions at Boston facilities now generate \$435 million in economic impact for the Greater Boston area. In 2006, the MCCA hosted 275 events, with 579,370 attendees and 648,862 hotel roomnights. In addition, Rooney was named to Tradeshow Week's Power Pack as one of the top ten convention bureau or convention center leaders in North America.

He currently sits on several non-profit community boards in the Boston area, including Project Bread - the Walk for Hunger; The Children's Trust Fund; Save the Harbor, Save the Bay; South Boston Neighborhood House; and Federated Dorchester Neighborhood Houses, Inc.

The Fort Point area is a vibrant and vital neighborhood in Boston, anchored by developing businesses and a dynamic artist community. The Channel itself links the waterfronts of the Downtown area and South Boston. Easily accessible from South Station and major highways, the Channel is also within walking distance of major Boston attractions, including Faneuil Hall, the Seaport District and Chinatown.

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