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MCCA ANNOUNCES TOP LEVEL STAFFING CHANGES

Promotions Support Continued Efforts to Propel Boston as Innovative Convention Leader

James E. Rooney, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) today announced three key promotions at the MCCA that support the authority's mission of being a leader in the highly competitive convention industry. Travis A. McCready has been promoted to Chief Operating Officer, Johanna M. Storella has been promoted to Chief Financial Officer and Fred Peterson has been promoted to Deputy Chief Operating Officer effective immediately.

"As the MCCA matures and moves into a different growth phase, we are able to make organizational staffing changes that will serve our continued purpose of solidifying Boston as a strong convention city," said Rooney. "I am also pleased that these recent changes will see three members of the MCCA team take on greater leadership positions."

Since McCready joined the MCCA and was named CFO in December of 2003, he has proven himself as a valuable asset to convention center operations. McCready restructured the MCCA's financial department, successfully streamlined operations and laid the building blocks for a stronger organization.

McCready will continue to report to Rooney in the newly created Chief Operating Officer position and will be responsible for leading the day-to-day operational activities that specifically include: event management, exhibitor services, public safety, transportation, sales, food and beverage, engineering, maintenance and related building services. He will also oversee the protection of assets at all MCCA properties, which include 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.

"I am truly delighted to move forward and continue to advance my professional career at the MCCA," said Travis A. McCready. "Up to this point, my time here has been tremendously rewarding. With the growth of attendees and shows at our venues, the future looks positive and I am ready to accept the upcoming challenges. My three years in finance will serve me well in my new operating role."

McCready came to the MCCA from the Boston Foundation, where he had served as Chief of Staff to the President and CEO and Corporate Secretary for the Foundation for two years. In that role he had responsibility for multiple aspects of the Foundation's affairs, including strategic direction, financial activity, day-to-day operations, constituent affairs and corporate governance.

Prior to joining the Boston Foundation, McCready was Director of Community Affairs for Harvard University and prior to that, he was a corporate attorney at Fredrikson & Byron, P.A., a Minneapolis law firm. McCready received his Bachelor of Arts from Yale University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Iowa College of Law. He serves on several boards including Work in Progress and Associated Grantmakers. He is also a member of the American Bar Association and the American Society of Corporate Secretaries.

As Director of Finance for the past three years, Johanna Storella has proven to be a real MCCA success story. Storella's understanding of finance and organizational skills have allowed Storella to rise quickly in the finance department. In her previous role, she oversaw all aspects of financial accounting and led the implantation of the MCCA's first new financial management system in 20 years.

"Johanna has proven time and time again that she has the skills, knowledge and financial expertise to be a leader, in not only that department but within the MCCA," said Rooney. "I have relied heavily on Johanna for the past three years and I am very pleased that she will be able to take on a role in senior management that will give her greater responsibilities and involvement in key finance activities."

As Chief Financial Officer, Storella will report to Rooney and will be responsible for leadership and coordination in the administrative, business planning, accounting and budgeting efforts of the MCCA. This includes strategic and financial planning, budget preparation, financial analysis and oversight of financial statements and reports detailing MCCA financial activity. Storella will manage all staff in the MCCA's finance and accounting departments.

Prior to Storella arriving at the MCCA, she took a position in marketing and communication at W.R. Grace & Company in Cambridge, MA. Among her responsibilities there, she investigated the marketing implications of a new product line based on the current external and internal environment. Storella has a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from North Carolina State University and a Masters of Business Administration from Northeastern University.

Fred Peterson, who has been with the MCCA since 1998, will be moving from Director of Government, Community and Business Relations to a new role as Deputy Chief Operating Officer, reporting to McCready. In addition to assisting with day-to-day operational activities, Peterson will have direct responsibility for the public safety and transportation departments. He will also spearhead a new initiative focusing on MCCA relationships with decorator firms and the role they play not only in the convention facilities, but also in the customer relationship process.

Peterson began working at the MCCA as the South Boston community liaison and was active in the community process surrounding the building of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. He is a graduate of Merrimack College.

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 2006, the MCCA hosted at the BCEC and the Hynes 276 events with 579,370 attendees that generated 513,000 hotel roomnights and \$435 million in economic impact for Greater Boston.

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