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July 12, 2002

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ROONEY RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD, RECOGNITION FOR EFFORTS

National Association of Minority Contractors lauds achievements

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – James E. Rooney, Director of Development and Construction for the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC) has received the Executive Director's Outstanding Leadership Award from the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC) in recognition of his efforts to assist minority and women contractors win contracts and for his help in establishing a New England NAMC chapter.

"It's my privilege to work day in and day out with many fine minority and female contractors in Boston, and it's truly an honor to have our efforts recognized at the national level," said Rooney. "It's not every day that you receive a national award for doing that which both helps you and makes sense for your community."

"Our vision for establishing a new NAMC chapter has always been about the future. We've done something I'm certain will yield fruit for the entire construction community for many years to come, but particularly for those deserving minority and women contractors trying to make their mark in the larger construction community. It's about reviving and extending the American Dream."

The NAMC is a 60,000 member association comprised of 22 chapters globally. NAMC's National Executive Director, Arnold Jolivet, personally nominated Rooney for the award.

"Because of Jim's leadership and assistance in establishing the New England Chapter, and the access he's provided to local resources, this is an award well deserved," said the NAMC's Jolivet. "He has shown a great deal of leadership to ensure that the BCEC's minority and women led business enterprise (MBE/WBE) programs are both meaningful and successful."

Local NAMC Chapter President Michael Jefferson traveled to the award ceremony in Washington, D.C. with Rooney and New England Chapter Board members Theodore Webster of Webster Engineering and Peter Koch, Director of Roxbury Community College's Small Business Development Institute.

The award also recognizes achievements of the BCEC construction team, under Rooney's direction, to exceed MBE/WBE goals laid out by lawmakers. Still, Rooney contended that establishing a local NAMC chapter would only make it easier for projects in the future to exceed their own goals.

"The NAMC is a dynamic organization dedicated to preparing and positioning minority and female owned businesses to win contracts, pure and simple," said Rooney. "Their mission is a win-win not just for their contractors, but also for projects like ours who want qualified, competitive MBE and WBE representation. A Boston project ought to look like Bostonians are building it."

The BCEC will be an \$800 million state of the art meeting and convention facility, and be the centerpiece development on the emerging South Boston Waterfront. Scheduled to be complete in June 2004, the project currently has more than 500 construction jobs on site.

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