



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 3, 2009**

**Contact: Mac Daniel
617-954-2430**

**MCCA finalizes deal with local restaurateurs for new world class
seafood and steak restaurant on Boylston Street**

Lyons and White to open their latest in the heart of the Hynes Convention Center

Executive Director James E. Rooney announced today that the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) has finalized a deal with local restaurateurs Patrick Lyons and Jasper White to open a world-class seafood and steak restaurant on Boylston Street inside the historic John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center.

The seafood, steak and chop house is scheduled to open later this year adjacent to the Prudential Center Plaza, the first time a restaurant has operated out of the Hynes. Owned and operated by Lyons and White and designed by the renowned Jeffrey Beers International, the construction and operation has and will create hundreds of new jobs as well as enhance the vibrant restaurant scene in this historic neighborhood.

The MCCA remains in lease negotiations with a second proposed restaurant to be built at the corner of Boylston and Dalton Streets. Both restaurants are part of an \$18 million renovation at the Hynes designed to improve public access to the facility and transform it into a modern, technologically advanced congress center in the heart of the Back Bay.

"I am very excited to welcome this amazing restaurant to the Hynes," said Rooney. "Boston has always been a top-tier hub for world-class seafood, and this restaurant will only enhance that tradition for locals as well as the thousands of attendees visiting the Hynes Convention Center each year. More importantly, the investment by Patrick Lyons, Jasper White and the MCCA is creating economic activity and jobs at a time when Boston needs them most. The construction to prep these spaces and the continued build-out and staffing has and will provide a mini-stimulus package for the area and helps boost confidence in the local economy. And the food is going to be fantastic."

"The Hynes is a destination for thousands of conference-goers and guests each year, and the addition of this restaurant will only improve the convention center's offerings," Mayor Thomas M. Menino said. "The restaurant has a terrific leadership team in Patrick Lyons and Jasper White, and I look forward to its opening later this year."

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“We’re honored and delighted to be part of this very smart use of convention center real estate,” said Lyons. “We’re going to be making a significant investment and creating about 250 jobs, and this makes it clear that we’re bullish on Boston as a whole and the Back Bay in particular.”

The restaurant concept stems from recommendations made by the Hynes Convention Center and Boston Common Parking Garage Commission, which was established by the Massachusetts Legislature in 2004 to analyze the continued use of the Hynes as a convention facility. As a result of that legislative commission’s work, the MCCA prepared a study to evaluate the economic, physical and policy impacts of adding commercial, retail or restaurant uses to the Hynes to enhance its economic performance and improve its physical integration with the Back Bay.

“This new restaurant adds an exciting seafood concept to the Back Bay, conveniently located for Hynes conventioners, tourists and local residents,” said Meg Mainzer-Cohen, President of the Back Bay Association. “Especially during challenging economic times, a new business opening bodes well for the future.”

Construction and design of the restaurant spaces has created a total of about 200 full- and part-time jobs. Lyons said another 250 jobs are expected to be created to build-out and operate the two-story restaurant.

Lyons and White are responsible for several landmark dining and entertainment venues in Boston, including *Kings* in the Back Bay, *Game On* at Fenway Park, *Scampo* in the Liberty Hotel, and the *Jasper White’s Summer Shack* seafood restaurants and catering in Boston, Cambridge and at Mohegan Sun. The Lyons Group also just recently completed the development, design and construction of the new *House of Blues* on Lansdowne Street.

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 241 events at the BCEC and the Hynes with 914,759 attendees generating 627,444 hotel room nights and \$522 million in economic impact for Greater Boston.

About the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center

The John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center had been operating as Boston’s premier convention facility since 1988. Located in Boston’s Back Bay neighborhood, it is connected to a complex of 3,500 hotel rooms and two malls with more than 200 retail stores and restaurants. It was first opened in 1965 as the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Auditorium and later remodeled and opened as a convention center in 1988. In 2006, the Hynes Commission, citing overwhelming evidence, determined that the facility was successful in the convention industry and a significant economic generator for both the city and state. The facility is currently undergoing an \$18 million renovation that will make it one of the most technologically advanced meeting spaces in the nation.