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**MCCA FOOD EMPLOYEES UNION REACH AGREEMENT WITH NEW FOOD
AND BEVERAGE PROVIDER IN BOSTON**
Agreement allows new food contractor to move towards June 1 turnover

Massachusetts Convention Center Authority food and beverage employees and their union have reached an agreement with the new concessionaire at Boston's two largest convention centers, paving the way for the new contractor to take over in Boston on June 1.

UNITE HERE! Local 26 reached the labor agreement with Levy Restaurants - a Chicago company slated to take over food and beverage service - that calls for hundreds of employees to get paid the majority of their salaries via tips rather than higher hourly wages.

"The change benefits our workers and the authority," said James E. Rooney, executive director of the MCCA, who had said he would only agree with the union's demands if the outcome was revenue neutral. "We can now move on towards June 1, when Levy and its staff will begin helping us create new culinary traditions here in Boston."

Levy Restaurants is set to become the new food and beverage partner at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center and the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center on June 1, taking over for Aramark, which held the contract at both facilities for years. The MCCA board of directors approved the change in February, with the stipulation that the new firm purchase 50 percent of its food, beverages and supplies from local sources. Levy also agreed to accept the terms of the previous collective bargaining agreement with UNITE HERE! Local 26.

Chicago-based Levy Restaurants is a leader in premium dining concessions and catering. The firm serves six major convention centers throughout the nation, including America's Center in St. Louis, the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, and McCormick Place in Chicago. Levy Restaurants has also hosted numerous major sporting and entertainment events, including the Kentucky Derby, the World Series, Major League Baseball's All-Star Game, the Super Bowl, and the Grammy Awards.

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 2009, the MCCA hosted 208 events at the BCEC and the Hynes with 714,128 attendees, generating 521,556 hotel room nights and \$420 million in economic impact for Greater Boston.

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