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**For Immediate Release**

## **McCormick Place Announces Award of New Food-Service Contract**

**CHICAGO (June 19, 2007)**—McCormick Place, the nation's premier convention center, has announced the award of a new food-service contract for its facility. The Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA) approved a group led by Levy Restaurants, Phil Stefani Signature Restaurants Company and Airport Restaurant Management Inc. The new 10-year agreement with Chicago Restaurant Partners LLC takes effect September 1, 2007.

The MPEA Board chose Chicago Restaurant Partners LLC over two competing bids, based on the analysis and recommendations of a subcommittee of the Board, McCormick Place staff and a food service consultant. Seven criteria were used to evaluate the three bidders, including work plan, operational and management experience, along with marketing and merchandising creativity. The goal is to provide McCormick Place customers with quality, innovative and varied dining options.

“We feel that Chicago Restaurant Partners will provide excellent customer service and take the dining experience at McCormick Place to the next level,” said Juan Ochoa, Chief Executive Officer of the MPEA. “The group has some very exciting, very innovative plans that will enhance the menu for our customers.”

One of the most exciting concepts under consideration includes the creation of a new “Chicago Marketplace” concept. If approved by the Board, this food-and-entertainment complex, similar to Boston's Faneuil Hall Market Place, would unfold in a 35,000-square-foot facility at the front of the McCormick South Building, next to the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place. It would feature an array of food options from some of the city's top restaurants.

“Our customers expect the finest amenities when they come to McCormick Place,” said Ted Tetzlaff, MPEA Board Chairman. “Food-service is a vitally important aspect of our facility and a key component of the planning that went into our new state-of-the-art West Building, which is only weeks away from opening.”

The Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority owns and operates McCormick Place, the nation's premier convention center, and the historic Navy Pier, the state's No.1 tourist and leisure destination. Since May 2005, nearly all of the shows at McCormick Place broke records for attendance and exhibitors. In 2006, the economic impact for the city as a result of the more than 75 events booked into McCormick Place was estimated at \$3.4 billion.

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