



NEWS

THE BEST OF BACK BAY

Winter 2009



Mayor Thomas M. Menino with Meg Mainzer-Cohen and Ed Linde, CEO of Boston Properties.

This year's Best of Back Bay was a shining success and a real testament to the prestige and influence of the Back Bay business community. On November 19, hundreds

flocked to the Back Bay's brand-new luxury hotel, the Mandarin Oriental, Boston. The room quickly filled with



The honorable Thomas M. Menino, Mayor of Boston, comments on the strength of Back Bay businesses.

many of the Back Bay's most influential business people, all eager to take advantage of this premier networking event.

Held in the hotel's stunning ballroom, guests enjoyed a spread of ornate hors d'oeuvres and pastries. Selections included fresh red snapper, rolls of shrimp



Ken Tutunjian of Hunneman Coldwell Banker and Rosemarie Puya, General Manager of Saks Fifth Avenue.

and crab, and other more traditional Chinese cuisine. A desert table in the center of the room boasted a variety of cakes and pastries, all prepared in-house at the hotel's bakery.

The event drew business people from all industries in the Back Bay. As the noise level in the room rose, it was clear that people were there to celebrate. Among the mingling guests was Boston's



Best of Back Bay co-chairs Stephen Weiner and Robin Brown orchestrate the Best of Back Bay drawing.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino. He

took to the stage to offer some of his reflections on the significance of the Back Bay and its dominant position in the region's economy.

"In these current economic times, everyone wants to come to Boston. Everyone wants to build right here



Michael Cantalupa from Boston Properties with Jim Rooney from MCCA and his wife Maryanne.

in the Back Bay. Here we have this great new hotel. We have an expansion happening at Neiman Marcus...All this is because the Back Bay Association is in there, involved, getting the job done for this neighborhood."



Deb Carrow (3rd from right) and her guests for the Liberty Mutual Insurance Group sponsored table.



Susanne Hatje, General Manager of the Mandarin Oriental, Boston, welcomes the crowd.

Susanne Hatje, General Manager of the Mandarin Oriental, Boston, came to the stage next. She welcomed all the evening's

participants and showed her pride for the hotel and its fine guests.



Kathy Connor of Loro Piana announces the retail sponsor that donated gifts for Deb Carrow of Liberty Mutual and her guests.

“It is great to see all of you here on such an occasion. We are privileged to be part of the Back Bay Association. To be partners is a real joy.” Her speech was followed by

Back Bay developers Steve Weiner and Robin Brown, Principals of CWB Boylston, LLC. They addressed the crowd triumphantly.

“Ten years!” announced Robin Brown, referring to the amount of time it took to get the hotel built at its high-profile Boylston Street location. Robin Brown is Vice Chairman of the Back Bay Association, host of the event, and firm advocate for the Mandarin Oriental, Boston from its initial pro-

posal over a decade ago. The evening proceeded with the Best of Back Bay’s signature affair: a drawing to reveal a restaurant and retail gift for all 28 participating sponsors. Representatives from 28 Back Bay companies each took their turn mounting the stage, drawing first to reveal where they would dine; drawing a second time to reveal what retail gift they would receive.



Brenda Adams of Adams Design, who designed the stupendous Best of Back Bay invitation, and her friend Jack Gregg of Century 21 Cityside.

Kathy Connor of Loro Piana and Cary Lynch of Sovereign Bank announced each retail gift, and each sponsor left the stage with bags slung around their shoulders from the Back Bay’s finest retail stores.



Enjoying the trolley trip provided by Old Town Trolley from the Mandarin Oriental, Boston, to one of 28 Best of Back Bay dinner locations.

After the drawing, guests were sent out into the night to board Boston’s very own Old Town Trolleys. They were whisked away to the best restaurants the Back Bay has to offer.



Patrick Reedy from Ermenegildo Zegna chats with Collette Royer of DKNY



Robin Brown assists John DeMatteo from Park Square Realty with the drawing.



Charlie Sarkis from Back Bay Restaurant Group chats with Dan Donahue from The Lenox and Gary Saunders, Saunders Hotel Group.

Back Bay Update

Featuring Bernard S. Cohen, Secretary of Transportation



Secretary Bernard Cohen

On October 7th, 2008 the Back Bay Association hosted its seasonal Back Bay Update event at the Hynes Convention Center. Keynote speaker for the event was Bernard Cohen, Secretary of Transportation for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Cohen gave a talk about the Commonwealth's current transportation initiatives and the challenges it faces. Meg Mainzer-Cohen, President of the Back Bay Association, introduced Mr. Cohen by revealing her belief that transportation will always be the Number 1 issue in the Commonwealth.



"I agree with Meg when she says that nothing is more important than transportation," Mr. Cohen began.

He started his speech with the "positives" relating to transportation in the Commonwealth.

Boston's transportation system is as competitive as Philadelphia

and New York, he said, although smaller in scale. He announced that MBTA membership was on the rise in 2008, a total of \$88 million will be allocated to the repair of 250 bridges, and electronic toll collection will be installed in all taxis for transport to and from Logan airport.

Cohen reiterated the announcement that the MBTA will be purchasing several CSX rail lines, including the Grand Junction tracks from Beacon Park yard through Cambridge. He also brought up the benefits of the Massachusetts Mobility Compact, a new partnership created to improve transit services.



Ken Sinkiewicz from MCCA chats with Jim English from Suffolk Construction.

Cohen next spoke about the "negatives" regarding the transportation in Massachusetts, citing a total of 550 faulty bridges, congestion in the western and central neighborhoods of the Commonwealth, and the tremendous debt of the Mass Turnpike Authority. The MTA is "no longer viable," he said, and described his efforts to consolidate a number of state agencies and to restructure assets without the use of additional resources.



BBA Chairman Bryan Koop speaks about the BBA's mission

Mr. Cohen formed an advisory group to look at options for providing better access to and from the Mass Pike from Fenway to the Waterfront. He also relayed the value of the Silver Line 3 project that is planned to connect transportation between Washington Street, South Station, the Seaport, and the Airport. Storrow Drive tunnel repairs will cost \$11.5 million and are slated to be completed in Spring 2009.

"There is never enough money to maintain what you've got..." he said. "You're not done when you build something; you have to maintain it." The Commonwealth will continue to negotiate between production and cost as it works to improve transportation for all of us.



Bryan Koop discusses transportation with Meg, Secretary Cohen, and David Jacobs from the Boston Courant.

Mr. Cohen submitted his resignation as Transportation Secretary on 12/15/2008.

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BACK BAY ASSOCIATION
234 CLARENDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

TEL: 617.266.1991
FAX: 617.266.8750

WWW.BOSTONBACKBAY.COM
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BACK BAY UPDATES

Boston Transportation Department

The City of Boston's Transportation Department has been busy in the Back Bay. They expanded the Multi-spaced meter program to Boylston Street and connecting street, which significantly increased parking availability in the neighborhood. In addition, the restricted parking zone on both sides of Clarendon Street has been eliminated on most blocks, and unwitting parkers will no longer be towed. Last but not least, the timing of light signals in the Back Bay has been studied and adjusted to reduce unnecessary idling. The Back Bay Association played a significant role advocating for these improvements, and commends BTM for being so responsive to the community!