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News

Mayor calls radio duo's stunt 'sick and twisted'

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BOSTON. Mayor Thomas Menino is once again targeting the controversial radio duo who were fired in 1998 for an on-air stunt in which they reported he had been killed while on vacation.

This time, however, it's the pair's treatment of homeless people that has outraged Menino.

On Saturday afternoon, 104.1-FM WBCN broadcast Opie & Anthony's (Gregg Hughes and Anthony Cumia) live "Homeless Holiday Shopping Spree" show, in which they bused homeless people to a New Jersey mall, gave them alcohol and let them shop — as they



Opie and Anthony

mocked them and detailed the events on air. The two have organized similar events in the past.

The show was broadcast in three markets — Boston, Philadelphia and New York. WBCN is also scheduled to replay the broadcast this morning at 6.

"This so-called 'shopping spree' is a sick and twisted

"If they run this, I hope they get hell for it."

Maureen Drouin of Vinfen

exercise that degrades the most vulnerable members of our society. This is an outrage," Menino said in a statement.

The mayor's comments come as city officials prepare for Boston's annual homeless census, which takes place overnight tonight.

As an April Fool's Day prank in 1998, Opie & Anthony reported Menino was killed in a car crash while vacationing in Flori-

da, for which they were fired from their station at the time, WAAF. Opie & Anthony returned to the Boston market this spring on WBCN to replace David Lee Roth, and their show is simulcast on XM Satellite radio.

Officials from WBCN and CBS radio, which owns WBCN, could not be reached yesterday for comment.

Last week, Maureen Drouin, director of planning at Vinfen — a private company that provides services for the disabled and mentally ill — and a member of United Disability Housing Partnership, told Metro she was appalled when she heard about the show idea.

"If they run this, I hope they get hell for it," she said.