



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF BOSTON
ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΒΟΣΤΩΝΗΣ

November 18, 2016

The Rev. Fr. Nicholas Kastanas
Mr. Ioannis K. Moutsatsos, Chairman
and the Members of the Parish Elections Committee
St. Athanasius Parish
4 Appleton Street
Arlington, MA 02476

Beloved brethren,

I do not know if you had the opportunity to speak to your parish priests before sending your letter. Both were present at the meeting of the Clergy Brotherhood last Tuesday during which an extensive discussion took place concerning our parishes and their future. Had you sought their guidance, they would certainly have discussed with you the contents of the Metropolitan's November 10th letter, which I believe is clear and needs no further explanation. Had you first sought Fr. Kastanas' guidance, he would have surely reminded you of proper protocol that all official letters from your Community must also include the signature of the Proistamenos (Presiding Priest).

I strongly object to your insulting insinuation that His Eminence's letter contained restrictions "placed at the urging of the current Parish Council that views some of the new nominees as 'less aligned' with the current Parish Council." The Metropolitan's letter was not authored specifically to address the upcoming elections at St. Athanasius. It was addressed to all parishes in the Metropolis of Boston—NOT to your parish exclusively!

The Metropolitan was saddened to read yet another letter of complaint and concern coming out of Arlington, this time from the youngest member of your "current parish council" who is unfortunately so disheartened, that he is giving up and not accepting nomination to run for re-election to the Parish



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Council. In his own words: "With every letter, email chain, and argument... I actively withdrew more and more." How sad that a young adult who was full of excitement to serve his Church is now leaving the Parish Council discouraged and frustrated. Instead of writing letters to inquire how you can circumvent the directives of your Metropolitan and further polarize your community, you would do well to look to your neighboring parishes which, after seeking the guidance and spiritual direction of their clergy, have accepted these pastoral guidelines for the good of their communities. One of your neighboring parishes, which also has several nominees affected by these directives, held a Parish Council meeting during which their priest explained the reasoning behind our Metropolitan's decisions, and asked for full compliance. To their credit, the Parish Council members affected decided to remove their names from nomination, thus affording the opportunity for others to serve. These people now look forward to serving their community in other capacities. Thankfully, this particular priest understands his role as spiritual leader is to maintain peace and harmony among all the stewards of the Community.

The Metropolitan's letter of November 10th is clear. You are expected to abide by it. Expressing again the great concern of His Eminence with the ongoing environment of division and disunity within the leadership of the Parish as you assert in your letter, I pray that the Incarnate Lord bless you and your families.

With love in the Lord,

**Reverend Theodore J. Barbas
Chancellor**

**CC: Mr. Constantinos Ioakimidis, President
and the Members of the Parish Council**