



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF BOSTON
ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΒΟΣΤΩΝΗΣ

December 2, 2016

**Mr. Ioannis K. Moutsatsos, Chairman
and the Members of the Parish Elections Committee
St. Athanasius Parish
4 Appleton Street
Arlington, MA 02476**

Brethren,

At your direction, two parishioners addressed letters to the Metropolitan concerning issues related to your upcoming Parish Elections. Having consulted with the Metropolis Legal Counsel, these two issues, together with one more, are addressed herein:

1. The issue of the by-law amendment as voted upon at the General Assembly on May 11, 2016, increasing the Parish Council Membership from 17 to 19:

There continues to be controversy over this issue. I will again refer you to the enclosed letter dated November 8, 2016 in which the Metropolitan approved this current by-law amendment, increasing the Parish Council Membership from 17 to 19. His decision was based on the opinion of the Metropolis Legal Counsel, who has subsequently reiterated that opinion as follows:

"The direction given in your letter of November 8, 2016 to the Arlington parish, and the conclusions therein, are correct. The parish's bylaws do not contain a provision requiring a super-majority vote for the passage of an amendment to the bylaws. The UPR does not impose Robert's Rules on the parishes. So unless a parish has explicitly adopted Robert's Rules in its bylaws, which to our knowledge the Arlington parish has not, then the parish's bylaws require a simple majority vote for the passage of an amendment. At the parish assembly, at which the amendment to increase the membership of the parish council was presented, there were 65 people present. Forty-nine people voted. Thirty-eight people voted in favor of the amendment. Thirty-eight is more than 50% of 49; it is also more than 50% of 65. So there is no question that the amendment passed by a majority vote. Therefore, the parish bylaws now provide for 19 members on the parish council."



METROPOLIS
OF BOSTON

Therefore the Parish Elections Committee is hereby directed again to provide for eleven (11) positions to be filled at the upcoming Parish Elections, thus increasing the size of the Parish Council to 19.

2: A letter by Vicki Ladas Konstandakis appealing the decision of the Parish Elections Committee not to permit her candidacy because she is related to Paul Tsitsopoulos, who is currently on the Parish Council. The Metropolitan's letter dated November 10, 2016 states the following: *"No more than one member of a family should serve on the Parish Council at the same time, i.e., husband and wife, parents and children"* (first-degree relationships). Extended family members such as cousins, aunts, uncles, etc. are not included in this category. As we understand their relationship, Mrs. Konstandakis is Paul's Aunt, which is not considered a first-degree relationship. Therefore the Parish Elections Committee is hereby directed to add her name to the list of candidates.

3: A letter by S. Nicholas Kriketos appealing the decision of the Parish Elections Committee not to permit his candidacy based on the Metropolitan's letter which states: *"...those who have served more than 10 consecutive years (there are cases of brethren who have served on the Parish Councils for three and four decades) to step down in order to be replaced by other parishioners, especially young adults who have never served."*

The spirit of His Eminence's directive was to ensure a periodic renewal of Parish Councils with new candidates—especially young adults. The strict interpretation of what the Metropolitan wrote, *"more than 10 consecutive years"* is eleven plus years. Mr. Kriketos opines that he is currently in his tenth year of service and thus has not exceeded this limit. Therefore, the



**METROPOLIS
OF BOSTON**

Elections Committee is hereby directed to add his name to the list of candidates for a final term on the Parish Council before he must step down.

I hope that these clarifications and directives are clear and will assist the Elections Committee in overseeing peaceful and orderly Parish Elections. I again express the great concern of His Eminence with the ongoing environment of division and disunity within the leadership of the Parish. The issues defined in this letter further point to the deep wounds in the Community which can only be healed in a genuine spirit of love, humility, forgiveness and respect. Praying that the Incarnate Lord will bless and inspire this process of healing, I remain,

With love in the Lord,

**Reverend Theodore J. Barbas
Chancellor**

**CC: The Rev. Fr. Nicholas Kastanas, Proistamenos
Mr. Constantinos Ioakimidis, President
and the Members of the Parish Council
Mrs. Vicki Ladas Konstandakis
Mr. S. Nicholas Kriketos**