



**GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF BOSTON**

**ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΒΟΣΤΩΝΗΣ**

**January 3, 2017**

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

**Brethren,**

**After a careful review and recount of your parish election ballots and all related election materials by members of the Metropolis Council, and after having discussions with the Election Chairman, Parish Council members, and numerous parishioners who had concerns with improper procedures surrounding the recent Arlington parish elections, the Metropolitan hereby communicates the following:**

- 1. The entire Absentee Ballot procedure is invalid due to the fact that the document that should have been followed in this regard was not. In fact, the Elections Chairman did not even know that the document existed. Other concerns that exist with the Absentee Ballot procedure include:**
  - a. The distribution and collection procedures. 36 absentee ballots were received, of which only 35 were deemed acceptable by the Elections Committee. This number is extraordinarily high when compared to your election history of the past few years.**
  - b. No record exists as to who these 36 parishioners are, nor how they requested the ballots, nor how they returned the ballots.**



**Therefore, due to the numerous concerns, objections and improper procedures listed above, and with the goal of not delaying the ratification and seating of the new Parish Council which will only further polarize the Community, the Metropolitan has authorized the following:**

- 1. Instead of ordering new parish elections, the entire slate of 14 candidates will be allowed to serve on the 2017-2018 Parish Council. For this two-year term, a temporary exception will be made to increase the number of Parish Council members to 22.**
- 2. The “Affirmation of Office” shall be offered this coming Sunday, January 8, 2017, following the Divine Liturgy.**
- 3. The Election of Officers shall follow in a special meeting this coming Sunday, January 8, following the “Affirmation of Office”, under the co-chairmanship of both priests of the Community.**
- 4. Next year’s parish elections will elect the usual number of candidates.**
- 5. The document of Absentee Ballot procedure MUST be reviewed and re-submitted to the Metropolis for final approval so that this unfortunate situation will not be repeated yet again in the future.**
- 6. The duly elected 2017 Parish Elections Committee MUST meet with the Chancellor prior to beginning its work for the 2017 Parish Elections so that all procedures may be reviewed.**

**If you have any questions concerning these directives, please contact my office. Extending the paternal love and blessings of the Metropolitan for a New Year filled with peace and harmony among the stewards of your beloved Community, I remain,**

**With love in the Incarnate Lord,**



**Reverend Theodore J. Barbas  
Chancellor**

**CC: The Rev. Fr. Nicholas Kastanas, Proistamenos  
The Rev. Aaron Walker, Assistant Pastor  
Mr. Constantinos Ioakimidis, President  
and the Members of the Parish Council**