

September 25, 2017

VIA HAND DELIVERY TO THE PARISH OFFICE, VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL AND VIA  
EMAIL TO ALL ADDRESSEES

The Reverend Father Andrew Demotses, Acting Proistamenos (via stathanasiusgoc@gmail.com)  
The Reverend Father Aaron Walker, Assistant Parish Priest  
Mr. Constandinos Ioakimidis, Parish Council President  
The Members of the Parish Council of the Saint Athanasius the Great Greek Orthodox Church  
Saint Athanasius the Great Greek Orthodox Church  
Four Appleton Street  
Arlington, Massachusetts 02476

RE: Written Petition for Special Parish Assembly on October 15, 2017

Dear Father Demotses, Father Walker and the Parish Council of Saint Athanasius the Great:

At the May 10, 2017 Parish Assembly, several motions were passed by a majority of the stewards in good standing. Specifically, the Parish Assembly agreed by majority vote to:

- 1.) Have the minutes of a Parish Assembly mailed to all parishioners in good standing within forty-five (45) days of the date of the Parish Assembly;
- 2.) Have a detailed, itemized Financial Report of the Church's income and expenses mailed to the parishioners in good standing along with the notice of a Parish Assembly, at least ten days prior to a Parish Assembly;
- 3.) Convene a Committee to review the purported comments from the Metropolis pertaining to the 2010 Ratified Parish ByLaws, to hold a Special Parish Assembly on September 15, 2017 to vote to again submit the Parish ByLaws to the Metropolis of Boston for ratification;
- 4.) Cease all work and the entering into of contracts on the building known as the Community Center until a Special Parish Assembly is convened and to hold a Special Parish Assembly on October 15, 2017 to discuss the scope, plans, work, budget and authorization of work on the Community Center project and to vote upon a motion to reconsider and rescind the December 13, 2009 motion regarding the Community Center.

The wording of the foregoing motions may not be exactly similar to that recorded by the Secretary of the May 10, 2017 Parish Assembly where the Parish Assembly draft minutes were not mailed to the parishioners as required. Additionally, the required notice of the September 15, 2017 Special Parish Assembly was not duly mailed and the Special Parish Assembly was not held on the date voted upon. The Parishioners have not received any communications from the Parish Council explaining why it has failed to abide by the motions passed at the May 10, 2017 Parish Assembly.

We are thus writing to ensure that the Special Parish Assembly voted upon at the May 10, 2017 Assembly will be conducted as scheduled on October 15, 2017. Additionally, as the Special Parish Assembly pertaining to the Parish Bylaws ratification was not held, we are seeking to ensure that the

ratification of the Parish Bylaws will also be addressed and voted upon at the October 15, 2017 Special Parish Assembly.

Therefore, the undersigned parishioners in good standing submit to you the enclosed written petition requesting a Special Parish Assembly on October 15, 2017. You are welcome to utilize the attached agenda or you may prepare a substantially similar one that includes all items and motions contained in said attachment. In the event you maintain that this written petition must also be submitted to the Metropolis of Boston, Chancellor Barbas has been provided with a courtesy copy of this package and may consider this correspondence addressed to his attention.

Without prejudice to our written petition for a Special Parish Assembly, and in hopes of satisfying the motions passed at the May 10, 2017 meeting, we request that along with the proper notice and agenda of the October 15, 2017 Special Parish Assembly, you simultaneously mail a copy of the May 10, 2017 Parish Assembly draft minutes and a current itemized, detailed Financial Report of the church's income and expenses to all parishioners in good standing. If you refuse to do so, please consider the written petition for a Special Parish Assembly as a separate matter and kindly act on the written petition accordingly.

Finally, we consider the written petition to be duly served and to satisfy all the relevant requirements of the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America ("UPRs") and of the Parish ByLaws ("ByLaws"). In the unfortunate event you choose not to honor the written petition and/or the requests made herein, we ask you to notify all parishioners as to your decision prior to Monday, October 2, 2017 via email, via a post on the church's website and/or via a post on the Saint Athanasius the Great Facebook page.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

## **WRITTEN PETITION REQUESTING A SPECIAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

The undersigned parishioners in good standing of the Saint Athanasius the Great Greek Orthodox Church of Arlington, MA, pursuant to Chapter Three, Article 31, Section 7 of the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (“UPRs”) and of the Parish ByLaws of the Saint Athanasius the Great Greek Orthodox Church of Arlington, MA (“Bylaws”), hereby submit to the Priests and the Parish Council of Saint Athanasius the Great Greek Orthodox Church of Arlington, MA this written petition requesting a Special Parish Assembly to be held on October 15, 2017 at 12:30 pm. at the Saint Athanasius the Great Greek Orthodox Church, 4 Appleton Street, Arlington, Massachusetts.

In accordance with Chapter Three, Article 31 of the UPRs and of the Bylaws, this written petition requesting a Special Parish Assembly has been signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the parishioners in good standing.

The purpose of this Special Parish Assembly is to discuss and to vote upon the topics detailed in the October 15, 2017 Special Parish Assembly Agenda which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

In adherence to Chapter Three, Article 31 of the UPRs and of the Bylaws, please ensure that proper notice of the October 15, 2017 Special Parish Assembly, along with an Agenda, is duly mailed to all parishioners in good standing at least ten days prior to October 15, 2017.

Respectfully,

The Undersigned Parishioners in Good Standing of the Saint Athanasius the Great Greek Orthodox Church of Arlington, Massachusetts

cc: The Reverend Father Theodore J. Barbas, Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston (via email and first class mail)

Enclosure

# **Saint Athanasius the Great Greek Orthodox Church**

## **SPECIAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

**OCTOBER 15, 2017 AT 12:30 PM**

### **AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. OPENING PRAYER**
- 3. ELECTION OF SPECIAL PARISH ASSEMBLY CHAIRPERSON**
- 4. APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL PARISH ASSEMBLY SECRETARY**
- 5. DISCUSSION OF PARISH BYLAWS**
  - a. Proposed Parish ByLaw Amendments:**
    - i. The Parish Council shall not spend more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) on any single expense or collectively on any set of expenses, invoices or subcontracts pertaining to an overall project, job, engagement or contract without prior approval from Parish Assembly.**
    - ii. The Parish Council Officers shall consist of One President, One Vice President, One Secretary, One Treasurer and One Assistant Treasurer beginning with the Parish Council Officer Elections following the 2017 Parish Council Elections. The Parish Council Officers are not recognized as a separate entity, board or committee and must act with the full knowledge and voting majority of the entire Parish Council.**
    - iii. To avoid conflicts of interest, Parish Council members shall not contract with the church to perform professional services in exchange for compensation nor shall they be permitted to bid on performing work for the church, including any work relating to any church property, buildings, maintenance and operations.**
    - iv. The Parish Council shall publish a current Stewardship Roll of Parishioners in Good Standing in each monthly bulletin.**
    - v. At least ten days prior to each Parish Assembly, including Special Parish Assemblies, Parish Council shall mail notice of the assembly, along with an**

agenda and a current detailed, itemized financial report of the church's income and expenses to every parishioner in good standing.

- vi. Within 45 days of every Parish Assembly, including Special Parish Assemblies, Parish Council shall mail a copy of the draft minutes of said assembly to every parishioner in good standing.

**b. Proposed Motions:**

- i. Parish Assembly hereby Accepts and/or Ratifies all Parish ByLaw Amendments Passed by Majority Vote through and including October 15, 2017.
- ii. The Accepted and/or Ratified Parish ByLaws shall be submitted to the Archdiocese through the Metropolis of Boston with A Request that the Parish ByLaws Be Reviewed and Accepted Prior to Fall Parish Assembly.
- iii. The Absentee Ballot Procedure, outlined in the ByLaw Amendment approved by the April 21, 2010 Parish Assembly and submitted to the Metropolis of Boston for ratification on or about October 4, 2010, shall be resubmitted to the Metropolis of Boston with a Request that the Absentee Ballot Procedure be Reviewed and Accepted Prior to the Fall Parish Assembly.

**6. DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY CENTER**

**a. Proposed Motion:**

The December 13, 2009 motion pertaining to the Community Center shall be rescinded and all Work at the Community Center shall stop effective immediately. The Parish Council shall further be required to convene a Special Parish Assembly to authorize it to enter into any contracts of any amount involving the building currently known as the Community Center, including but not limited to contracts for purchase, sale, work, repair, renovation or otherwise.

**7. CLOSING PRAYER**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**