



FEDERATION OF HELLENIC SOCIETIES OF GREATER NEW YORK, INC.
ΟΜΟΣΠΟΝΔΙΑ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΩΝ ΣΩΜΑΤΕΙΩΝ ΜΕΙΖΟΝΟΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΥΟΡΚΗΣ

STATHAKION CULTURAL CENTER 22-51 29th Street, Astoria NY 11105

December 2, 2022

To: His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
8-10 East 79th Street
New York, NY 10075

Your Eminence,

**MEMBERS OF GOVERNING
BOARD OF PAST PRESIDENTS**

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HONORARY PRESIDENT

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NICHOLAS DIAMANTIDIS
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Co-COORDINATOR

CLEANTHIS MEIMAROGLOU
ADMINISTRATIVE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Governing Board of the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York, we extend to You and Your staff Greetings for a joyful holiday season and a Blessed Christmas!

Although we are aware that You are currently overseas in a pilgrimage that includes visiting Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople as well as the Holy Land, we take this opportunity to communicate with You, our Spiritual Leader, on the pressing issue of the Greek National Independence Day Parade of 2023. The Parade is tentatively scheduled for April 30, 2023, so that it will not intervene with the Holy Week and the Easter celebration.

The problem is that the other side, the so - called "Board" under Mr. George Georgopoulos has arbitrarily and unilaterally proceeded to name a "Parade Committee" with people of their own choice, ignoring the will of the majority and the feelings of our Greek American community for a unified effort in order to have a successful parade such as the one we have organized last year, despite the difficulties and the division amidst the Federation.

We should point out that they have ignored our gestures to find a mutually agreeable solution in the problems of the Federation, by turning down the request for a 90-day or at least 60-day stay of the legal action and the formation of joint Committees, including a Parade Committee. They have also downplayed the findings of the Independent Auditing Committee led by Mr. Kostas Mastoras and Mr. Giannis Stroumbakis which incriminate some key members of their group. They gave the USB Drive to the Greek American media only under pressure, without pointing out the numerous discrepancies and financial improprieties uncovered by the Auditing Committee's report.

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Given the current status of the legal battle and the general climate, we respectfully request Your paternal intervention as the spiritual leader of our entire Greek American community, so that we are going to have a united and successful Parade in 2023, perhaps using the same model as the 2022 Parade with co-chairs of both side in each Committee and a mutual acceptable general Parade Chairman.

This hopefully will lead to a climate of cooperation and better understanding, perhaps paving the way for a future solution to the Federation issue.

In the hope that You are going to act at Your earliest convenience as time is of the essence, we remain,

Respectfully Yours,

Nick Diamantides

Demetrius G. Kalamaras

Co-ordinators

Mailing Address: 22-51 29th Street, Astoria, New York 11105

Tel: (718) 204-6500 • Fax: (718) 204-8986 • Email: hellenicfederationny@gmail.com