

December 5, 2017

Fellow Finance Committee Members,

A few days ago, I received information about a news article in which two members of our finance committee are credited with disclosing confidential information.

His Eminence, the Archdiocese, the Officers, and I, as your Chairman, am deeply disappointed and very troubled by this disclosure.

The Officers and this Committee, under my leadership, are committed to transparency, fiscal responsibility and accountability. However, as with any other organization, a commitment to transparency should not be interpreted as a license to leak confidential information.

Each of us knows that in every organization there is confidential information that is shared only at different levels of the organization. The release of information to the public is the decision of His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America, not a member of the Finance Committee.

All of our work is to be considered confidential. You, as members of the Archdiocesan Council Finance Committee are considered fiduciaries and leaking confidential information by a fiduciary may be a violation of New York law.

“Leakers” need to understand they may be putting themselves personally and the GOA at risk under New York law.

The GOA also enters into engagement letters with professional service firms. In connection thereto, the GOA agrees to not have certain analysis or statements made public. For example, we will soon be in receipt of the Grant Thornton Operations Review. Under the terms of the engagement letter with Grant Thornton, it cannot be published.

As a fiduciary, if you cannot maintain confidentiality in connection with your service on the Finance Committee, I respectfully request you resign today.

I understand your frustration that in the past, critical information was not shared with the Finance Committee, but the GOA and the Officers have demonstrated through their actions, not words, that this has changed.

I trust that you understand and that we will have no further breaches of confidentiality by Finance Committee members.

Respectfully submitted in the service of our Church

Lazaros Kircos

Vice-Chair, Finance Committee