

Joseph S. Crociata Grand Master

THE GRAND LODGE of WASHINGTON, D.C. FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

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M.W. B. François Stifani, Grand Master Grande Loge Nationale Français (GLNF) 12, Rue Christine de Pisan 75017 Paris France

- VIA EMAIL -

Most Worshipful Sir:

We take this opportunity to address you directly with respect to the current situation in your Grand Lodge and the relationship of the GLNF to this Grand Lodge in particular. At the outset, you should be assured that we have no intention to address the details of the unrest that has plagued the GLNF over the past year. In our view, the internal affairs of our sister Grand Lodges are matters best left to their own management and control, without involvement from those outside their borders. We take no position with respect to the numerous complaints and claims made by both sides to disputes within the GLNF, past and present, except to hope and urge all brethren of the GLNF to work together toward the stability and soundness of their Grand Lodge on as expedited basis as possible. The GLNF continues to be the sole Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Washington, DC within the borders of France.

Unfortunately, there are certain aspects of the current situation that appear to demand some action on the part of the Grand Lodge of Washington, DC. The disputes among members of the GLNF have been carried far beyond the walls of its lodge rooms, both by means of legal action in the courts and public demonstration on the streets of Paris. Whatever the cause, the historical dignity and stature of the GLNF has been damaged by these developments, and any continuation of public discord and disharmony threatens to cause similar harm to the reputation of the Craft throughout the world. When the spirit of dissatisfaction is permitted to attain such a prominent place in the public perception of an important Grand Lodge, the threat to the corresponding reputation of other Grand Lodges and Freemasonry in general is a matter of equal concern to all Grand Lodges, wherever situated. We understand that you have determined to hold free and fair elections for the office of Grand Master before June 30th of this year. Further, you have indicated that you are willing to cover the travel and lodging expenses of a committee of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America to attend as observers, to report back to the Conference on its observations regarding the election. In the interim and to provide sufficient time for the brothers of GLNF to resolve their differences, the Grand Lodge of Washington, DC will preserve its neutrality by holding official fraternal relations between the GLNF and the Grand Lodge of Washington, DC in abeyance. With the exception of communications directed between our offices, all official communication between our Grand Lodges shall cease until further notice. Likewise, our joint attendance at the Communications of GLNF and the Grand Lodge of Washington, DC (excepting any such attendance as may be requested by the Conference) shall also be held in abeyance. Any and all activities of Grand Representatives between our Grand Lodges, and all Lodge-to-Lodge communications, cooperative programs and dedications, as well as all joint meetings such as twinning, joint communications, and official visitations shall be discontinued, until this interim period is over.

To be clear, this action does not affect our long-standing recognition of the GLNF. It does not impose any impediment to fraternal visitation or communication between individual members of our Grand Lodges, and those holding membership in constituent Lodges in both Grand Lodges may continue to participate in their several Lodges' activities without penalty.

We regret the necessity of these actions, but believe them to be for the good of our respective Grand Lodges, and of Freemasonry in general. This decision will be published to our constituent Lodges in the near future, and we suggest that - to avoid later misunderstandings - you consider its corresponding publication to the constituent Lodges of the GLNF. We look forward to a change in circumstance that will permit us to end the period of abeyance, in the near future.

Fraternally,

Joseph S. Crociata, Grand Master of Masons Washington, DC



Cc: - All Grand Masters of Masons in North America - Secretary – Treasurer of The Commission on Recognition for Information