POLICE CHIEF APOLOGIZES FOR FLORIDA TRIP

BURTON RESIGNS AS POLICE SERVICES BOARD CHAIR FOR APPROVING TRAVEL

Returning from a trip to Florida for personal business matters earlier this week, Halton Regional Police Chief Stephen Tanner said he feels deep regret for traveling during the pandemic.

"I sincerely apologize for my decision to travel out of the country," Tanner said in a prepared release prior to his scheduled return Monday (Jan. 11), noting he will comply with quarantine requirements.

'What weighs on me most is the fact that I am not there to support my 1.000 members as we grieve the loss of one of our own."

Those last comments re-

fer to the sudden passing of Det.-Const. Michael Tidball, who died on January 6 while conducting an investigation as a result of an acute medical episode.

It was shortly afterwards that Tanner's trip came to light.

Tanner's trip was approved by Oakville Mayor and Halton Police Services Board chair Rob Burton. who resigned his position on the board over the matter Monday.

"I regret sincerely that I focussed at the time on the ways the chief's trip qualified as essential travel," said Burton, whose position as board chair will be temporarily assumed by vice chair Jeff Knoll. "I should have recommended against it because it could generate public concern about me not setting a higher example than the rules and guidelines actually called for.'

On Friday morning (Jan. 8), Halton Regional Police Association President Clay Gillis sent a message to members informing them of the chief's Florida trip.

"Several members have spoken to me personally and other members of our board to display their frustration and disgust for a decision to travel during a global pandemic and provincial lockdown," read the message sent to officers, and obtained by the Star.

"It's somewhat tone-deaf and not in line with the 'we are all in this together' kind of messages," Gillis told the Star in an interview Fri-

Tanner said he would not have taken the trip without seeking and obtaining permission, which was granted shortly before Christmas.

News of Tanner's trip has been met with disappointment by a number of local officials.

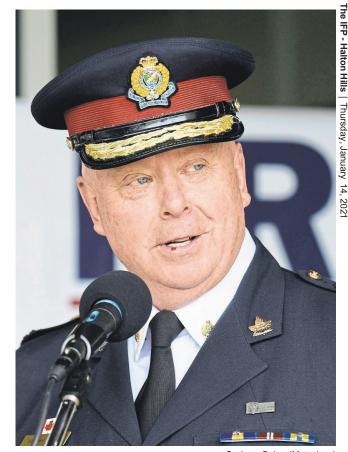
Said Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, "The refrain, 'we are all in this together' is only as meaningful as exemplified through the actions of those who deservedly are held to a higher standard — particularly those in public office and highly ranked officials serving the community."

Asked by the Star if he thought it was a mistake to go to Florida, Tanner said: 'I don't know if vou can look at a mistake in hindsight.

"I came down here with permission. I think that's so key. And I would never have done it without permission. And I never would have sought that permission unless it was for business purposes — I'm not at a holiday resort on the Mayan Riviera somewhere."

- with files from Wendy Gillis / Torstar Star

J.V. Clothing



Graham Paine/Metroland

Halton Police Chief Stephen Tanner says he regrets his decision to travel to Florida during the pandemic.

Our Sponsors 2020

(As of November 15, 2020)

SANTA (\$5000 -\$9999)



Light up the Hills



Volunteers



SILVER BELLS (\$2500-\$4999)

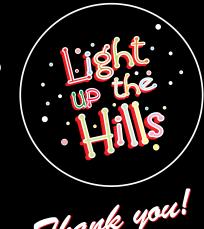
Halton Hills Hydro Royal LePage Meadowtowne Realty, Brokerage SouthWestern Energy Tim Hortons, Georgetown

MISTLETOE (\$1000-\$2499)

Amica Georgetown Inc. Amico 42 Mill Ltd. Canadian Tire, Georgetown Deker Electric Georgetown Hockey Heritage Council Barbara Legere, Home Financing Advisor, Scotia Bank **Grant Thornton LLP Douglas Wood Tree Services**

HOLLY & IVY (\$500 - \$999)

Accountants on Main All Trade Rentals Inc. Garv & Maria Bianchi Joan Doane, Doane Design Friends of The Old Seed House Garden Georgetown Marketplace Corp.



Rose Anna Helson, In Honour of Fred Helson Helsons LLP The Independent & Free Press

P&H Milling Group Real Canadian Superstore Storage Mart

Triton Pools

POINSETTIA (\$250 - \$499)

merald Isle Bedroom Gallery Inc Tra-Scott Fire Safety Inc.

FROSTY (\$50 - \$299)

ed Arnott MPP Wellington-Halton Hills im & Marilyn Bray Doug & Mary Lou Brock Richard & Jane Fogal ro Realty Ltd., Bro

FROSTY (\$50 - \$299)

Maple Lodge Farms McDonald's, Halton Hills Move Activity & Motion Clir Udo & Glenda Nixdori Speedy Glass Roger & Sherrie Spriggs Noel Stoyles, iPro Realty Ltd., Brokerage Light Up The Hills is excited to announce the extension of our glow times of our Trees of Hope and Park decorations. The Trees of Hope will sparkle until the pandemic is over. They remain a symbol of Hope and Gratitude. We honour all the essential workers, especially our Health Care Hero's, who have risked their safety for our community. The park lights will continue to glow until the 25 of January 2021.

A special Thank You to the Light Up The Hills Volunteers. It takes lots of donations and an enormous amount of time and dedication of the Volunteers to produce The Light Up The Hills Sparkle.

Remember to stay Safe...Self Distance and Wear a Mask