

POLICE BOARD DECIDES CHIEF WILL KEEP POSITION

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The verdict is in — Stephen Tanner will remain Halton's police chief.

The Halton Police Board passed a resolution last Thursday (Jan. 21) that says it "accepts Chief Tanner's apology for his decision to travel and will take no further action."

The motion also notes that the board has "full and unequivocal confidence in Chief Stephen Tanner to remain the Halton Regional Police Service chief."

The head of the local police force has been the subject of more than 15 hours of debate over the past week by the board, which met three times in response to concerns raised about Tanner's recent personal business trip to Flor-

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- Halton Police Board Chair Jeff Knoll

ida in the midst of a pandemic.

His venture south of the border also sparked public criticism from fellow members of the force and local officials.

In a statement, Tanner said he appreciates the confidence the board has placed in him, and expressed regret for his visit to the U.S.

"I will continue to lead our police service in the exemplary manner the board has come to expect, and will always do my very best for our members, citizens

and for the community that I am sworn to protect," he said.

"Regardless of the personal property-related reasons for which I travelled recently, or the permission that I sought and obtained for that travel, I am remorseful for that decision. I have previously apologized openly to all of our members and to the public."

Tanner said he also regrets the impact the issue has had on Oakville Mayor Rob Burton, who stepped down from his position as



Graham Paine/Metroland

The Halton Police Board has voted to keep Stephen Tanner on as chief.

chair of the Halton Police Board as a result of his decision to support the chief's trip to Florida.

While the motion expressed "disappointment" in both Tanner's and Burton's decisions, Oakville

Councillor Jeff Knoll — who has now been formally elected chair of the police board — voiced his support for Burton during the Jan. 21 meeting.

"I think it's important to establish that one error in judgment does not leave a legacy," he said. "I'm proud of his (Burton's) contributions and proud of his leadership."

The resolution passed by the board says it's committed to reviewing its policies around vacations, leave, continuity of leadership and the pandemic, with a particular focus on international travel guidelines.

And in the interest of transparency, the board directed its secretary to immediately release minutes of the special closed-door meetings it held on the topic.

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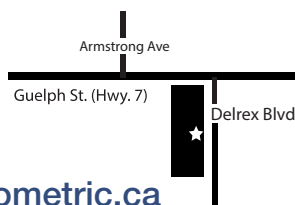
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