

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

Ralph Lauren exec resigns following conduct allegations

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Howard Smith was with Ralph Lauren for 20 years. Image credit: LinkedIn

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

U.S. fashion group Ralph Lauren Corporation has announced the resignation of its chief commercial officer, Howard Smith.

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In a **statement**, the group expressed sadness regarding the departure of the company's 20-year veteran and the situation's circumstances. After Ralph Lauren's board of directors launched an independent investigation regarding allegations related to Mr. Smith's conduct, it was decided that Mr. Smith would resign.

Conduct and ethics

The board of directors launched an investigation upon learning about allegations regarding Mr. Howard's personal conduct, which ultimately revealed that Mr. Howard exhibited conduct that violated Ralph Lauren's code of business conduct and ethics and other policies.



Ralph Lauren store at 888 Madison Avenue in New York. Ralph Lauren

The company also noted that these issues did not relate to the company's financials or performance.

In announcing Mr. Smith's resignation, the company acknowledged that he made significant contributions to the organization's evolution, for which it expressed gratitude.

Ralph Lauren is confident in its organizational leadership and is looking forward to further evolving its goals.

As an emphasis on sustainability continues to permeate the retail space, last year, Ralph Lauren developed a new platform that aims to make the cotton dyeing process more sustainable and efficient by reusing water and reducing chemical use ([see story](#)).

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