

**CALGARY
COMPOSITE ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD (CARB)
DECISION WITH REASONS**

In the matter of the complaint against the Property assessment as provided by the *Municipal Government Act*, Chapter M-26, Section 460(4).

between:

Colliers International Realty Advisors, COMPLAINANT

and

The City of Calgary, RESPONDENT

before:

J. Fleming, PRESIDING OFFICER

J. Pratt, MEMBER

I. Fraser, MEMBER

This is a complaint to the Calgary Assessment Review Board in respect of Property assessment prepared by the Assessor of The City of Calgary and entered in the 2010 Assessment Roll as follows:

ROLL NUMBER: 117010108

LOCATION ADDRESS: 5353 72 Ave. SE

HEARING NUMBER: 58817

ASSESSMENT: \$29,890,000

This complaint was heard on the 20th day of October, 2010 at the office of the Assessment Review Board located at Floor Number 4, 1212 – 31 Avenue NE, Calgary, Alberta, Boardroom 3

Appeared on behalf of the Complainant:

- M. Uhryn *for the Complainant*

Appeared on behalf of the Respondent:

- J. Greer; City of Calgary *for Respondent*

Board's Decision in Respect of Procedural or Jurisdictional Matters:

There were no procedural or administrative matters raised.

Property Description:

The property is a 378,950 square foot multi tenant Industrial building built in 2001 on 15.29 acres of land in SE Calgary. The property has a land use designation of I-G (Industrial General) and is valued using the Sales Comparison approach to value.

Issues:

The Complainant initially identified 17 grounds of complaint which were reduced to 6 at the hearing. The essence of the revised grounds for complaint is:

The sales comparison approach is not the best method of valuation due to insufficient sales, and so the Income Approach to Value (IAV) yields a more realistic value.

Complainant's Requested Value:

\$20,330,000

Board's Decision in Respect of Each Matter or Issue:

The Income Approach to Value used by the Complainant is not supported well enough to establish the value of the subject.

Board's Decision:

The complaint is denied and the assessment is confirmed at \$29,890,000.

REASONS:

The Complainant made 2 points, the first was the undependability of the Respondent's Direct Sales Comparison approach to value (DSC) due to lack of "recent" sales in the size range of the subject (i.e.: large warehouse properties). He noted that there had only been one large sale since 2008. Thus, the second point was that it made more sense to rely on the IAV as the more appropriate method of valuation.

The Complainant outlined the inputs to the valuation (Ex. 2C pgs 3 – 6). He selected a rent of \$5.25 per square foot noting that existing leases in the building ranged from \$5.07 to \$8.50 per square foot, with recent leasing in the building suggested the \$5.25 figure. He also noted rents between \$5.25 and \$6.45 per square foot in neighbouring facilities.

The Complainant suggested a vacancy rate of 20% as representative of average rates in the neighbourhood. Upon questioning he noted that many buildings had no vacancy while others had significant amounts. In the end he observed that even if one were to use a 1% vacancy rate, it would still result in a meaningful reduction in the value (\$24,140,000).

With respect to the Capitalization Rate (CR) the Complainant provided a Colliers International Canadian 2nd Quarter 2009 Capitalization Report (Ex 2C pg 12) which demonstrated that Capitalization Rates in Calgary for Industrial property were from 7.75% to 8.25%. In addition, he provided details of one 300,000 square foot single tenant large industrial building sale in the north east which demonstrated a CR of 7.78%.

Finally, the Complainant provided 6 Equity comparables which he indicated had an average assessment around \$70.00 per square foot versus the Assessment at \$78.00 per square foot and the Complainants request for \$53.65 (Ex. 2R pg 5).

The Respondent advised that he had completed the assessment on the DSC basis, and therefore could not offer any informed comment on the input variables used by the Complainant in the IAV because they did not use any of those inputs in their valuation process and so he was unaware of the values. He indicated that there had been over 150 improved industrial sales (Ex. 3C pg. 34-37) used to establish the values for the 2010 assessment. The Respondent agreed there were not a lot of "similar" sales in the recent past, but he believed the large number of sales in the qualifying period were adequate to determine the value of the subject using mass appraisal techniques. The Respondent had highlighted 4 comparable sales (Ex. 1R pg 18) (one of which was subsequently revised) which averaged a time adjusted value of \$88.00 per square foot and they argued this supported their use of \$78.00 per square foot assessment.

In responding to the Equity evidence put forward by the Complainant, the Respondent offered his own Equity comparable analysis of 13 properties (Ex. 1R pg. 20) which included all of the Complainants Equity comparables as well. This analysis yielded a median of \$81.00 per square foot and the 3 comparables built within 2 years of the subject tended to support the assessment

Finally, the Respondent provided an analysis comparing the values from the Comparable sales to the values which would result from the application of the IAV using the Complainant's inputs (Ex 1R pg 19). This analysis produced an average ASR (Assessment to Sales Ratio) of .59 (after correction of the sale figures). The Respondent said this demonstrated that the IAV failed in trying to establish a fair market value.

The CARB considered all of the evidence. The CARB notes that it is acceptable to use any approach to value which a party feels will produce the best estimate of Market Value. The Complainant provided one Municipal Government Board (MGB) and one CARB case which supported that point. This CARB panel acknowledged the Complainant's use of the IAV and so this was not an issue.

The responsibility of the Complainant is to provide an estimate of value which uses an established valuation method and is adequately supported. The Complainant provided a number of rent comparables which ranged from \$5.20 to \$6.50 per square foot with lease terms beginning from 2001 to 2008 (Ex. 2C pgs 46 - 48) which were from 4 or 5 neighbouring buildings. The legislation requires that the valuation be completed using "typical" rates. The CARB concluded there were too few lease examples and not a sufficiently consistent pattern to accept that \$5.25 per square foot was a "typical" rate. Too many adjustments were required (e.g. adjust for lease commencement, tenancy size) and the CARB concluded there was insufficient evidence to support the adjustments. As was the case in the rental rate discussion, the vacancy rate used is to be the "typical" rate. The dispersion in the vacancy rate examples from 0% in 4 properties to 100% in one property (Ex. 2C pg 4) left the CARB uncomfortable that any analysis of "typical" could be discerned from the evidence.

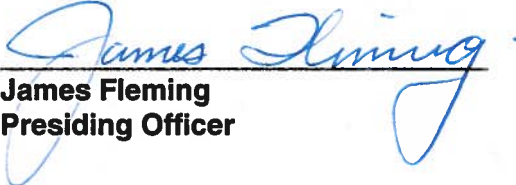
With respect to the capitalization rate, the CARB has previously identified concerns with putting a great deal of weight on third party evidence particularly given the nature of the disclaimers attached to the reports (Ex. 2C pg 15). The only hard data on capitalization rate then, is one sale in the NE quadrant which is some distance from the subject (Ex. 2C pg.16). Without additional support, the CARB is reluctant to put much weight on the implied CR value. So, with the IAV, the CARB has insufficient confidence in the inputs to conclude that the requested value is valid.

Finally, the CARB places more weight on the Equity analysis of the Respondent. The Respondent has shown that even when one includes the Complainant's equity comparables in a larger equity analysis, the analysis provides reasonable support for the assessed value especially when comparing properties of a similar age.

As a result, the CARB concludes that the Complainant has not established a more compelling estimate of market value, and thus, there is insufficient evidence to disturb the assessment.

For the above reasons the assessment is confirmed as noted above.

DATED AT THE CITY OF CALGARY THIS 28th DAY OF October 2010.


James Fleming
Presiding Officer

APPENDIX "A"

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED AND CONSIDERED BY THE CARB

No.	Item
1.	Exhibit C1 Completed Complaint Form
2.	Exhibit C2 Complainant's Brief
3.	Exhibit C3 Complainant's Rebuttal
4.	Exhibit R1 Respondent's Brief

An appeal may be made to the Court of Queen's Bench on a question of law or jurisdiction with respect to a decision of an assessment review board.

Any of the following may appeal the decision of an assessment review board:

- (a) *the complainant;*
- (b) *an assessed person, other than the complainant, who is affected by the decision;*
- (c) *the municipality, if the decision being appealed relates to property that is within the boundaries of that municipality;*
- (d) *the assessor for a municipality referred to in clause (c).*

An application for leave to appeal must be filed with the Court of Queen's Bench within 30 days after the persons notified of the hearing receive the decision, and notice of the application for leave to appeal must be given to

- (a) *the assessment review board, and*
- (b) *any other persons as the judge directs.*