

**CALGARY
ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD
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, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000 (the Act).

between:

RIOTRIN PROPERTIES INC, as represented by Altus Group, COMPLAINANT

and

The City Of Calgary, RESPONDENT

before:

R. Glenn, PRESIDING OFFICER

R. Roy, MEMBER

D. Julien, MEMBER

This is a complaint to the Calgary Assessment Review Board in respect of a property assessment prepared by the Assessor of The City of Calgary and entered in the 2011 Assessment Roll as follows:

ROLL NUMBER:	085154193
LOCATION ADDRESS:	5478 Signal Hill CE SW
HEARING NUMBER:	64670
ASSESSMENT:	\$54,900,000

This complaint was heard on the 8th day of November, 2011 at the office of the Assessment Review Board located on Floor Number 4, at 1212 – 31 Avenue NE, in Calgary, Alberta, in Boardroom 3.

Appeared on behalf of the Complainant: Brendan Neeson (Agent)

Appeared on behalf of the Respondent: Jarrett Young (Assessor)

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

No issues of procedure or jurisdiction were raised.

Property Description:

The subject is a 38.02 Acre Power Centre type Shopping Centre, most of which was constructed in 1999, and located just west of the intersection of Richmond Road and Sarcee Trail in the community of Signal Hill, in south west Calgary.

Issues:

Whether the subject property is properly assessed, in light of queries regarding:

1. The Capitalization Rate of the subject
2. The Rental Rate of Junior Big Box Retail on the subject property
3. The Rental Rate of Commercial Retail Units on the subject property

Complainant's Requested Value:

\$49,520,000

Board's Decision in Respect of Each Matter or Issue

The within matter was heard immediately after the hearing for the properties located at 5733 Signal Hill CE SW and 5989 Signal Hill CE SW (those decisions reported at: CARB # 2814-2011-P and CARB #2815-2011-P respectively). The parties mutually requested that all the argument and evidence provided at those previous hearings also be applied to the decision on the subject property. The Board agreed to do so.

Little detail regarding the actual size and fixturing of the subject buildings was provided by either party. The overall argument presented by the parties dealt mainly with the methodology used to arrive at the subject assessment and the requested assessment respectively.

The Complainant requested that the subject assessment of \$17/SF be reduced to \$16/SF for the junior big box portion (109,042 SF) of the subject property. They also seek an increase in

the Cap rate from the current 7.25% to 7.75%. This is based on an Income Approach Valuation. Both parties presented the same lease comparables, but they were of little assistance because the Respondent uses parameters 14,000 to 50,000 SF, while the Complainant uses 20,000 to 50,000 SF to arrive at a lower median rent rate..

The Complainant argues that the Respondent uses typical income for their assessment. They go on to note that all the inputs other than rent are the same. So, they argue, the real issue here is rent. The Complainant confirms that they use the most recent median rent figures. They carry on saying vacant space should be valued at median rent figures

The Complainant provides only one ARFI with lease information from the adjacent area, and it is for a nearby Medical Clinic. The Complainant discusses the Capitalization Rate in substantial detail.

The Respondent in cross examination argues that the Complainant's position on the Cap Rate has been argued and adjudicated several times previously, and that effectively, it is beyond question because it is settled at the rate used for the subject assessment.

The Respondent's main argument is the difference between the Fee Simple Estate versus the Leased Fee Estate. They say the Complainant is arguing a Leased Fee Approach, and in so doing, they are mixing actual and typical rates. The Respondent says that the two approaches cannot be compared. Further, they state that in all 7 power centre arguments where the Leased Fee Approach has been previously presented, it has been rejected.

They carry on to state that even when the Complainant comments on the Respondents cap rate approach, they are mixing actual and typical values. Further, they state that there is no real lease information in the Complainant's evidence for them to respond to.

Based on this reasoning, the Respondents argue that there is no substantive, qualitative evidence in the Complainant's presentation. A single indicator cannot be relied upon to establish typical market value, and they say there is little else for them to respond to..

The argument is somewhat protracted, but little if any substance is added. to the above noted presentations by additional argument, such as the introduction of the concept of Co-efficient of Dispersion in the Complainant's Rebuttal.

Based on the whole argument and all of the evidence before it, the Board found that there is no support for the changes requested by the Complainant in: the rates, nor the Cap Rate. Only one lease was produced by the Complainant. This was simply inadequate to convince the Board that a change was indicated.

The Board finds that the Complainant did in fact mix actual and typical parameters to come up with their requested result. This is not an acceptable method. The Board also finds that the Respondent's approach was much more compelling and consistent, based on the fact that only typical values were used to arrive at their assessment figures.

The Board is not convinced by any of the presentations that the subject assessment is incorrect or, unfair, and accordingly, the assessment is confirmed in the amount of \$54,900,000.

 DATED AT THE CITY OF CALGARY THIS 24th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2011.

R. Glenn
Presiding Officer

APPENDIX "A"

**DOCUMENTS PRESENTED AT THE HEARING
AND CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD:**

NO.	ITEM
1. C1	Complainant Disclosure
2. C2	Complainant Disclosure
3. C3	Complainant Rebuttal
4. R1	Respondent Disclosure

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.

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<i>Decision No. 2816-2011-P Roll No.085154193</i>				
<u><i>Subject</i></u>	<u><i>Type</i></u>	<u><i>Issue</i></u>	<u><i>Detail</i></u>	<u><i>Issue</i></u>
CARB	Retail	Power Centre	Income Approach	Cap Rate and Rental Rate