

## **Edmonton Composite Assessment Review Board**

**Citation: CVG v The City of Edmonton, 2013 ECARB 01913**

**Assessment Roll Number:** 3374758

**Municipal Address:** 10303 115 STREET NW

**Assessment Year:** 2013

**Assessment Type:** Annual New

Between:

**CVG**

Complainant

and

**The City of Edmonton, Assessment and Taxation Branch**

Respondent

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**DECISION OF**  
**Larry Loven, Presiding Officer**  
**John Braim, Board Member**  
**Pam Gill, Board Member**

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### **Procedural Matters**

[1] At the outset of the hearing the parties confirmed that they had no objections to the composition of the Board, and the Board confirmed that they had no reasons as to why they would be unable to hear the matter.

[2] The parties requested argument and evidence be carried forward from roll number 2707172, to this roll number, 3374758, where applicable.

### **Preliminary Matters**

[3] None noted.

### **Background**

[4] The subject property is a low rise apartment building, known as the *Diplomat Apartments*, containing 22 suites (16 one bedroom suites, 4 two bedroom suites and 2 three bedroom suites); was built in 1969, with an effective year built of 1973; and, is assessed at \$116,659 per suite.

### **Issue(s)**

[5] Is the 2013 assessment of the subject property correct?

## **Legislation**

### **[6] The *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c M-26, reads:**

s 1(1)(n) “market value” means the amount that a property, as defined in section 284(1)(r), might be expected to realize if it is sold on the open market by a willing seller to a willing buyer;

s 467(1) An assessment review board may, with respect to any matter referred to in section 460(5), make a change to an assessment roll or tax roll or decide that no change is required.

s 467(3) An assessment review board must not alter any assessment that is fair and equitable, taking into consideration

(a) the valuation and other standards set out in the regulations,

(b) the procedures set out in the regulations, and

(c) the assessments of similar property or businesses in the same municipality.

## **Position of the Complainant**

[7] The Complainant submitted a 21 page brief (C-1) in support of their requested 2013 assessment of \$2,300,000 of the subject property.

[8] The Complainant provided six sales comparables, all located in the same market area as the subject property and ranging in number of suites from 9 to 99, age from 1964 to 1971, Gross Income Multiplier (GIM) from 9.46 to 10.67, sale price per suite from \$88,181 to \$121,428, average potential gross income (PGI) per suite per month, from \$752 to \$1,039, and adjusted sale price per suite from \$97,723 to \$109,877; compared to the subject property at 22 suites, effective year built of year of construction 1973, GIM of 11.21, \$894 average PGI per suite per month, and assessment of \$116,659 per suite.

[9] The Complainant explained the adjusted sale price per suite was determined by multiplying the sale price per suite of each sales comparable by a multiplier determined by the average assessed PGI per suite per month of the subject property divided by the average sales PGI per suite per month of that sales comparable. For example, the sale price per suite of the first sales comparable was given to be \$94,444 per suite. This price was multiplied by a factor of the average assessed PGI per suite per month of the subject property, \$894, divided by the average PGI per suite per month of that sales comparable, given as \$864. It was the argument of the Complainant that this adjustment accounted for any changes in sale price and rental rates from the date of sale as well as any variation in such site specific factors as age, location and suite mix.

[10] Based on the average adjusted sale price per suite of the Complainant's sales comparables given as \$103,990, the Complainant considered a value of \$104,000 per suite to be appropriate, indicating a value of \$2,288,000 for the subject property.

[11] Similarly, relying upon the GIMs of two sales comparables considered by the Complainant to be more similar in physical, locational, and income-producing attributes, given as 10.67 and 10.44, the Complainant considered a GIM of 10.5 to be appropriate. Based on the 2011 and 2012 rent rolls of the subject property, the Complaint determined values of \$2,433,102 and \$2,573,645, respectively. Applying the same GIM to the assessed effective PGI of the subject property, the Complainant determined a value of \$2,403,965.

[12] In conclusion, the Complainant requested the 2013 assessment of the subject property be reduced to \$2,300,000.

[13] In response to the Respondent's submission, R-1, the Complainant submitted a rebuttal document (C-2) containing four pages. The Complainant's rebuttal charted the GIM for each of the Respondents three sales comparables as given by the Network compared to that determined by the Respondent. The GIMs for Complainant's sales comparables as determined by the Network ranged from 10.44 to 10.67, whereas those determined by the Respondent ranged from 11.25 to 12.16.

### **Position of the Respondent**

[14] The Respondent presented a brief 41 page (R-1) containing a testimonial statement, a 2013 low-rise apartment brief, market area maps, aerial photographs, photographs, a profile report, complainant issues, comparable sales, equity comparables, request of information (RFI) additional evidence and a law brief.

[15] The Respondent pointed the Board to mass appraisal, valuation, potential gross income model and high-lighted to the Board model significant variables, for potential gross income as average suite size, balcony, building type, condition, effective year built, market area (location, river view suites, stories and suite mix; and for gross income multiplier as building type, effective year built and market area (location). The Respondent also high-lighted to the Board the Network disclaimer regarding reliance on outside sources.

[16] The Respondent directed the Board to a detail report for the 2012 assessment period of the subject property showing a PGI of \$236,030 and a vacancy of 0.03 or 3% (R-1, p. 18).

[17] The Respondent submitted a chart containing five sales comparables, striking two of the sales as they were duplications. Two of the three sales presented by the Respondent were also presented by the Complainant. Regarding the Respondent's sales comparables: all three sales comparables varied in sale GIM from 11.25 to 12.16; and time adjusted sale price per suite (TASP) from \$109,219 to \$115,742; compared to the subject property with an assessed GIM of 11.21 and an assessed value per suite of \$116,659 (R-1, p. 21).

[18] The Respondent provided a chart containing five equity comparables (including the subject property) all located in the Oliver neighbourhood, ranging in effective year built from 1972 to 1980, number of stories from 2.5 to 3.5, all in average condition, all assessed at a vacancy of 0.03, with a 2013 estimated GIM ranging from 11.21 to 11.91 and assessment per suite from \$114,500 to \$119,818 (R-1, p.27).

[19] In conclusion the Respondent requested the 2013 assessment of the subject property be confirmed at \$2,566,500.

## **Decision**

[20] It is the decision of the Board to reduce the 2013 assessment of the subject property from \$2,566,500 to \$2,464,000.

## **Reasons for the Decision**

[21] Considering the Complainant's rebuttal evidence regarding the variance between the GIM given by the Network versus those given by the Respondent for the Respondent's sales comparables, the Board finds that a lower income results in a higher calculated GIM, but in the absence of the assessed GIM, the Board has little upon which it can rely to further analyze the variances.

[22] The Board finds the Complainant's unique methodology regarding adjustment of the sales comparables price per suite to be unverifiable by standard appraisal principles and appears to create an inequity with the actual (or even the time adjusted ) sales price per suite. Accordingly, the Board places little reliance on these adjusted sales price per suite of the Complainant's sales comparables.

[23] The equity comparables provided by the Respondent support the assessed GIM of the subject property at 11.21 and the Respondent's 2013 low-rise apartment assessment brief states the value of low-rise apartment buildings, such the subject property, was based on the typical PGI, typical vacancy and typical potential GIMs. However, as both parties submitted sales comparables on which they relied to support their respective valuations of the subject property, the Board places greater reliance on section 4.6.3 of the International Association of Assessment Officers (IAAO) standard (as quoted by the Respondent in their 2013 low rise apartment assessment brief): "...Sales comparison models can be equally effective in large jurisdictions with sufficient sales...". The Board is then drawn to consider the sales comparables provided.

[24] The Board finds that the subject property is over assessed at \$116,659 per suite based on the Complainant's sales comparables (C-1, p. 2).

[25] Furthermore, the Respondent's three comparable sales (R-1, p. 21), which average \$112,654 per suite do not support the assessed value of the subject at \$116,659 per suite.

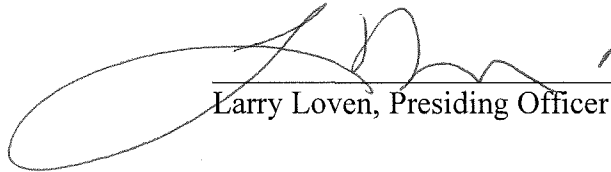
[26] The Board finds the two sales comparables common to both parties and the two Complainant's sales, #3 and #5(C-1, p. 2) closest to the subject property in terms of age support a market value of \$112,000 per suite or \$2,464,000.

## **Dissenting Opinion**

[27] None Noted.

Heard commencing September 17, 2013.

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2013, at the City of Edmonton, Alberta.

  
Larry Loven, Presiding Officer

**Appearances:**

Tom Janzen  
for the Complainant

Amy Murphy  
Ralf Winkler  
for the Respondent

*This decision may be appealed to the Court of Queen's Bench on a question of law or jurisdiction, pursuant to Section 470(1) of the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c M-26.*