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THE BOCA BEACH REPORT

March 2019

*Privileged
information about
your real estate*

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This publication is not a solicitation but is an information service from this real estate office.

The Net Bottom Line Of A Sale

The natural focal point of a real estate purchase contract is the selling price of the home, but the price isn’t the only factor that determines the net bottom line for both the buyer and the seller. Is a bargain for the buyer really a bargain if he or she is paying all the transaction costs? Is a top price for the seller really a top price if the buyer wants all the furniture to be included in the purchase price? Before you decide to go ahead with a great price, here are five other bottom-line points to consider:

1. What are the estimated transaction costs and who will pay for what?

Typical costs include the brokers’ commission, a home inspection, a termite inspection, escrow or attorney’s fees, a title search, an owner’s title insurance policy, transfer taxes and recording fees. The price tags on these items vary greatly around the country. Who pays for what is a matter of both local custom and negotiation.

2. How much money is the buyer putting into escrow and how soon?

A big deposit – called “earnest money” – and a substantial down payment are generally seen as a sign that the buyer is serious about completing the transaction. From the seller’s point of view, the more money the buyer places in escrow and the sooner the money is transferred, the better.

3. Is there a mortgage financing contingency and how specific is it?

The mortgage escape clause is a must for buyers, unless they’re paying all cash for the home. Without this contingency, buyers can be legally obligated to purchase the home even if they can’t obtain financing. Further, an open-ended statement that says the buyer will obtain a loan “at the prevailing rate of interest” leaves the buyer completely exposed to interest rate fluctuations. A statement that says the loan must be at an interest rate “not to exceed xx percent” and on specified terms is preferable.



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4. What furniture, fixtures and appliances, if any, are being sold with the property?

Technically, anything that's permanently affixed to or installed in the home is real property. Everything else is the seller's personal property. This distinction is a narrow one and it naturally leads to a fair amount of confusion. Are built-in appliances real property or personal property? What about a shelving system? A chandelier? Window coverings? Potted plants in the backyard? Sellers who intend to remove anything that's attached to the home should have that spelled out in the contract. And the same goes for buyers who expect to acquire any of the furniture or other movables.

5. What will happen if either side breaches the contract?

Unless an unmet contingency triggers the abandonment of the contract, it's a binding legal document. Buyers who fail to perform can lose their deposit money. Sellers who try to back out can be sued for "specific performance," which forces the sale of the home to the buyer. Many contracts also specify that disputes must be brought in small-claims court or presented for arbitration or mediation.

Tip: Ask your real estate agent to go over the standard contract with you before you receive or make a purchase offer. That way, you'll know what to expect and be prepared to negotiate the best deal you can get. ❖

Time To Start Real Estate Wealth

With good credit, loans are available for houses and small apartment buildings. Would-be buyers with a decent down payment can buy excellent rental properties. We recommend real estate, not just because it is our business, but also because it has the best track record of most investments. Anytime is a great time to invest in real estate.

When you own a rental house or houses in your home community, you are well on your way to wealth in the future. Another possibility is an investment home or condo at your favorite vacation spot.

There are three common types of residential real estate commonly used as rental units in most areas. These are:

Privately owned rental houses, cooperative housing projects and condominiums.

Since there is a large market for rental housing, residential rental properties can be a very lucrative investment.

Each of these investments involves a basic human need, which is living space.

Homes And Co-ops

Individual ownership of a home is quite familiar to most everyone. Joint ownerships are different. The way joint ownership is achieved is what distinguishes condominiums from co-ops. In a typical co-op, a cooperative housing corporation is the title owner of the entire property. The unit owners are tenant-shareholders of the corporation whose stock holdings entitle them to lease to occupy a unit and use the common grounds. The corporation runs the property and the tenant-shareholders are each responsible for a pro-rata share of all operating expenses.

Condos

The condominium is the more common type of joint ownership. In a condominium, each unit owner owns an interest in real estate and is responsible for taxes, assessments, mortgage financing, and repair and maintenance work on the unit. The deed to the condominium unit also grants the owner an undivided interest in the common elements of the development. So the condominium unit owner enjoys almost all the benefits—and shoulders the same responsibilities—that a private homeowner does.

Vacation Areas

A leisure or vacation condominium can take many forms. It may be a project consisting of detached houses, townhouses, garden apartment or high-rise apartment buildings. Condominium units may run from one-room studio apartments to four-bedroom houses. Equipping each bedroom with its own bath can provide flexibility. Think Bed & Breakfast. A fairly new trend is to get the proper permits and turn a vacation home into a B & B where the owner is not on the premises but provides a great little place that rents to people for a mini vacation. A two-bedroom apartment, condo or house with a sofa bed in the living room could rent to three separate couples sharing the unit.

The Rentals

When owners rent vacation rentals, a rental agent in the resort community normally handles the rental. An owner might handle a long-term rental in his hometown, but short-term rentals, as short as a weekend should be handled by a management specialist. The management company in a resort will have a staff



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comparable to a hotel staff, with cleaning persons, maintenance personnel and full time bookkeepers and office staff to handle the turnover and keep the house or unit available.

Management fees will vary widely. They will be a higher percentage than a management company would charge in a non-resort area for a month-to-month rental of a home or apartment. The tenant in a month-to-month rental may stay for years, while the resort rental may change many times in a month.

Rental Arrangements

The rental may be handled as a direct rental or on a pooled rental arrangement, depending on the agreement with the management company.

In the direct rental, each rental of the individual unit is reported separately, the management fee is deducted

and the balance is sent to the owner, usually on a monthly reporting basis.

Under a rental-pool arrangement, condominium-unit owners agree to place their units in a common pool. They all share the expenses of the rental operation and receive a share of the net rental income. This is figured on the basis of the proportion that their unit bears to all the units in the condominium for the particular accounting period. The proportion is computed by determining the number of days that the unit was in the rental pool (i.e., the total rental days in the accounting period less the days in that period during which the owner occupied the unit himself).

The manager leases pooled units according to the terms of the agreement, collects and pools the rental income, pays all the rental pool's expenses, and pays each owner his net share. ❖

The Problems Of "For Sale By Owner"

Here are a few of the problems that can happen when an owner tries to sell their home without the help of a real estate company.

The one reason we can think of to sell by owner is the saving of the real estate commission. That decision is often being "penny wise and pound foolish".

There are many reasons for the owner **not** to try to sell his own home. Here are a just few.

- The asking price may not accurately and objectively reflect realistic local market conditions. A price that is initially set too high wastes time and gives the house a negative reputation.
- Owner's information about sales of similar properties in the area will be sketchy at best and will be received with skepticism.
- A sign on the lawn or an advertisement in the newspaper will often be missed by interested buyers who have already visited a broker's office.
- Potential buyers, who have been discouraged or reluctant in the recent past, may be interested now. But owners do not know where or how to reach them.
- The sign encourages "lookers" who consider it an open invitation to see how you live. Owners waste much time with lookers who are not genuine prospects under any circumstances.
- Prospects do not confide in the owner about their personal finances. It's easier for such prospects to say they simply cannot afford the house and move along.
- Owners typically cannot explain the various

mortgage possibilities (ARMs, Conventional, FHA, VA) so as to give prospective buyers something positive to think about.

- Prospects rarely will insult an owner by saying what they object to about the house. On the other hand, prospects will not hold back at all when they deal with a real estate agent.
 - The key "attractive" features of the home will not be properly stressed. The owner will often not even try to discover what a particular buyer wants and is looking for. Owners will concentrate on what they like about a house and ignore what a buyer may need or want.
 - Prospects will feel free to arrive at any hour, on weekends, evenings, and other times when the owner might simply prefer to be tending to other business. Selling your own home ties you down full-time for as long as it takes.
 - A sale cannot be closed quickly. When a buyer says I'll buy, what does the owner do? Is he ready to present a contract of sale?
 - Most prospects will first have to sell their own home. That creates a period of prolonged uncertainty. A real estate broker can help speed both sales along, suggesting bridge loans and other ways to solve problems.
- Please call this office when you need the services of an expert in this community's real estate. We have the records of all properties for sale at all times. Today's interest rates, availability of loans, and any other financial information that can affect your property ❖

Oceanfront In BOCA

The following is a summary of the available and pending residences located on the East (BEACH) side of OCEAN Blvd. (A1A) in Boca Raton. 0.1% to 3.9% is Low Inventory * 4.0% to 6.9% is Balanced Inventory * 7.0% to 9.9% is High Inventory * 10.0% + is Excessive Inventory

North Beach

(North of Palmetto Park Road on North OCEAN Blvd. - Listed from North to South)

Address	Condo Name	TA	AA	%A	ADOM	Price Range	Average	PC
2150	Aegean	8	0	0.0%	0	SOLD OUT	N/A	0
2070	Athena	4	0	0.0%	0	SOLD OUT	N/A	0
2066	Ocean Reef Towers	55	1	1.8%	39	970K	970K	0
2000	Brighton	39	1	2.6%	21	3.5M	3.5M	0
S/T	North Beach	106	2	1.9%	30		2.235M	0

Boca Beach

(South of Palmetto Park Road to the Boca Inlet on South OCEAN Blvd. - Listed from North to South.)

Address	Condo Name	TA	AA	%A	ADOM	Price Range	Average	PC
250	Marbella	155	4	2.6%	196	950K to 2.2M	1.424M	2
310	Boca Mar	38	1	2.6%	116	749K	749K	0
350	Beresford	53	1	1.9%	74	1.650M	1.65M	1
400	Excelsior, The	27	2	7.4%	86	2.999 to 4.9M	3.95M	0
500&550	Chalfonte, The	378	7	1.9%	82	720K to 1.015M	901K	4
600	Sabal Shores	125	5	4.0%	206	445K to 975K	766K	0
700	Sabal Point	67	4	6.0%	157	749K to 765K	757K	1
750	Sabal Ridge	31	3	9.7%	77	2.5M to 3.5M	3.167M	0
800	Presidential Place	42	2	4.8%	75	4.5M to 6.9M	5,700M	1
1000	One Thousand Ocean	52	10	19.2%	243	3.995M to 13.5M	6,042M	1
S/T	Boca Beach	968	39	4.0%	159		2.833M	10

South Beach

(South of the Boca Inlet on South OCEAN Blvd. - Listed from North to South)

Address	Condo Name	TA	AA	%A	ADOM	Price Range	Average	PC
1180	Cloister del Mar	96	6	6.3%	114	589K to 725K	627K	0
1200	Cloister Beach	128	2	1.6%	22	575K to 599K	585K	0
1400&1500	Addison, The	169	7	4.1%	167	1.25M to 2.679M	1.806M	2
1800	Placide, The	54	0	0.0%	0	SOLD OUT	N/A	1
2000	Whitehall	164	8	4.9%	114	599K to 1.395M	793K	1
2494	Aragon, The	41	6	14.6%	133	2.75M to 8.5M	4.152M	0
2500	Luxuria, The	24	0	0.0%	0	SOLD OUT	N/A	1
2600	Stratford Arms	120	0	0.0%	0	SOLD OUT	N/A	1
2800	Ocean Towers	256	10	3.9%	125	749K to 2.775M	1.522M	1
3000	3000 South	80	5	6.3%	66	749K to 1.649M	1.015M	0
S/T	South Beach	1132	44	3.9%	115		1.571M	7

Totals	Feb. 2019	2206	85	3.9%	134		2,466M	17
Totals	Feb. 2018	2206	89	4.0%	176		2,024M	12
Totals	Feb. 2017	2206	71	3.2%	161		1.600M	17

Key:

TA = Total Number of Apartments in Development * **AA** = Number of Apartments Available For Sale
%A = Percent of Apartments in Development For Sale * **ADOM** = Average Number of Days on Market per Listing
PC = Number of Apartments SOLD and Pending Closing

This information is compiled from FlexMLS on February 18, 2019. This representation is based in whole or in part on data supplied by FlexMLS. FlexMLS does not guarantee or is not in any way responsible for its accuracy. Data maintained by FlexMLS may not reflect all real estate activity in the market.