

**1. MARKET CONDITIONS:** Real estate markets are cyclical and can change over time. It is impossible to predict future market conditions with accuracy. In a competitive or "hot" real estate market, there are generally more Buyers than Sellers. This will often lead to multiple buyers competing for the same property. As a result, in order to make their offers more attractive, some Buyers may offer more than originally planned or eliminate certain contingencies in their offers. In a less competitive or "cool" market there are generally more Sellers than Buyers, often causing real estate prices to level off or drop, sometimes precipitously. The sales price of homes being sold as foreclosures and short sales is difficult to anticipate and can affect the value of other homes in the area. Brokers, appraisers, Sellers and Buyers take these "distressed" property sales and listings into consideration when valuing property. In light of the real estate market's cyclical nature it is important that Buyers understand the potential for little or no appreciation in value, or an actual loss in value, of the property they purchase. This Advisory discusses some of the potential risks inherent in changing market conditions.

**2. BUYER CONSIDERATIONS:**

**A. OFFERING PRICE: AS A BUYER, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DETERMINING THE PRICE YOU WANT TO OFFER FOR A PROPERTY.** Although Brokers may provide you with comparable sales data, generally from information published in the local multiple listing service, you should know that the reporting of this data is often delayed and prices may change, up or down, faster than reported sales indicate. All buyers should be sure they are comfortable with the price they are offering or the price they are accepting in a counter offer. You should be aware of and think about the following: **(i)** If your offer is accepted, the property's value may not increase and may even decrease. **(ii)** If your offer is accepted, you may have "Buyer's remorse" that you paid too much. **(iii)** If your offer is rejected there can be no guarantee that you will find a similar property at the same price. **(iv)** If your offer is rejected, you may not be satisfied that the amount you offered was right for you. Only you can determine that your offer was reasonable and prudent in light of the property and your circumstances.

**B. NON-CONTINGENT OFFERS:** Most residential purchase agreements contain contingencies allowing a Buyer within a specified period of time to cancel a purchase if: **(i)** the Buyer cannot obtain a loan; **(ii)** if the property does not appraise at a certain value ; **(iii)** if the Buyer is dissatisfied with the property's condition after an inspection; **(iv)** if an insurance policy cannot be obtained for an acceptable cost; or **(v)** for any other contingency within the purchase agreement. To make their offers more attractive, Buyers will sometimes write offers with few or no contingencies or offer to remove contingencies within a short period of time. In a "hot" market, sellers will sometimes insist that Buyers write offers with no contingencies. Broker recommends that Buyers do not write non-contingent offers and if you do so, you are acting against Broker's advice. However, if you do write a non-contingent offer these are some of the contractual rights you may be giving up:

**(1) LOAN CONTINGENCY:** If you give up your loan contingency, and you cannot obtain a loan, whether through your fault or the fault of your lender, and as a result, you do not or cannot purchase the property, you may legally be in default under the contract and required to pay damages or forfeit your deposit to the seller.

**(2) APPRAISAL CONTINGENCY:** If your lender's (or your own) appraiser does not believe the property is worth what you have agreed to pay for it, your lender may not loan the full amount needed for the purchase or may not loan any amount at all because of a low appraisal. As a result, if you do not purchase the property, and you have removed your appraisal contingency, you may legally be in default under the contract and could be required to pay damages to, or forfeit your deposit to, the Seller. The Seller is not obligated to reduce the purchase price to match the appraised value.

**(3) INVESTIGATION CONTINGENCY:** If you disapprove of the condition of the property and as a result, you do not purchase the property, you may legally be in default under the contract and required to pay damages to, or forfeit your deposit to, the Seller if you have removed your investigation contingency. However, even if you make an offer without an investigation contingency or you remove that contingency, the Seller may still be obligated to disclose to you material facts about the property. In some cases, once you receive that information the law gives you an independent right to cancel for a limited period of time.

**(4) INSURANCE CONTINGENCY:** If you cannot obtain insurance or disapprove of the cost, and you do not purchase the property, you may legally be in default under the contract and required to pay damages to, or forfeit your deposit to, the Seller if you have removed your insurance contingency.

There is inherent risk in writing a non-contingent offer. Only you, after careful consultation and deliberation with your attorney, accountant, or financial advisor can decide how much risk you are willing to take. IT IS YOUR DECISION ALONE AND CANNOT BE MADE BY YOUR BROKER OR REAL ESTATE AGENT.

**C. BROKER RECOMMENDATIONS.** Broker recommends that you do not write a non-contingent offer, even if you are planning on paying all cash for the property. If you intend to write a non-contingent offer, Broker recommends that, prior to writing the offer, you: (i) review all available Seller reports, disclosures, information and documents; (ii) have an appropriate professional inspect the property (even if it is being sold "as is" in its present condition); and (iii) carefully assess your financial position and risk with your attorney, accountant or financial advisor.

**D. MULTIPLE OFFERS:** At times Buyers may write offers on more than one property even though the Buyer intends to purchase only one. This may occur in a short sale when the approval process can take a considerable amount of time, or it could also occur in a hot market when the Buyer is having difficulty getting an offer accepted. While it is not illegal to make offers on multiple properties with intent to purchase only one, the Buyer can be obligated to many Sellers if more than one accepts the Buyer's offers. Additionally, if any offer is accepted without contingencies, and the buyer does not perform, there can be a breach. If the Buyer has not disclosed that the Buyer is writing multiple offers with the intent to purchase only one and the Buyer subsequently cancels without using a contingency created for this purpose, the Seller may claim the Buyer is in breach of contract because the Buyer fraudulently induced the Seller to enter into a contract. This claim may even be possible when the Buyer has all the standard contingencies remaining in the contract, as the Seller could argue that a cancellation for this reason would not fall under the good faith exercise of any of those contingencies.

**3. SELLER CONSIDERATIONS:** As a Seller, you are responsible for determining the asking price for your property. Although Brokers may provide you with comparable sales data, generally from information published in the local multiple listing service, you should know that the reporting of this data is often delayed and prices may change, up or down, faster than reported sales indicate. All Sellers should be sure they are comfortable with the asking price they are setting and the price they are accepting. There is not, and cannot be, any guarantee that the price you decide to ask for your property, or the price at which you agree to sell your property is the highest available price obtainable for the property. It is solely your decision as to how much to ask for your property and at which price to sell your property.

**Buyer/Seller acknowledges each has read, understands and has received a copy of this Market Conditions Advisory.**

Buyer \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Buyer \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Seller \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Seller \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**MCA REVISED 6/24 (PAGE 2 OF 2)**



**MARKET CONDITIONS ADVISORY (MCA PAGE 2 OF 2)**

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