



UNITED STATES
CIVILIAN BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS

December 15, 2017

CBCA 5749-RELO

In the Matter of CRYSTAL D. JONES

Crystal D. Jones, Leesville, LA, Claimant.

Connie J. Rabel, Director, Travel Functional Area, Enterprise Solutions and Standards, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Indianapolis, IN, appearing for Department of Defense.

O'ROURKE, Board Judge.

Claimant, Crystal D. Jones, a civilian employee of the Department of Defense (DoD or agency), requested reimbursement of real estate expenses paid in association with the sale of her home in Hahira, Georgia. The agency paid the majority of the expenses but denied the seller's credit of \$5000 that seller (claimant) agreed to pay toward buyer's closing costs. The agency determined that claimant did not demonstrate that this practice was customary in the area where the sale took place, as the Federal Travel Regulation (FTR) requires. See 41 CFR 302-11.200 (2016) (FTR 302-11.200).

Claimant appealed the denial to the Board and provided additional documentation to support her claim. Specifically, claimant's realtor provided information for 150 homes sold in claimant's neighborhood between October 2011 and October 2016, showing that in approximately seventy-five percent of all sales, sellers contributed an average of \$3500 to buyer's closing costs. Upon review of the additional documentation, the agency determined that claimant should be reimbursed in the amount of \$4120.50 (the agency determined that \$879.50 of the costs were non-reimbursable). Claimant accepted the agency's offer of reimbursement and requested this case be dismissed.

Accordingly, the case is dismissed.

KATHLEEN J. O'ROURKE
Board Judge