



**FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION  
ILLINOIS PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD**

APPELLANT: Sam Fakhouri  
DOCKET NO.: 09-31151.001-C-1  
PARCEL NO.: 29-31-409-056-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Sam Fakhouri, the appellant, by attorney Michael E. Crane, of Crane and Norcross in Chicago; and the Cook County Board of Review.

Based on the facts and exhibits presented, the Property Tax Appeal Board hereby finds a reduction in the assessment of the property as established by the Cook County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

**LAND:** \$ 73,507  
**IMPR.:** \$ 120,243  
**TOTAL:** \$ 193,750

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**Statement of Jurisdiction**

The appellant timely filed the appeal from a decision of the Cook County Board of Review pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) challenging the assessment for the 2009 tax year. The Property Tax Appeal Board finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of the appeal.

**Findings of Fact**

The subject property consists of a 49,005 square foot parcel of land improved with a one-story, commercial building containing

19,505 square feet of building area. It was constructed in 1967 and is located in Homewood, Thornton Township, Cook County.

The appellant contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted an appraisal estimating the subject property had a market value of \$775,000 as of May 24, 2010.

The appellant also argued that the subject suffered from a 37% vacancy factor during 2009. Evidence in support of this contention included: a vacancy affidavit; a rent roll; and a court order appointing a receiver for the property.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$216,439. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$865,756, or \$44.39 per square foot, including land, when applying the 2009 assessment level of 25% as established by the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance. In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review submitted raw sales data for six retail buildings located within five miles of the subject. The sales data was collected from the CoStar Comps service, and the CoStar Comps sheets state that the research was licensed to the Cook County Assessor's Office. However, the board of review included a memorandum which states that the submission of these comparables is not intended to be an appraisal or an estimate of value, and should not be construed as such. The memorandum further states that the information provided was collected from various sources, and was assumed to be factual, accurate, and reliable; but that the information had not been verified, and that the board of review did not warrant its accuracy. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

#### **Conclusion of Law**

The appellant contends the market value of the subject property is not accurately reflected in its assessed valuation. When market value is the basis of the appeal the value of the property must be proved by a preponderance of the evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of market value may consist of an appraisal of the subject property, a recent sale, comparable sales or construction costs. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(c). The Board finds the appellant met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the appraisal submitted by the appellant. The subject's assessment

reflects a market value above the best evidence of market value in the record. The Board finds the subject property had a market value of \$465,000 as of the assessment date at issue. Since the market value of this parcel has been established, the assessment level of 25% as established by the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance in effect for tax year 2009 shall apply. 86 Ill. Admin. Code § 1910.50(c)(3).

The appellant also submitted documentation showing the rental income and vacancy level of the subject property. The Board gives the appellant's argument little weight. In Springfield Marine Bank v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 44 Ill.2d 428 (1970), the Illinois Supreme Court stated:

[I]t is clearly the value of the "tract or lot of real property" which is assessed, rather than the value of the interest presently held. . . [R]ental income may of course be a relevant factor. However, it cannot be the controlling factor, particularly where it is admittedly misleading as to the fair cash value of the property involved. . . [E]arning capacity is properly regarded as the most significant element in arriving at "fair cash value". Many factors may prevent a property owner from realizing an income from property that accurately reflects its true earning capacity; but it is the capacity for earning income, rather than the income actually derived, which reflects "fair cash value" for taxation purposes.

Id. at 431.

As the Court stated, actual income and expenses can be useful when shown that they are reflective of the market. Although the appellant made this argument, the appellant did not demonstrate effectively that the subject's actual income and expenses are reflective of the market. To demonstrate or estimate the subject's market value using income and expenses one must establish, through the use of market data, the market rent, vacancy and collection losses, and expenses to arrive at a net operating income reflective of the market and the property's capacity for earning income. As the appellant did not provide such evidence, the Board gives this argument no weight. Thus, the Board finds that a further reduction is not warranted based on the appellant's vacancy analysis.

This is a final administrative decision of the Property Tax Appeal Board which is subject to review in the Circuit Court or Appellate Court under the provisions of the Administrative Review Law (735 ILCS 5/3-101 et seq.) and section 16-195 of the Property Tax Code.

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Chairman



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Member



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Member

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Member



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Member

DISSENTING: \_\_\_\_\_

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

As Clerk of the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board and the keeper of the Records thereof, I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, full and complete Final Administrative Decision of the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board issued this date in the above entitled appeal, now of record in this said office.

Date: May 22, 2015



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Clerk of the Property Tax Appeal Board

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Section 16-185 of the Property Tax Code provides in part:

"If the Property Tax Appeal Board renders a decision lowering the assessment of a particular parcel after the deadline for filing complaints with the Board of Review or after adjournment of the session of the Board of Review at which assessments for the subsequent year are being considered, the taxpayer may, within 30 days after the date of written notice of the Property Tax Appeal Board's decision, appeal the assessment for the subsequent year directly to the Property Tax Appeal Board."

In order to comply with the above provision, YOU MUST FILE A PETITION AND EVIDENCE WITH THE PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE ENCLOSED DECISION IN ORDER TO APPEAL THE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPERTY FOR THE SUBSEQUENT YEAR.

Based upon the issuance of a lowered assessment by the Property Tax Appeal Board, the refund of paid property taxes is the responsibility of your County Treasurer. Please contact that office with any questions you may have regarding the refund of paid property taxes.