



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

APPELLANT: James Colaianni  
DOCKET NO.: 09-34670.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 14-33-307-036-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are James Colaianni, the appellant, by attorney Richard Shapiro in Evanston, and the Cook County Board of Review.

Based on the facts and exhibits presented, the Property Tax Appeal Board hereby finds **no change** 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:** \$22,140  
**IMPR.:** \$52,664  
**TOTAL:** \$74,804

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 two-story, multi-family dwelling of stucco construction with 2,550 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 138 years old. Features include three apartment units and a concrete slab foundation. The property has a 2,952 square foot site and is located in Chicago, North Chicago Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-11 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on seven equity comparables; however, the appellant did not provide any information on the comparables' foundations and garages, if any.<sup>1</sup>

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$74,804. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$52,664 or \$20.65 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted a grid analysis with information on four equity comparables and also provided property characteristic sheets for a fifth comparable.

### Conclusion of Law

The taxpayer contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. When unequal treatment in the assessment process is the basis of the appeal, the inequity of the assessments must be proved by clear and convincing evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of unequal treatment in the assessment process should consist of documentation of the assessments for the assessment year in question of not less than three comparable properties showing the similarity, proximity and lack of distinguishing characteristics of the assessment comparables to the subject property. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(b). The Board finds the appellant did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

Both parties presented information on a total of twelve suggested comparables. The appellant did not provide any information on the comparables' foundations and garages, if any. Consequently, the Board gave little weight to the appellant's comparables due to the lack of descriptive information about the improvements which prevents a meaningful analysis to determine the similarities of the comparables to the subject property.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be board of review comparable #3. This comparable had a concrete slab foundation like the subject and was very similar to the subject in location, design and age. Additionally, board of

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<sup>1</sup> The appellant completed Section V of the residential appeal form with information on four suggested comparables and provided a spreadsheet with three additional comparables. However, descriptive information about the additional properties was not provided.

review comparables #1, #2 and #5, despite differing in foundation, were very similar to the subject in location, design and age. The board of review comparables #1-#3 and #5 had improvement assessments that ranged from \$22.75 to \$27.30 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$20.65 per square foot of living area falls below the range established by the best comparables in this record. The Board considered adjustments and differences in the comparables when compared to the subject. Board of review comparables #1, #2 and #5 had basements, while the subject had a concrete slab foundation. The superior attribute of a basement helps to explain why these comparables had higher improvement assessments (in total or on a per square foot basis) than the subject. Based on this record, the Board finds the appellant did not demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not justified.

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.

*Ronald R. Cuit*

Chairman

*Tracy A. Huff*

Member

*Mario Morris*

Member

*JR*

Member

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: February 20, 2015

*A. Portal*

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.