



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

APPELLANT: James A. Jimenez  
DOCKET NO.: 11-20398.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 16-19-429-024-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are James A. Jimenez, the appellant, by attorney Edward M. Burke, of Klafter & Burke in Chicago; 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:** \$ 3,168  
**IMPR.:** \$ 20,342  
**TOTAL:** \$ 23,510

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 2011 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 is an 87 year-old, two-story dwelling of masonry construction containing 4,188 square feet of living area. Features of the home include a partial unfinished basement and a two-car garage. The property has a 3,250 square foot site and is located in Berwyn Township, Cook County. The

property is a Class 2-12 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends assessment inequity and overvaluation as the bases of the appeal. In support of these arguments, the appellant submitted information on four suggested equity comparables with sales data on three of them. Sales comparable #1 sold in 1988; sales comparable #2 sold in 1989; sales comparable #3 sold in 2008. They sold from \$28.65 to \$115.72 per square foot of living area including land.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$23,510. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$20,342, or \$4.86 per square foot of living area. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$247,734, or \$59.15 per square foot of living area including land, when applying the 2011 three-year average median level of assessment for Class 2 property of 9.49% as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue. In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four suggested equity comparables with sale data on comparable #2. This sale comparable sold in 2008 for \$70.69 per square foot of living area including land.

#### 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.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparable #3, and the board of review's comparables #2, #3 and #4. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$4.83 to \$6.20 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$4.86 per square foot of

living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record. 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 holds that a reduction in the subject's assessment is not justified.

The appellant also 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 did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The only evidence submitted by the appellant in support of the overvaluation argument is three sales comparables. Where proof of market value is based on recent sales, the record must include "documentation of not fewer than three recent sales of suggested comparable properties..." 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(c)(4). Two of the three sales comparables submitted by the appellant were not recent since they sold in 1988 and 1989, at least 12 years prior to the tax lien year of 2011. The only other sale comparable in the record, which sold in 2008, was submitted by the board of review. The record discloses an insufficient number of recent sales with only two recent sales comparables. Based on this evidence, the Board finds a reduction in the subject's assessment based on the appellant's overvaluation argument 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.

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Chairman

*K. L. Fan*

*Mario Alvarez*

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Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

*JR*

*Jerry White*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Acting Member

*Robert Steffen*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Acting 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: December 18, 2015

*A. Proctor*

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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.