



**A M E N D E D**

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

APPELLANT: Wilfred F. Mejia  
DOCKET NO.: 13-30529.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 13-11-319-025-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Wilfred F. Mejia, the appellant(s) by attorney Nancy Pina-Campos, Attorney at Law in Broadview; and the Cook County Board of Review.

Based on the facts and exhibits presented in this matter, 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:** \$4,950  
**IMPR.:** \$26,870  
**TOTAL:** \$31,820

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 2013 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 4,125 square foot parcel of land improved with a 92-year old, two-story, masonry, single-family dwelling containing 3,110 square feet of building area. The property is located in Jefferson Township, Cook County and is a class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant's appeal is based on overvaluation. In support of the overvaluation argument the appellant submitted a copy of the multiple-listing database printout (MLS) and the settlement statement disclosing that the property was purchased in March 2012 for a sale price of \$220,000

or \$70.74 per square foot of building area. The appellant requested an assessment of 10% of the sale price.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$31,820. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$318,200 or \$102.32 per square foot of building area using the Cook County Ordinance Real Estate Classification Ordinance level of assessment for class 2 property of 10%.

In support of the assessment the board of review submitted evidence on four sales comparables. These properties sold from August 2011 to May 2013 for prices ranging from \$121.26 to \$150.41 per square foot of building area.

In written rebuttal, the appellant submitted a brief asserting that the board of review's evidence was insufficient.

At hearing, the appellant argued that the sale of the subject supports a reduction in the subject's assessment. The appellant called Mr. Rick Robin to testify. He did not have any personal knowledge as to the subject's sale.

Under cross-examination, Mr. Robin testified he is familiar with MLS documents. He testified that the "(F)" printed after the sold price on the MLS refers to foreclosure and that when this is listed on the MLS it means that the sale was a foreclosure.

The board of review's representative, Roland Lara, argued that the sale of the subject is a compulsory sale and not reflective of the market. He asserted that the MLS, the settlement statement, and the appellant's petition establish that this is a compulsory sale. He then argued that the board of review's comparables support the current assessment.

In rebuttal, the appellant's attorney argued that the sale of the subject is still relevant and that the board of review's sales are not necessary.

### **Conclusion of Law**

The appellants contend 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).

In addressing the appellants' market value argument, the Board finds that the sale of the subject in March 2012 was a "compulsory sale." A "compulsory sale" is defined as

- (i) the sale of real estate for less than the amount owed to the mortgage lender or mortgagor, if the lender or mortgagor has agreed to the sale, commonly referred to as a "short sale" and
- (ii) the first sale of real estate owned by a financial institution as a result of a judgment of foreclosure, transfer pursuant to a deed in

lieu of foreclosure, or consent judgment, occurring after the foreclosure proceeding is complete.

35 ILCS 200/1-23. Real property in Illinois must be assessed at its fair cash value, which can only be estimated absent any compulsion on either party.

Illinois law requires that all real property be valued at its fair cash value, estimated at the price it would bring at a fair voluntary sale where the owner is ready, willing, and able to sell but not compelled to do so, and the buyer is likewise ready, willing, and able to buy, but is not forced to do so.

Board of Educ. of Meridian Community Unit School Dist. No. 223 v. Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board, 961 N.E.2d 794, 802, 356 Ill.Dec. 405, 413 (2d Dist. 2011) (citing Chrysler Corp. v. Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board, 69 Ill.App.3d 207, 211, 387 N.E.2d 351 (2d Dist. 1979)).

However, the Illinois General Assembly recently provided very clear guidance for the Board with regards to compulsory sales. Section 16-183 of the Illinois Property Tax Code states as follows:

The Property Tax Appeal Board shall consider compulsory sales of comparable properties for the purpose of revising and correcting assessments, including those compulsory sales of comparable properties submitted by the taxpayer.

35 ILCS 200/16-183. Therefore, the Board is statutorily required to consider compulsory sales of comparable properties. However, the Board finds that the mere assertion by the board of review that the subject's sale was not at market solely because it is a compulsory sale is accorded no weight without evidence supporting that assertion.

In the instant case, the Board finds that the board of review presented four sale comparables while the appellant did not submit any. The comparables sold from August 2011 to March 2013 for prices ranging from \$121.26 to \$150.41 per square foot of building area. In comparison, the subject sold in March 2012 for \$70.74 per square foot of building area which is below the range of the established market. Therefore, the Board finds the subject's sale not reflective of the market. In contrast, the subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$102.32 per square foot of building area which is within the range of the established market. Therefore, the Board finds the appellant did not meet its burden and a reduction in the 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.



Chairman



Member



Member



Member



Acting Member

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

CERTIFICATION

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 24, 2017



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.