



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

APPELLANT: John McDonald  
DOCKET NO.: 14-23077.001-R-1 through 14-23077.002-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: See Below

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are John McDonald, the appellant(s), by attorney Steven B. Pearlman, of Steven B. Pearlman & Associates in Chicago; 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:

DOCKET NO	PARCEL NUMBER	LAND	IMPRVMT	TOTAL
14-23077.001-R-1	15-12-300-019-0000	6,580	44,165	\$50,745
14-23077.002-R-1	15-12-300-020-0000	6,580	18,928	\$25,508

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 2014 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, single-family dwelling of stucco construction with 4,339 square feet of living area. Features of the dwelling include a partial unfinished basement, three fireplaces, and a two-car garage. The dwelling was constructed in 1919 and is located in River Forest, River Forest Township, Cook County. The property is a class 2-06 per the Cook County Real Property Classification Ordinance.

The appellant argued that the fair market value of the subject property was not accurately reflected in its assessed value as the basis of this appeal. In support of the market value argument, the appellant submitted five sale comparables which sold from September 2011 to April 2013 for prices ranging from \$440,000 to \$675,000 or \$117.27 to \$168.75 per square foot of living area, including land. In support of the comparables, the MLS sheets were submitted for all the sale comparables.

The appellant also contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on three equity comparables.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$76,253. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$762,530 or \$175.74 per square foot of living area, land included, when using the 2014 level of assessment for class 2-06 properties of 10% as determined by the Cook County Real Property Classification Ordinance. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$63,093 or \$14.54 per square foot of living area

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted three equity comparables and sales data for each comparable.

### **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 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 market value to be the appellant's comparables #1 and #4 and the board of review's comparables #2 and #3. These similar comparables sold for prices ranging from \$117.27 to \$224.59 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$175.74 per square foot of living area, including land, which is within the range established by the best comparable sales in this record. Based on this evidence, the Board finds a reduction in the subject's assessment is not justified.

The taxpayer also 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.

Regarding the appellant's equity argument, the Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables #1 and #3 and the board of review's comparables #2 and #3. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$11.71 to \$17.08 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$14.54 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 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.



Chairman



Member



Member



Acting Member

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: \_\_\_\_\_

April 21, 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.