



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

APPELLANT: Spiro Mataragas  
DOCKET NO.: 15-32279.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 07-08-300-020-1134

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Spiro Mataragas, the appellant, by attorney Brian P. Liston, of the Law Offices of Liston & Tsantilis, P.C. 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:

**LAND:** \$ 278  
**IMPR.:** \$3,896  
**TOTAL:** \$4,174

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 2015 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 36-year-old, condominium unit within a 352-unit residential building. The property has a 97,139 square foot site and is located in Schaumburg Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted a brief arguing that sales of condominium units within the subject's building complex are assessed at a decreased level. The appellant included a printout on 43 other units along with a grid listing: the ending parcel number, the assessed value; the sale price; the decreased assessed value; and the % decrease. The comparables sold from May 2012 to September 2015 for prices ranging from \$19,900 to \$73,176.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$4,174. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$41,740 when applying the 2015 level of assessment for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance of 10%.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted an analysis estimating the market value of the subject based on the sale of 17 other units within the subject building. The board of review added sales prices of the 17 units and deducted 1% for personal property. Based on the cumulative percentage of ownership of the units that sold, the board of review found the full value of the entire building. Multiplying the subject's percentage of ownership by the full value of the building, the board of review found the market value of the subject.

### **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.

In reviewing the appellant's grid, the Board finds the appellant has failed to clarify where the data was arrived from for the decreased assessed value and the % decrease and how the appellant arrived at an argument for a reduction. If this evidence is an attempt by the appellant at a sales ratio study, the Board finds this sales study insufficient and gives it little weight.

The Board finds the appellant did not choose random properties within the county to analyze sales information, but instead chose properties located in the subject's building complex. The Court has stated that when comparable properties are handpicked and not random, the study cannot be viewed as representative of the county's assessments as a whole. Peacock v. Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board, 339 Ill.App.3d 1060, 1069, 792 N.E.2d 367, 374 (4<sup>th</sup> Dist. 2003). Moreover, the Board finds this study was conducted by the appellant's attorney, who cannot act in the capacity of both an advocate and a witness. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.70(f).

The Board also finds the best evidence of market value to be all of the comparables. These units sold for prices ranging from \$19,900 to \$73,176. The subject's assessments reflect market values of \$41,740 which are within the range of the comparables. Therefore, the Board finds that the appellant failed to show by a preponderance of the evidence that the subject was overvalued and a reduction 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. Pursuant to Section 1910.50(d) of the rules of the Property Tax Appeal Board (86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.50(d)) the proceeding before the Property Tax Appeal Board is terminated when the decision is rendered. The Property Tax Appeal Board does not require any motion or request for reconsideration.



Chairman



Member



Member



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: March 19, 2019



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 or years of the same general assessment period, as provided in Sections 9-125 through 9-225, 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 such subsequent year or years 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 OR YEARS. A separate petition and evidence must be filed for each of the remaining years of the general assessment period.

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.

PARTIES OF RECORD

AGENCY

State of Illinois  
Property Tax Appeal Board  
William G. Stratton Building, Room 402  
401 South Spring Street  
Springfield, IL 62706-4001

APPELLANT

Spiro Mataragas, by attorney:  
Brian P. Liston  
Law Offices of Liston & Tsantilis, P.C.  
33 North LaSalle Street  
28th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60602

COUNTY

Cook County Board of Review  
County Building, Room 601  
118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL 60602