



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

APPELLANT: Jamie Huston  
DOCKET NO.: 16-20423.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 11-19-318-002-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Jamie Huston, the appellant, by attorney Timothy E. Moran, of Schmidt Salzman & Moran, Ltd. 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:** \$9,922  
**IMPR.:** \$42,606  
**TOTAL:** \$52,528

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 2016 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 dwelling of masonry exterior construction with 2,008 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 91 years old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace, and a one-car attached garage. The property has a 7,350 square foot site and is located in Evanston, Evanston Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-05 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends assessment inequity and contention of law as the bases of the appeal. The appellant contested both the improvement assessment of the subject as well as the land assessment. In support of these arguments, the appellant submitted information on five equity comparables with the same classification and neighborhood assessment codes as the subject. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of stucco or frame exterior construction

containing from 1,716 to 2,128 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 92 to 108 years old and have partial or full unfinished basements. Two comparables have a fireplace, and three comparables have one-car or two-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$33,262 to \$41,962 or from \$17.84 to \$19.72 per square foot of living area. The comparables are situated on sites ranging in size from 3,055 to 6,200 square feet of land area and have land assessments ranging from \$4,124 to \$8,370 or \$1.35 per square foot of land area.

The appellant's attorney also submitted a brief requesting "the 2016 assessment on the subject be revised to reflect a building unit value of \$19.38 per square foot (median of the comparables cited), at the Illinois Department of Revenue's 2014 sales-ratio study median level of assessment of 8.2%, indicates a revised assessment of \$40,046." Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's 2016 improvement assessment be reduced to \$31,910 or \$15.89 per square foot of living area and the 2016 land assessment be reduced to \$8,136 or \$1.11 per square foot of land area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$52,528. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$42,606 or \$21.22 per square foot of living area. The subject property has a land assessment of \$9,922 or \$1.35 per square foot of land area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables that are located within the same classification and neighborhood assessment codes as the subject. Three comparables are also located on the same tax block as the subject property. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of frame or stucco exterior construction containing from 1,377 to 2,051 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 107 to 128 years old and have full basements, one of which has finished area. Other features include a fireplace and a garage ranging in size from one-car to four-car. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$31,919 to \$46,683 or from \$22.20 to \$24.48 per square foot of living area. The comparables are situated on sites ranging in size from 5,413 to 7,500 square feet of land area and have land assessments ranging from \$7,307 to \$10,125 or \$1.35 per square foot of land area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's land and improvement assessments.

### **Conclusion of Law**

The appellant 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 parties submitted nine suggested comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gave less weight to the board of review comparables #1, #3, and #4 due to their differences in

age, considerably smaller dwelling sizes, and/or dissimilar finished basement areas when compared to the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables along with the board of review comparable #2. These comparables are most similar to the subject in location, design, dwelling size, foundation, and other features. These comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$33,262 to \$46,683 or from \$17.84 to \$22.76 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$42,606 or \$21.22 per square foot of living area is within the range of the most similar contained in this record.

With regard to the land assessment, the Board further finds the land assessed values of each of the nine equity comparables is \$1.35 per square foot of land area. The subject's land assessment of \$1.35 per square foot of land area is uniform with the nine comparables. Thus, the Board finds the appellant did not demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject was inequitably assessed in its land or improvement assessments and no reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The constitutional provision for uniformity of taxation and valuation does not require mathematical equality. A practical uniformity, rather than an absolute one, is the test. Apex Motor Fuel Co. v. Barrett, 20 Ill.2d 395 (1960). Although the comparables presented by the parties disclosed that the properties located in the same area are not assessed at identical levels, all that the constitution requires is a practical uniformity, which appears to exist on the basis of the evidence presented.

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.

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Chairman



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Member

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Member



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Member

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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: July 16, 2019



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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 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

Jamie Huston, by attorney:  
Timothy E. Moran  
Schmidt Salzman & Moran, Ltd.  
111 West Washington Street  
Suite 1300  
Chicago, IL 60602

COUNTY

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