



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

APPELLANT: Mary Prah  
DOCKET NO.: 16-21734.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 05-29-319-022-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Mary Prah, the appellant, by attorney Abby L. Strauss, of Schiller Strauss & Lavin PC 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 **A Reduction** 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:** \$21,161  
**IMPR.:** \$42,839  
**TOTAL:** \$64,000

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 1-story dwelling of brick and frame exterior construction with 2,770 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 51 years old. Features of the home include a partial unfinished basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace and a 2-car garage. The property has a 14,594 square foot site and is located in Wilmette, New Trier Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-04 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 an appraisal estimating the subject property had a market value of \$640,000 as of January 1, 2016. The appraisal was prepared by Audrey Clamage, a certified residential real estate appraiser. In estimating the market value of the subject property, the appraiser developed the sales comparison and cost approach to value.

Under the sales comparison approach, the appraiser analyzed four comparable sales located from .70 to 1.33 miles from the subject property. The comparables consist of 1-story dwellings that range in age from 56 to 63 years old. Each comparable has central air conditioning. Three of the comparables has a basement with finished area and three comparables has a garage. The dwellings range in size from 1,684 to 2,272 square feet of living area and are situated on sites ranging in size from 6,600 to 12,500 square feet of land area. The comparables sold in May or July 2015 for prices ranging from \$600,000 to \$665,000 or from \$267.98 to \$365.80 per square foot of living area including land. The appraiser made adjustments to each comparable for differences from the subject property to arrive at adjusted prices ranging from \$626,240 to \$674,920.

In estimating the cost approach to value, the appraiser estimated the subject's land value at \$75,000. The appraiser then calculated a replacement cost new of \$657,300. The subject was depreciated by \$32,432 for a depreciated improvement value of \$624,868. The land was added back to arrive at an estimate value for the subject property under the cost approach of \$699,900.

The appraiser submitted photographs of the exterior depicting holes in siding and chipped paint. The appellant requested the total assessment be reduced to \$64,000 which would reflect the appraised value.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$76,007. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$760,070 or \$274.39 per square foot of living area, land included, when using the level of assessments for class 2 property of 10% under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review submitted information on four comparable sales located within the same neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables consist of one, 1.5-story and three, 1-story dwellings that range in age from 60 to 65 years old. The dwellings have partial basements, one of which has a finished area, central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces and 2-car garages. The dwellings range in size from 2,318 to 3,322 square feet of living area and are situated on sites ranging in size from 10,987 to 23,040 square feet of land area. The comparables sold from May 2013 to April 2016 for prices ranging from \$495,000 to \$975,000 or from \$213.55 to \$368.34 per square foot of living area including land. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

In written rebuttal, counsel for the appellant critiqued the board of review's submission noting the sales presented have not been adjusted for differences from the subject property.

### **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 met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the January 1, 2016, appraisal submitted by the appellant, estimating the subject property had a market value of \$640,000. The subject's assessment reflects a market value above the best evidence of market value in the record.

The Board gave less weight to the board of review comparable sale #2 due to its larger dwelling size and larger lot size when compared to the subject property. Less weight was also given to board of review comparable sale #3 due to its dissimilar dwelling design and larger lot size when compared to the subject property. Moreover, the Board gave little weight to the board of review's comparable sale #4 2013 sale date which is dated and less indicative of fair market value as of the subject's January 1, 2016 assessment date at issue. Furthermore, the Board gave less weight to comparable sale #1 submitted by the board of review due to the fact that one unadjusted comparable does not overcome the appellant's appraisal report that included four comparables that were adjusted by the appellant's appraiser and which the Board has reviewed and appears to be logical and reasonable. Based on this record the Board finds the subject's assessment is not reflective of market value and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted commensurate with the appellant's request.

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: June 18, 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

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