



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

APPELLANT: GGC Ventures, LLC  
DOCKET NO.: 17-43305.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 19-10-315-023-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are GGC Ventures, LLC, the appellant, by attorney Abby L. Strauss, of Schiller Law 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 **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:** \$3,402  
**IMPR.:** \$5,098  
**TOTAL:** \$8,500

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 2017 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 frame exterior construction with 1,628 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 89 years old. Features of the home include a concrete slab foundation. The property has a 3,780 square foot site and is located in Chicago, Lake Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-11 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant's appeal is based on overvaluation. In support of this argument, the appellant completed Section IV – Recent Sale Data of the appeal petition reporting that the subject property was purchased on September 9, 2016. The property was purchased from Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. and the appellant reported that the parties to the transaction were not related. The property was advertised with the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) for a period of 131 days. In further support, the appellant submitted copies of the MLS data sheet depicting an

original asking price of \$94,900 and a listing period of 131 days; a copy of the Settlement Statement depicting the seller as Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. and the purchase price as \$85,000 on September 9, 2016 with the distribution of commissions to two entities as part of the sale; and a copy of the Special Warranty Deed transferring the property. The listing sheet noted the property was sold as-is with no survey or termite inspection provided. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect the purchase price at the 10% level of assessment for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$15,303. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$153,030 or \$94.00 per square foot of living area, including land, when applying the 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 reported that the subject property was purchased in September 2016 for \$85,000 or \$52.21 per square foot of living area, including land, and submitted information on four comparable sales located within the same neighborhood code as the subject and within the subject's subarea. The comparables had lots of 3,780 square feet of land area and were improved with either a 1.5-story or a 2-story class 2-11 dwelling of frame, masonry or frame and masonry exterior construction. The comparables range in size from 1,591 to 2,172 square feet of living area and range in age from 65 to 93 years old. Two comparables have full unfinished basements and two comparables have concrete slab foundations. Each comparable has a two-car garage. The comparables sold from April to October 2017 for prices ranging from \$200,000 to \$299,000 or from \$125.71 to \$159.38 per square foot of living area, including land. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's estimated market value as reflected by its assessment.

In rebuttal, counsel for the appellant argued that the sales presented by the board of review did not come from a verified source or reflect adjustments for differences in size, location, age, bathroom count, condition, amenities and/or date of sale. The appellant reiterated the contention that the recent sale of subject is indicative of its fair market value.

### **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 appellant submitted data concerning the 2016 purchase price of the subject property and the board of review submitted four suggested comparable sales, along with acknowledging the subject's date of purchase and sale price, in support of their respective positions before the Property Tax Appeal Board. The Board has given little weight to the board of review comparables; comparable #1 is newer and of a different story height, comparables #2 and #4 are

each larger than the subject dwelling, comparable #3 is of masonry exterior construction and each comparable has a garage which is not a feature of the subject.

On this record, the Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the purchase of the subject property in September 2016, approximately three months prior to the lien date, for a price of \$85,000 or \$52.21 per square foot of living area, including land. The appellant provided evidence demonstrating the sale had the elements of an arm's length transaction. The appellant completed Section IV - Recent Sale Data of the appeal disclosing the parties to the transaction were not related, the property was sold using a Realtor, the property had been advertised on the open market with the Multiple Listing Service for an initial asking price of \$94,900, it had been on the market for 131 days and it sold for less than the asking price. The listing further indicated the property was being sold as-is with no survey or termite inspection provided. In further support of the transaction, the appellant submitted a copy of the Settlement Statement, the MLS listing sheet and the Special Warranty Deed. The Board finds the purchase price of \$85,000 is below the market value reflected by the assessment of \$153,030.

The comparable sales presented by the board of review were dissimilar in design/story height, age, foundation type and/or garage amenity when compared to the subject. Furthermore, the Board finds the board of review did not present any substantive evidence to challenge the arm's length nature of the transaction or to refute the contention that the purchase price was reflective of market value at the time of sale. A contemporaneous sale between two parties dealing at arm's length is not only relevant to the question of fair cash value but practically conclusive on the issue on whether the assessment is reflective of market value. Korzen v. Belt Railway Co. of Chicago, 37 Ill.2d 158 (1967). Furthermore, the sale of a property during the tax year in question is a relevant factor in considering the validity of the assessment. Rosewell v. 2626 Lakeview Limited Partnership, 120 Ill.App.3d 369, 375 (1st Dist. 1983).

Based on this record, the Board finds the subject property is overvalued given its recent purchase price that was not adequately refuted and, therefore, the Board finds a reduction in the subject's assessment commensurate with the appellant's request is 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: July 20, 2021



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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