



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

APPELLANT: Marcela Montes  
DOCKET NO.: 18-31250.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 13-12-425-003-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Marcela Montes, the appellant, by attorney Spiro Zarkos, of Verros Berkshire, 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 **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:** \$8,208  
**IMPR.:** \$41,830  
**TOTAL:** \$50,038

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 2018 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, multi-family building of masonry exterior construction with 2,432 square feet of building area. The building is approximately 97 years old and has a full unfinished basement. The property has a 3,420 square foot site and is located in Chicago, Jefferson Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-11 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends assessment inequity with respect to the subject's improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on eight equity comparables that are located within the same neighborhood code as the subject property.<sup>1</sup> The comparables are improved with class 2-11 multi-family buildings of masonry exterior

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<sup>1</sup> The appellant submitted two sets of four comparables. For clarity the Board has renumbered the second set of comparables received on September 23, 2019 as comparables 5 through 8.

construction ranging in size from 2,614 to 2,880 square feet of building area. The buildings range in age from 24 to 106 years old and have full unfinished basements. One comparable has central air conditioning, and two comparables each have two fireplaces. Seven comparables each have from a 1-car to a 3-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$29,049 to \$42,680 or from \$10.56 to \$15.63 per square foot of building area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$29,524 or \$12.14 per square foot of building area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$50,038. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$41,830 or \$17.20 per square foot of building 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 neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables are improved with two-story, class 2-11, multi-family buildings of masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 2,097 to 2,741 square feet of building area. The buildings range in age from 97 to 108 years old and have full basements, one of which has finished area. The comparables have either a 1.5-car or a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$45,297 to \$60,152 or from \$21.60 to \$25.35 per square foot of building area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested the subject's assessment be confirmed.

### **Conclusion of Law**

The taxpayer 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 evidence in the record does not support a reduction in the subject's assessment.

The parties submitted a total of twelve equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables #1 and #4 through #8 as well as the board of review comparables #1 and #3 due to differences in their building sizes when compared to the subject. Additionally, two of these comparables differ from the subject in age or a finished basement, unlike the subject which has an unfinished basement.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables #2 and #3 and board of review comparables #2 and #4. These comparables are similar to the subject in building size, age, foundation, and other amenities, except three comparables have garages and one comparable has two fireplaces, unlike the subject. These comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$39,738 to \$57,809 or from \$15.20 to \$25.35 per square foot of building area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$41,830 or \$17.20 per square foot of building area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record. After considering adjustments to the comparables for differences when compared to the subject, 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. 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:

April 19, 2022



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

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