



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

APPELLANT: Raul Barajas  
DOCKET NO.: 19-44432.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 17-19-305-030-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Raul Barajas, the appellant(s), by attorney George N. Reveliotis, of Reveliotis Law, P.C. in Park Ridge; 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:** \$6,993  
**IMPR.:** \$15,689  
**TOTAL:** \$22,682

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 2019 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 130-year-old, two-story, multi-family building of frame and masonry construction with 1,687 square feet of living area. The property has a 2,976 square foot site and is located in Chicago, West Chicago Township, Cook County. Features of the building include two full bathrooms. There is conflicting evidence as to the foundation of the subject property. The subject is classified as a class 2-11 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 information on four comparable sales. The appellant did not report the exact proximity of the suggested comparables to the subject but disclosed that each of them had the same neighborhood code as the subject. The comparable properties sold between January 2019 and June 2019. The comparable properties ranged: in price between \$155,000 to \$350,000; in

living area square footage between 1,302 to 2,606; and in sale price per square foot between \$115.50 to \$134.31, including land.

The appellant also contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on seven equity comparables with varying degrees of similarities to the subject. The comparable properties were located within a tenth of a mile of the subject property. The comparables had improvement assessments ranging from \$8.09 to \$9.88 per square foot of living area.

Based on this evidence under both of these theories, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to \$20,852.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$28,210. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$282,100 or \$167.22 in market value per square foot of living area, including land, when applying the level of assessment for class 2 property of 10% under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$21,217 or \$12.58 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on five comparable properties, four of which had sales and equity information, while one had only equity information.<sup>1</sup> The comparable properties were located within the same subarea as the subject property with two comparable within a quarter of a mile of the subject. The comparable sales properties sold between May 2017 and October 2019. The comparable properties ranged: in price between \$335,000 to \$430,000; in living area square footage between 1,050 to 2,087; and in sale price per square foot between \$206.04 to \$342.72, including land. The equity comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$4.21 to \$29.09 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested that the assessment be confirmed.

### **Conclusions of Law**

As a preliminary matter, the board of review lists the subject property as having a slab foundation. The appellant's equity grid and supplemental Cook County Assessor print out lists the subject property as having a slab foundation. However, the appellant's sales grid lists the subject property as having a crawl space and a formal recreation room. The Board finds that the best evidence as to the subject's foundation is that of the board of review, the appellant's equity grid, and the Cook County Assessor printout and the Board finds that the subject property has a slab foundation.

The taxpayer asserts that 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 taxpayer must prove the value of the property by a preponderance of the evidence. 86 Ill. Admin. Code §1910.63(e); Winnebago County Bd. of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Bd., 313 Ill. App. 3d 1038, 1043 (2d Dist. 2000). Proof of market value may consist of an appraisal of the subject property, a recent

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<sup>1</sup> The board of review submitted two separate notes on appeal. They have identical comparables #1 through #4. On the second notes on appeal, the board of review submitted a "substitute PIN" under the subject property column. This property (PIN 17-19-305-029-0000) shall be considered comparable #5.

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 on this basis is not warranted.

The Board concludes that the best evidence of the subject's market value is the appellant's sales comparables #1 and #3 and the board of review's comparable #2 and #3. These comparables sold between February 2019 and October 2019, for amounts ranging from \$115.50 to \$213.39 per square foot of living area, land included in the sale price. The subject property's assessment reflects a market value of \$282,100, land included, or \$167.22 per square foot of living area, which is within the range established by the best comparables in the record. Accordingly, the Board determines that the appellant has not established by a preponderance of the evidence that the subject property was overvalued. Based on the evidence, the Board therefore finds that a reduction in the subject's assessment on this basis is not justified.

The taxpayer also 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 proven 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 met this burden of proof, and that a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant's equity comparables #2, #3, and #5. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$8.39 to \$9.86 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$12.58 per square foot of living area falls above 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 subject's improvement assessment is not supported. Based on this record, the Board finds the appellant did demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed and a reduction in the subject's assessment 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

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, 2024



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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