



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

APPELLANT: Ralph Molina  
DOCKET NO.: 19-44906.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 13-24-405-007-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Ralph Molina, the appellant, by attorney Ellen G. Berkshire, 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 **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:** \$6,600  
**IMPR.:** \$42,710  
**TOTAL:** \$49,310

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 two-story dwelling of masonry exterior construction with 2,143 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 53 years old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning, and a one-car garage. The property has a 3,000 square foot site and is located in Chicago, Jefferson Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-78 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends assessment inequity with respect to the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on four equity comparables that are located within the same neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables have varying degrees of similarity in features when compared to the subject property. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$28,579 to \$51,893 or

from \$13.15 to \$19.44 per square foot of living area. The appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$37,610 or \$17.55 per square foot of living area.

The Property Tax Appeal Board takes notice that the subject property was the subject matter of an appeal before the Board the prior year under Docket No. 18-31236.001-R-1. In that appeal the Property Tax Appeal Board issued a decision lowering the assessment of the subject property to \$49,310 based on the evidence of record. The appellant indicated in the appeal petition that the subject property is an owner-occupied residence.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$53,118. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$46,518 or \$21.71 per square foot of living area. The board of review reported that the 2018 tax year was the first year of the general assessment period for the subject property and that no township equalization factor was applied in 2019.

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 have varying degrees of similarity in features when compared to the subject property. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$45,655 to \$71,754 or from \$22.38 to \$33.91 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

### **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 a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The Property Tax Appeal Board finds based on judicial notice that the assessment as established by the Board under Docket No. 18-31236.001-R-1 for the 2018 tax year of \$49,310 should be carried forward to the 2019 tax year subject only to equalization as provided by section 16-185 of the Property Tax Code. The Board further finds section 16-185 of the Property Tax Code is controlling in this appeal and does not need to further address the appellant's other argument. (35 ILCS 200/16-185).

Section 16-185 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-185) states in part:

If the Property Tax Appeal Board renders a decision lowering the assessment of a particular parcel on which a residence occupied by the owner is situated, such reduced assessment, subject to equalization, shall remain in effect for the remainder of the general assessment period as provided in Sections 9-215 through 9-225, unless that parcel is subsequently sold in an arm's length transaction

establishing a fair cash value for the parcel that is different from the fair cash value on which the Board's assessment is based, or unless the decision of the Property Tax Appeal Board is reversed or modified upon review.

The Property Tax Appeal Board finds the Board issued a decision reducing the subject's assessment for the 2018 tax year. The record further indicates that the subject property is an owner-occupied dwelling and that 2018 and 2019 are within the same general assessment period. The record contains no evidence indicating the subject property sold in an arm's length transaction after the Board's decision, the decision of the Property Tax Appeal Board has been reversed or modified upon review, or a township equalization factor was applied in 2019 by county assessment officials. For these reasons the Property Tax Appeal Board finds that a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted to reflect the assessment as established in the Board's prior year's decision plus the application of an equalization factor, if any.

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:

August 23, 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

AGENCY

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