



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

APPELLANT: Dennis Karras  
DOCKET NO.: 20-20267.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 15-01-113-046-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Dennis Karras, the appellant; 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:** \$11,991  
**IMPR.:** \$24,548  
**TOTAL:** \$36,539

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 2020 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 1,775 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 78 years old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace, and a 2-car garage. The property has a 9,050 square foot site located in River Forest, River Forest Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-05 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 three equity comparables that are located within the same neighborhood code as the subject.<sup>1</sup> Appellant's comparable #1 is located next door to the subject property, and the other two comparables are

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<sup>1</sup> As part of the evidence, the appellant submitted a printout with the property details and a photograph for the subject property and each comparable from the Cook County Assessor's Office website.

located either three or seven blocks from the subject. The comparables are improved with class 2-05 dwellings of brick exterior construction ranging in size from 1,708 to 1,768 square feet of living area. The dwellings are 69 or 78 years old and have full basements with finished area. Each comparable has central air conditioning, a fireplace, and a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$24,548 to \$28,545 or from \$14.37 to \$16.66 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$24,548 or \$13.83 per square foot of living area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$49,568. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$37,577 or \$21.17 per square foot of living 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.<sup>2</sup> One comparable is also located within the same block as the subject. The comparables are improved with class 2-05, two-story dwellings of masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 1,523 to 2,104 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 78 to 92 years old and have partial or full basements, two of which have finished area. Two comparables each have central air conditioning, and three comparables each have one or two fireplaces. Each comparable has from a 1-car to a 2.5-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$38,070 to \$46,688 or from \$20.80 to \$25.00 per square foot of living 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 appellant met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The parties submitted eight suggested comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the board of review comparables due to differences in physical exterior design, dwelling sizes, and/or other amenities when compared to the subject property.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables. These comparables were given greater weight by the Board because they are more similar in exterior design to the subject property based upon the photographic evidence submitted by the parties and are also more similar to the subject in overall property characteristics, except for their finished basements. The appellant's comparable #1 with an improvement assessment of \$24,548 or \$14.37 is located next door to the subject property and is practically identical to the subject except for its finished basement. The appellant's comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$24,548 to \$28,545 or \$14.37 and \$16.66 per square foot of living area. The

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<sup>2</sup> As part of the evidence, the board of review submitted a photograph for the subject property and each comparable.

subject's improvement assessment of \$37,577 or \$21.17 per square foot of living area falls above the range established by the best comparables in this record. After considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences when compared to the subject, the Board finds the appellant demonstrated 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



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 21, 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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