



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

APPELLANT: Kenneth Murray
DOCKET NO.: 20-25195.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 16-18-214-015-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Kenneth Murray, the appellant, by attorney Christopher G. Walsh, Jr., of Walsh Law, LLC 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: \$5,320
IMPR.: \$32,785
TOTAL: \$38,105

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 2-story dwelling of stucco exterior construction with 1,894 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 107 years old. Features of the home include an unfinished basement and a fireplace. The property has a 5,320 square foot site and is located in Oak Park, Oak Park 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 regarding the improvement assessment as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on four equity comparables located within seven blocks from the subject property and within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with class 2-05, 2-story dwellings of frame exterior construction ranging in size from 1,938 to 2,100 square feet of living area. The comparables are 107 to 123 years old and have basements, three of which are

finished with a recreation room. Two comparables have central air conditioning. One comparable has a fireplace. Each comparable has a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$28,155 to \$30,828 or from \$14.41 to \$14.68 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$38,105. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$32,785 or \$17.31 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 located within ¼ mile from the subject or on the same block as the subject and within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with class 2-05, 2-story dwellings of stucco exterior construction ranging in size from 1,822 to 1,884 square feet of living area. The comparables are 102 to 109 years old and have basements, one of which is finished with a recreation room. Two comparables have central air conditioning. Each comparable has a 1.5-car or a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$32,420 to \$34,262 or from \$17.77 to \$18.19 per square foot of living area.

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 did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The record contains eight equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables and board of review comparable #2 which are less similar in dwelling size and/or have finished basement area when compared to the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be board of review comparables #1, #3 and #4 which are similar to the subject in location, design, age, dwelling size and some features. The Board finds each comparable has a garage and one comparable has central air conditioning which are features the subject lacks, suggesting downward adjustments are necessary to make them more equivalent to the subject. These comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$32,468 to \$34,262 or from \$17.82 to \$18.19 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$32,785 or \$17.31 per square foot of living area falls at the low end of the range established by the best comparables in this record on an overall basis and below the range on a square foot basis. Based on this record and after considering adjustments to the best 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:

May 21, 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

State of Illinois
Property Tax Appeal Board
William G. Stratton Building, Room 402
401 South Spring Street
Springfield, IL 62706-4001

APPELLANT

Kenneth Murray, by attorney:
Christopher G. Walsh, Jr.
Walsh Law, LLC
111 West Washington Street
Suite 1150
Chicago, IL 60602

COUNTY

Cook County Board of Review
County Building, Room 601
118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60602