



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

APPELLANT: Christopher Cleghorn
DOCKET NO.: 20-25254.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 16-07-114-014-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Christopher Cleghorn, 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: \$10,237
IMPR.: \$67,235
TOTAL: \$77,472

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 stucco exterior construction with 3,551 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 138 years old. Features of the home include a concrete slab foundation and a 2.5-car garage. The property has an approximately 9,750 square foot site and is located in Oak Park, Oak Park Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-06 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 located in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property and from the same block to 12 blocks from the subject. The comparables are improved with two-story class 2-06 dwellings of frame exterior construction ranging in size from 3,656 to 3,850 square

feet of living area. The homes range in age from 129 to 138 years old. Each comparable has a basement, with one having finished area. Each dwelling has 3½-bathrooms and central air conditioning. Three comparables each have either one or two fireplaces and a 2-car or a 3-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$42,141 to \$69,227 or from \$11.34 to \$18.15 per square foot of living area. The appellant's grid analysis and Section III of the appeal petition disclosed the subject property sold in June 2015 for a price of \$1,275,000. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$58,130 or \$16.37 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 \$77,472. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$67,235 or \$18.93 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 in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables are improved with two-story class 2-06 dwellings of stucco exterior construction ranging in size from 3,268 to 3,675 square feet of living area. The homes range in age from 108 to 127 years old. Each comparable has a basement, with one having finished area. The dwellings have from 2½ to 4-bathrooms, one or two fireplaces and from a 1-car to a 3-car garage. Three homes have central air conditioning and comparable #2 has "other improvements" which are not further described. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$69,216 to \$83,656 or from \$20.18 to \$22.76 per square foot of living area.

The board of review critiqued the appellant's comparables arguing they are located from 1.0 to 1.5 miles away from the subject while the board of review comparables are located either on the same block as the subject or within ¼ of a mile from the subject. 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 did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The parties submitted eight equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to appellant comparable #1 which, based on its improvement assessment and per square foot improvement assessment, appears to be an outlier when compared to other properties in the record. The Board gives less weight to board of review comparables #2, #3 and #4 which differ from the subject in age.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant comparables #2, #3 and #4 and board of review comparable #1 which are more similar to the subject in location, age, design and dwelling size but present varying degrees of similarity to the subject in foundation

type, garage capacity and presence of central air conditioning, suggesting adjustments are needed to make these comparables more equivalent to the subject. These comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$66,356 to \$71,791 or from \$17.98 to \$20.95 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$67,235 or \$18.93 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record. Therefore, after considering appropriate adjustments to the comparables for differences from 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: June 18, 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

Christopher Cleghorn, 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