



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

APPELLANT: Financial Freedom Loans Inc 401  
DOCKET NO.: 20-39042.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 31-36-400-021-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Financial Freedom Loans Inc 401, the appellant, by attorney Noah J. Schmidt, of Schmidt Salzman & Moran, Ltd. 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:** \$14,034  
**IMPR.:** \$11,541  
**TOTAL:** \$25,575

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 1-story dwelling of masonry exterior construction with 5,090 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 64 years old. Features of the home include a basement, central air conditioning, two fireplaces, and a 3-car garage. The property has a 43,184 square foot site and is located in Park Forest, Rich Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-04 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends assessment inequity concerning the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on five equity comparables located in Olympia Fields, Matteson, and Flossmoor. The comparables are improved with 1-story, class 2-04 homes of masonry or frame exterior construction ranging in size from 19,08 to 3,405 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 56 to 97

years old. Each home has central air conditioning and from a 2-car to a 3-car garage. Three homes each have one or three fireplaces, two homes each have a basement, and one home has an attic with finished area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$2,205 to \$5,756 or from \$0.93 to \$1.69 per square foot of living area.

Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$25,575. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$11,541 or \$2.27 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 Park Forest and within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with 1-story or 1.5-story, class 2-04 homes of frame or frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 2,044 to 2,366 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 60 to 65 years old. Each home has central air conditioning and a 1-car or a 2-car garage. Three homes have basement with finished area and one home has a concrete slab foundation. Three homes each have a fireplace. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$6,856 to \$11,526 or from \$2.90 to \$5.64 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 the appellant did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The record contains a total of nine equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables as these properties are located in different towns than the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the board of review's comparables which are located in the same town as the subject and within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. These comparables are similar to the subject in age, location, and some features, although these homes are substantially smaller than the subject, three homes have finished basement area unlike the subject, and one home lacks a basement unlike the subject, suggesting adjustments to these comparables would be needed to make them more equivalent to the subject. These comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$6,856 to \$11,526 or from \$2.90 to \$5.64 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$11,541 or \$2.27 per square foot of living area falls above the range established by

the best comparables in terms of total improvement assessment and below the range on a per square foot basis, which is logical given the subject is a substantially larger home than these comparables. Based on this record and after considering appropriate adjustments to the best 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.

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Chairman



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Member



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Member



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Member



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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



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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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