



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

APPELLANT: Benjamin Ko  
DOCKET NO.: 21-20203.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 16-06-409-003-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Benjamin Ko, the appellant, by attorney Robert Rosenfeld of Robert H. Rosenfeld & Associates, LLC in Northbrook; 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:** \$6,562  
**IMPR.:** \$58,208  
**TOTAL:** \$64,770

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 2021 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 3,129 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 103 years old. Features of the home include a full basement with finished area,<sup>1</sup> central air conditioning, a fireplace and a two-car garage. The property has an approximately 6,250 square foot site and is located in Oak Park, Oak Park Township, Cook County. The property is 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 that have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. The

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<sup>1</sup> The board of review revealed the subject dwelling's basement is finished with a recreation room, which was not refuted by the appellant.

comparables have varying degrees of similarity when compared to the subject in location, dwelling size, design, age and features. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$55,152 to \$75,434 or from \$15.32 to \$18.94 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The appellant also revealed in the Residential 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 \$68,673. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$62,111 or \$19.85 per square foot of living area. The notes on appeal also disclosed that the 2020 tax year was the first year of the triennial general assessment period for Oak Park Township and no equalization factor was applied in Oak Park Township for tax year 2021.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables that have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables have varying degrees of similarity when compared to the subject in location, dwelling size, design, age and features. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$52,664 to \$76,250 or from \$20.07 to \$22.51 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

The Property Tax Appeal Board takes judicial notice that the subject property was the subject matter of appeal before the Board for the 2020 tax year under Docket No. 20-20170. In that appeal, the Property Tax Appeal Board issued a decision lowering the total assessment of the subject property to \$64,770 based on the evidence submitted by the parties. Furthermore, the Board finds that the subject property for tax year 2021 is an owner-occupied residence, which was not refuted by the board of review.

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

The Property Tax Appeal Board finds that the assessment as established by the Board for the 2020 tax year of \$64,770 should be carried forward to the 2021 tax year subject only to equalization as provided by section 16-185 of the Property Tax Code.

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 Board finds that the subject property was the subject matter of an appeal before the Property Tax Appeal Board for the 2020 tax year under Docket No. 20-20170 in which a decision was issued based upon the evidence presented by the parties reducing the subject's total assessment to \$64,770. The record indicates that the subject property is an owner-occupied dwelling and that 2020 and 2021 are within the same general assessment period. The record further indicates that no equalization factor was applied in Oak Park Township for the 2021 tax year. Furthermore, the decision of the Property Tax Appeal Board for the 2020 tax year has not yet been reversed or modified upon review and there was no evidence the subject property recently sold establishing a different fair cash value. 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.

As a final point, the Board finds the subject dwelling is being equitably assessed, particularly in light of its newly reduced improvement assessment as a result of applying Section 16-185 of the Property Tax Code for an assessment of \$58,208 or \$18.60 per square foot of living area.

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

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: July 16, 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

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