



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

APPELLANT: Raul Raymundo  
DOCKET NO.: 21-31227.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 17-20-425-006-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Raul Raymundo, the appellant, by attorney Salvador Lopez, of Robson & Lopez 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:** \$6,120  
**IMPR.:** \$35,143  
**TOTAL:** \$41,263

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 an approximately 133-year-old, two-story, multi-family dwelling of frame construction with 2,160 square feet of living area. Features of the home include a slab foundation, four bedrooms and two full bathrooms. The property has a 2,040 square foot site and is located in Chicago, West Chicago Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-11 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant asserts overvaluation in this appeal. In support of the overvaluation argument, the appellant submitted evidence disclosing that the subject property was purchased on September 5, 2018, for a price of \$250,000. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect the purchase price. The appellant also asserts that the subject's

assessment was inequitable and submitted four suggested equity comparables in support of that contention.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$41,263. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$412,630 or \$191.03 per square foot of living area, land included, when using the Cook County Real Estate Classification Ordinance level of assessment for class 2 property of 10%. The subject's improvement assessment is \$35,143, or \$16.27 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four suggested equity comparables, one of which contained sales data. All of the comparables are located within a quarter mile of the subject property. The board of review noted the subject property sold in September 2018 for \$250,000.

### **Conclusion of Law**

The appellant contends the market value of the subject property is not accurately reflected in its assessed valuation. When market value is the basis of the appeal the value of the property must be proved by a preponderance of the evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of market value may consist of an appraisal of the subject property, a recent sale, comparable sales or construction costs. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(c). The Board finds the appellant did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

This Board gives significantly diminished weight to the subject's sale as it was never exposed to the open market. Real property in Illinois must be assessed at its fair cash value, which can only be estimated absent any compulsion on either party.

Illinois law requires that all real property be valued at its fair cash value, estimated at the price it would bring at a fair voluntary sale where the owner is ready, willing, and able to sell but not compelled to do so, and the buyer is likewise ready, willing, and able to buy, but is not forced to do so.

Bd. of Educ. of Meridian Cmty. Unit Sch. Dist. No. 223 v. Ill. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 961 N.E. 2d 794, 802 (2d Dist. 2011) (citing Chrysler Corp. v. Ill. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 69 Ill. App. 3d 207, 211 (2d Dist. 1979)).

A contemporaneous sale between parties dealing at arms-length is not only relevant to the question of fair cash market value, (see People ex rel. Korzan v. Chicago, Burlington Quincy Railroad Co. 32 Ill.2d 554 and People ex rel. Musso v. Chicago, Burlington Quincy Railroad Co. 33 Ill.2d 88,) but would be practically conclusive on the issue of whether an assessment was at full value. The sale price of property does not necessarily establish its market value, however, without further information such as the relationship between the buyer and seller and the circumstances of the transaction. Ellsworth Grain Co. v. Ill. Property Tax Appeal Bd., 172 Ill. App. 3d 552, 557 (4<sup>th</sup> Dist. 1988). This is theoretically an objective standard of valuation. The value of particular property is set by the forces of the marketplace at a given place and time.

The Board finds that the 2018 sale of the subject property did not offer the best evidence of market value. The appellant completed Section IV - Recent Sale Data of the PTAB residential appeal form and disclosed that the property was not a transfer between related parties, it was sold by owner after an undisclosed amount of time, without advertising the property for sale, and was not sold because of a foreclosure action. The appellant submitted a copy of the settlement statement in support. It is the appellant's burden to show overvaluation by a preponderance of the evidence. Therefore, based on this record the Board finds the sale of the subject property did not accurately reflect its market value with its purchase price of \$250,000. A reduction, on this basis, in the subject's assessment commensurate with the appellant's request is therefore not appropriate.

The taxpayer also asserts assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. The Illinois Constitution requires that real estate taxes, "be levied uniformly by valuation ascertained as the General Assembly shall provide by law." Ill. Const. art. IX, §4 (1970); Walsh v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 181 Ill. 2d 228, 234 (1998). This uniformity provision of the Illinois Constitution does not require absolute equality in taxation, however, and it is sufficient if the taxing authority achieves a reasonable degree of uniformity. Peacock v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 339 Ill. App. 3d 1060, 1070 (4<sup>th</sup> Dist. 2003).

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); Walsh, 181 Ill. 2d at 234 (1998). Clear and convincing evidence means more than a preponderance of the evidence, but it does not need to approach the degree of proof needed for a conviction of a crime. Bazyldo v. Volant, 164 Ill. 2d 207, 213 (1995). 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 Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparable #3 and the board of review's comparables #1 and #2. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$10.70 to \$17.04 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$16.27 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record. After considering the differences between the suggested comparables and the subject, the Board finds the subject's improvement assessment is supported. Based on this record 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: \_\_\_\_\_

August 19, 2025



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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