



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

APPELLANT: Laurel LaForce
DOCKET NO.: 21-32352.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 16-01-217-014-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Laurel LaForce, the appellant, by Abby L. Strauss, attorney-at-law of Schiller Law P.C. 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: \$14,062
IMPR.: \$32,100
TOTAL: \$46,162

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 is improved with a two-story multi-family building of masonry exterior construction that contains 1,848 square feet of building area. The building is approximately 132 years old. Features of the building include a crawl space foundation, central air conditioning and two bathrooms. The property has a 3,125 square foot site located in Chicago, West Chicago Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-11 apartment building under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends inequity regarding the improvement assessment as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on four equity comparables composed of class 2-11 properties improved with buildings of masonry exterior construction that range in size from 1,900 to 2,340 square feet of building area. The buildings range in age from 56 to 132 years old. Three comparables have full basements, one comparable

has a slab foundation, and three comparables have a 1-car or a 2-car garage. The comparables have two or three bathrooms. These properties have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. Their improvement assessments range from \$27,325 to \$38,909 or from \$12.38 to \$16.63 per square foot of building area. The appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$28,570.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$46,162. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$32,100 or \$17.37 per square foot of building area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables consisting of class 2-11 properties improved with two-story buildings of masonry exterior construction that range in size from 1,831 to 1,932 square feet of building area. The buildings range in age from 120 to 143 years old. Three comparables have a full or partial basement and one comparable has a slab foundation. Each property has two or three bathrooms and two comparables have a 1-car or a 2-car garage. The comparables have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and are located on the same block or ¼ of a mile from the subject property. These properties have improvement assessments ranging from \$35,631 to \$37,825 or from \$18.80 to \$20.23 per square foot of building area. The board of review contends the building assessed value per square foot for all the comparables are equal or higher than the subject, which support the 2021 assessed value as equitable.

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 parties submitted information on eight assessment equity comparables with the same classification code and neighborhood code as the subject property to support their respective positions. The Board gives less weight to appellant's comparables #1, #2 and #4 due to differences from the subject building in size. The Board gives less weight to appellant's comparable #3 due to differences from the subject building in age. The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the board of review comparables which are more similar to the subject building in size and/or age than are the comparables provided by the appellant. Three of the board of review comparables have a full or partial basement, unlike the subject's crawl space foundation, indicating the comparables would require downward adjustments to make them more equivalent to the subject property. Additionally, board of review comparables #1 and #3 have a 1-car or 2-car garage while the subject has no garage necessitating downward adjustments to make them more equivalent to the subject property. These comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$35,631 to \$37,825 or from \$18.80 to \$20.23 per square foot of building area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$32,100 or \$17.37 per square foot of building area falls below the range established by the best comparables in this

record and is well supported after considering the appropriate adjustments to the comparables for differences from the subject property. 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: _____

May 20, 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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