



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

APPELLANT: Sophia Klopas
DOCKET NO.: 21-32782.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 14-31-322-007-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Sophia Klopas, the appellant, by attorney Brian P. Liston, of the Law Offices of Liston & Tsantilis, 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: \$16,800
IMPR.: \$96,200
TOTAL: \$113,000

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 2-story dwelling of masonry exterior construction with 2,109 square feet of living area.¹ The dwelling is approximately 22 years old. Features of the home include a basement with finished area, central air conditioning, two fireplaces, and a 2-car garage. The property has a 2,400 square foot site and is located in Chicago, West Chicago Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-78 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted an appraisal estimating the subject property had a market value of \$895,000 as of January 1, 2021. The appraisal was prepared by Tom J. Boyle, Jr. an associate real estate

¹ The Board finds the best evidence of design and dwelling size is found in the appellant's appraisal which includes a sketch with measurements and photographs of the subject home.

trainee appraiser, and David Conaghan, a certified general real estate appraiser, for ad valorem tax purposes.

Under the sales comparison approach, the appraisers selected five comparable sales located within 0.53 of a mile from the subject. The comparables have 2,400 or 3,000 square foot sites that are improved with "traditional" style homes of brick exterior construction ranging in size from 2,040 to 3,600 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 97 to 131 years old. Four homes each have a basement, three of which have finished area. Each home has central air conditioning and a 2-car or a 2.5-car garage. Four homes each have one or two fireplaces. The comparables sold from March 2019 to February 2021 for prices ranging from \$780,000 to \$965,000 or from \$268.06 to \$398.28 per square foot of living area, including land. The appraisers adjusted the comparables for financing concessions and for differences from the subject to arrive at adjusted prices from \$783,700 to \$895,700. Based on this analysis, the appraisers concluded a value for the subject of \$895,000 as of January 1, 2021.

Based on this evidence the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect the appraised value conclusion.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$113,000. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$1,130,000 or \$535.80 per square foot of living area, including land, when applying level of assessment for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance of 10%.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four comparable sales located within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject, two of which are 0.25 of a mile from the subject and two of which are on the same block as the subject. The parcels range in size from 2,400 to 2,783 square feet of land area and are improved with 2-story or 3-story homes of masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 2,448 to 2,971 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 16 to 22 years old. Each comparable has a basement, three of which have finished area, central air conditioning, and a 2-car or a 2.5-car garage. Two homes each have two or three fireplaces. The comparables sold from October 2018 to December 2019 for prices ranging from \$1,080,000 to \$1,250,000 or from \$370.25 to \$509.79 per square foot of living area, including land. Based on this evidence the board of review requested the subject's assessment be sustained.

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.

The appellant presented an appraisal and the board of review presented four comparable sales in support of their respective positions before the Board. The Board gives less weight to the

appraised value conclusion as three of five sales are substantially larger homes than the subject, resulting in large adjustments to these comparables for dwelling size. Moreover, the appraisers selected significantly older homes than the subject but made no adjustments for age. The Board finds the appraisal states a less credible and/or reliable opinion of value and the Board will instead consider the raw sales presented in the appraisal and by the board of review.

The record contains a total of nine comparable sales for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appraisal sales and the board of review's comparables #2 and #4, due to substantial differences from the subject in dwelling size, age, and/or foundation type.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the board of review's comparables #1 and #3, which sold more proximate in time to the assessment date and are more similar to the subject in dwelling size, age, location, site size, and features. These two comparables sold for prices of \$1,080,00 and \$1,250,000 or \$441.18 and \$509.79 per square foot of living area, including land, respectively. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$1,130,000 or \$535.80 per square foot of living area, including land, which is bracketed by the best two comparables in terms of total market value but above the best comparables on a per square foot basis, which is logical given the subject is a smaller home than the best comparables. Based on this evidence and after considering appropriate adjustments to the best comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds 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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