



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

APPELLANT: Biju Mathews  
DOCKET NO.: 21-41442.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 10-20-425-010-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Biju Mathews, 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 **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:** \$5,280  
**IMPR.:** \$40,262  
**TOTAL:** \$45,542

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 frame and masonry exterior construction with 3,066 square feet of living area. The home was built in 2006 and is approximately 15 years old. Features include a full basement, central air conditioning, 3.5 bathrooms, and a 2-car garage. The property has a 6,600 square foot site and is located in Morton Grove, Niles 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 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 are located in the subject's assessment neighborhood code and are improved with class 2-78 dwellings of masonry or frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 3,048 to 3,432 square feet of living area. The homes range in age from 15 to 27 years old.

The comparables each have a full basement for which basement finish area was not provided. Each comparable has central air conditioning, one fireplace, from 2.0 to 4.5 bathrooms, and either a 2-car or a 3-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$38,925 to \$44,489 or from \$12.77 to \$12.96 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the improvement assessment be reduced to \$39,521 or \$12.89 per square foot of living area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$45,542. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$40,262 or \$13.13 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 that are located in the subject's assessment neighborhood code and are improved with 2-story, class 2-78 dwellings of masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 2,863 to 2,965 square feet of living area. The homes are either 12 or 15 years old. The comparables each have a full basement, three of which have finished area. Each comparable has central air conditioning, one fireplace, 3.5 bathrooms, and a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$39,424 to \$45,239 or from \$13.77 to \$15.26 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested that the subject's assessment be confirmed.

### **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 eight suggested comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables #1, #2, and #4 as well as the board of review comparables which are more similar to the subject in location, design, age, and dwelling size with varying degrees of similarity in bathroom count, fireplace count, basement finish, and other features. When compared to the subject, the appellant's comparables would require upward adjustments for their smaller bathroom count and downward adjustments for their fireplace count to make them more equivalent to the subject. Conversely, three of the board of review comparables have basement finish and each comparable has a fireplace amenity, both features the subject lacks, which would require downward adjustments for these differences from the subject for equivalency to the subject. Nevertheless, these comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$38,925 to \$45,239 or from \$12.77 to \$15.26 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$40,262 or \$13.13 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparable #3 which is significantly larger home than the subject. After considering appropriate adjustments to the best comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds the subject's improvement is supported and a reduction 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: April 15, 2025



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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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