



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

APPELLANT: Stephen Master
DOCKET NO.: 21-41516.001-R-1 through 21-41516.002-R-1
PARCEL NO.: See Below

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Stephen Master, the appellant, by attorney Ciarra Schmidt, of Schmidt Salzman & Moran, Ltd. 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 **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:

DOCKET NO	PARCEL NUMBER	LAND	IMPRVMT	TOTAL
21-41516.001-R-1	14-32-410-023-0000	37,500	176,250	\$213,750
21-41516.002-R-1	14-32-410-024-0000	37,500	176,250	\$213,750

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 two parcels improved with a 3-story dwelling of masonry exterior construction with 6,747 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 13 years old. Features of the home include a basement with finished area, central air conditioning, four fireplaces and a 4-car garage. The property has a 6,000 square foot site and is located in Chicago, North Chicago Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-09 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant's appeal is based on overvaluation. In support of this argument the appellant submitted evidence disclosing the subject property was purchased on May 30, 2020 for a price of \$4,275,000. The appellant completed Section IV – Recent Sale Data disclosing the transaction was not between family members or related corporations, that the subject was sold with help from a Realtor and was advertised in the Multiple Listing Service (MLS). The appellant

submitted a copy of the executed Residential Real Estate Purchase and Sale Contract which disclosed two real estate agents were involved in the transaction. The contract included an addendum labeled as Rider A which detailed various items of personal property that were included in the transaction at "no additional cost to purchasers." Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's assessment be reduced to reflect the purchase price.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" for one of the subject's two parcels. The appellant submitted a copy of the Cook County Board of Review final decision disclosing the total combined assessment for the subject of \$453,506. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$4,535,060 or \$672.16 per square foot of living area, land included, when using the level of assessments for class 2 property of 10% under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four comparable sales located in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables have sites that range in size from 3,100 to 5,516 square feet of land area that are improved with 3-story class 2-09 dwellings of masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 5,150 to 6,368 square feet of living area and are 7 or 130 years old. Each comparable has a basement with finished area, central air conditioning, two or three fireplaces and from a 2-car to a 3.5-car garage. The comparables sold from August 2020 to August 2021 for prices ranging from \$2,450,000 to \$6,300,000 or from \$424.02 to \$1,223.30 per square foot of living area, land included. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested the subject's assessment be confirmed.

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 met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the purchase of the subject property in May 2020 for a price of \$4,275,000. The comparable sales submitted by the board of review do not overcome the weight of the subject's sale. The appellant provided evidence demonstrating the sale had the elements of an arm's length transaction. The appellant completed Section IV - Recent Sale Data of the appeal disclosing the parties to the transaction were not related, the property was sold using a Realtor and that the property had been advertised in the Multiple Listing Service. In further support of the transaction the appellant submitted a copy of the sales contract. The Board finds the purchase price is below the market value reflected by the assessment. The Board finds the board of review did not present any evidence to challenge the arm's length nature of the transaction or to refute the contention that the purchase price was reflective of market value. Based on this record the Board finds the subject property had a market value of \$4,275,000 as of January 1, 2021. Since market value has been determined the level of assessments for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance of 10% shall apply. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.50(c)(2)

The Illinois Supreme Court has defined fair cash value as what the property would bring at a voluntary sale where the owner is ready, willing, and able to sell but not compelled to do so, and the buyer is ready, willing and able to buy but not forced to do so. Springfield Marine Bank v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 44 Ill.2d 428, (1970). A contemporaneous sale of two parties dealing at arm's-length is not only relevant to the question of fair cash value but is practically conclusive on the issue of whether an assessment is reflective of market value. Korzen v. Belt Railway Co. of Chicago, 37 Ill.2d 158 (1967).

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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