



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

APPELLANT: Paul Slankamenac
DOCKET NO.: 21-44579.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 25-28-303-025-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) are Paul Slankamenac, the appellant, by attorney Ellen G. Berkshire, of Verros Berkshire, PC in Oakbrook Terrace; and the Cook County Board of Review.

Based on the facts and exhibits presented in this matter, PTAB hereby finds **No Change** in the Cook County Board of Review's assessment of the property is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

LAND: \$2,938
IMPR.: \$8,061
TOTAL: \$10,999

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

Statement of Jurisdiction

The appellant timely filed the appeal from a Cook County Board of Review decision 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

A 3,960 square feet, two-story masonry building on a 7,346 square feet parcel in Chicago, Lake Township, Cook County comprises the subject property. The 51-year-old, class 2-11 residence under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance contained six bathrooms and a slab foundation. The subject last sold—along with another property—in March 2019 for a total of \$55,000.

Contending assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal, the appellant argues the subject improvement assessment should be reduced to \$.65 per improvement square foot. As evidence of nonuniform subject assessment, the appellant presented four class 2-11 properties within 1.1 miles of the subject. The appellant's suggested comparables each featured no garage or a two-car garage, three or four bathrooms, and a full basement or slab foundation. These potential comparators

varied from 97 to 133 years in building age; from 3,464 to 4,101 square feet in improvement size; and from \$1.15 to \$1.52 per living square foot in improvement assessment.

The board of review countered that the subject improvement assessment of \$8,061, or \$2.04 per living square foot, was equitable in its “Notes on Appeal.” In defense of the \$10,999 total subject assessment, the county board of review nominated four buildings within a quarter mile of the subject as equity comparables. The board of review’s preferred comparators all featured no air conditioning, no garage or a two-car garage, and three bathrooms. These properties were 51 or 53 years in building age; 2,750 or 3,960 square feet in living area; and \$2.09 to \$3.54 per living square foot in improvement assessment.

Conclusion of Law

The taxpayer contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. The Illinois Constitution requires 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). Yet this uniformity provision of the Illinois Constitution does not mandate absolute equality in taxation; instead, a reasonable degree of uniformity in the taxing authority’s assessments suffices. Peacock v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 339 Ill. App. 3d 1060, 1070 (4th Dist. 2003).

When the ground for appeal is unequal treatment in the assessment, 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 required for a criminal conviction. Bazyldo v. Volant, 164 Ill. 2d 207, 213 (1995). Proof of unequal treatment in the assessment should consist of assessment documentation for the year in question of similarly situated properties of compelling proximity to, and with a lack of distinguishing characteristics from, the subject property. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(b). The Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) finds the appellant fell short of satisfying this burden of proof.

While several properties in evidence resembled the subject improvement, board of review comparable #2 and appellant comparables #2 and #4 best matched the subject’s attributes and therefore constitute the best evidence of assessment equity. Board of review comparable #2 exactly matched the subject’s living square footage and basement type but lacked three of the subject’s bathrooms, which the comparator partially offset with a fireplace. Meanwhile, appellant comparable #4 mitigated its three fewer bathrooms with more living area. By contrast, though appellant comparable #2 also featured more living space than the subject, it lacked two of the subject’s bathrooms and full basement, and had a much older building. Based on these comparators, an equitable improvement assessment for the subject would fall between \$1.31 and \$2.20 per living square foot. Because the subject assessment of \$2.04 per improvement square foot lands within this range, PTAB concludes the appellant did not demonstrate inequitable assessment by clear and convincing evidence and a reduction commensurate with the appellant’s request 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:

March 17, 2026



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

State of Illinois
Property Tax Appeal Board
William G. Stratton Building, Room 402
401 South Spring Street
Springfield, IL 62706-4001

APPELLANT

Paul Slankamenac, by attorney:
Ellen G. Berkshire
Verros Berkshire, PC
1S660 Midwest Road
Suite 300
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

COUNTY

Cook County Board of Review
County Building, Room 601
118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60602