



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

APPELLANT: Marcin Talaga  
DOCKET NO.: 21-48431.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 12-24-104-040-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) are Marcin Talaga, the appellant, by attorney Andreas Mamalakis, of the Law Offices of Andreas Mamalakis in Kenosha; 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:** \$8,104  
**IMPR.:** \$38,976  
**TOTAL:** \$47,080

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 2,688 square feet, two-story masonry building situated on a 4,050 square feet parcel in Chicago, Jefferson Township, Cook County comprises the subject property. The 44-year-old, class 2-11 property featured two full bathrooms, two half bathrooms, a two-car garage, and a full basement. The property last sold in April 2018 for \$455,000.

Contesting the equity of the \$38,976 subject improvement assessment, the appellant bases the appeal on an assessment equity argument and contends the assessment rate should be lowered to \$11.91 per improvement square foot. To show the subject assessment is not on par with those of similar properties, the appellant placed into evidence five class 2-11 properties within .84 miles of the subject with improvement assessments between \$10.99 and \$12.69 per living square foot. The appellant's suggested comparables featured at least one or two fireplaces, at least two full

bathrooms, and a full basement. These potential comparators varied from 29 to 64 years in building age and from 2,376 to 3,192 square feet in improvement size.

The board of review countered that the subject improvement assessment of \$38,976, or \$14.50 per living square foot, was equitable in its “Notes on Appeal.” In defense of the \$47,080 total subject assessment, the board of review put forth three two-story masonry buildings on the subject’s block as assessment benchmarks. The board of review’s preferred comparators all featured a full basement and a two-car garage but no air conditioning or fireplace. These properties were 44 years old; 2,688 or 2,832 square feet in living area; and between \$15.73 and \$15.91 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 require 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 needed 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 at least 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 Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) finds the appellant fell short of satisfying this burden of proof.

PTAB observes that the board of review submitted two comparables that were nearly identical to the subject property in board of review comparables #2 and #3. In fact, board of review comparable #3 exactly matched the subject improvement’s attributes, while comparable #3 included one extra half bathroom. Because the board of review produced at least one strong comparable with an assessment greater than the subject’s, and none of the appellant’s comparables were similar enough to overcome this evidence of uniform assessment, PTAB finds the subject was correctly assessed and a reduction in the assessment is not merited.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

December 23, 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

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