



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

APPELLANT: Derrick Bruce
DOCKET NO.: 21-48777.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 31-17-309-025-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Derrick Bruce, 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, 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: \$3,056
IMPR.: \$12,189
TOTAL: \$15,245

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 multi-level dwelling of frame and masonry exterior construction with 1,296 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 43 years old. The home features a partial basement with finished area,¹ central air conditioning, a fireplace and a 2-car garage. The property has an 8,733 square foot site and is located in Matteson, Rich Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-34 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 five equity comparables that have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. The

¹ The board of review disclosed the subject's basement is finished with a formal recreation room, which was not reported by nor was it refuted by the appellant.

comparables are class 2-34 properties that are improved with multi-level dwellings of frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 1,260 to 1,527 square feet of living area. The dwellings are from 42 to 46 years old. The comparables each have a partial basement with undisclosed basement finish, if any. Two comparables have central air conditioning. Each comparable has one or two fireplaces and either a 2-car or a 2.5-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$6,931 to \$11,081 or from \$5.50 to \$7.35 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$8,605 or \$6.64 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 \$15,245. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$12,189 or \$9.41 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four comparables that have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables are class 2-34 properties that are improved with multi-level dwellings of frame and masonry exterior construction containing 1,127 or 1,294 square feet of living area. Each dwelling is 42 years old and has a partial basement with finished area, central air conditioning and a 2-car garage. Three comparables each have a fireplace. The comparables have improvement assessments of either \$12,801 or \$12,813 and \$12.61 or \$12.79 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

Conclusion of Law

The taxpayer 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 nine comparable properties for the Board's consideration. The Board has given less weight to the appellant's comparables, since the appellant did not provide data regarding basement finish for these comparables in order to allow the Board to make a meaningful comparative analysis of the comparables to the subject. Additionally, the appellant's comparables #1, #2 and #3, lack central air conditioning, a feature of the subject and the appellant's comparable #4 and #5 have considerably larger dwelling sizes, when compared to the subject. The Board has given reduced weight to board of review comparable #4 due to its smaller dwelling size, when compared to the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the board of review comparables #1, #2 and #3, which are overall most similar to the subject in location, dwelling size, design, age and many features. These three comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$11,390 to \$12,475 or from \$9.64 to \$9.88 per square foot of living area. The subject's

improvement assessment of \$12,189 or \$9.41 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in the record in terms of total improvement assessment and below the range on a per square foot of living area basis. Based on this record and after considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds the appellant did not demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed and 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:

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

AGENCY

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