



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

APPELLANT: Laurel LaForce
DOCKET NO.: 21-50532.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 13-24-112-002-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Laurel LaForce, the appellant, by attorney Abby L. Strauss of Schiller Law P.C. 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:

LAND: \$20,000
IMPR.: \$23,205
TOTAL: \$43,205

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 1.5-story dwelling of frame exterior construction with 1,547 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 114 years old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, 2 bathrooms and a 1.5-car garage. The property has a 4,000 square foot site and is located in Chicago, Jefferson Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-03 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 seven equity comparables that have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are class 2-03 properties that are improved with dwellings of frame exterior construction ranging in size from 1,425 to 1,767 square feet of living area. The dwellings are from 112 to 126 years

old. Six comparables each have a full basement and comparable #1 has a concrete slab foundation. No data was provided by the appellant concerning finished basement area. Each comparable has 1 or 2 bathrooms and four comparables each have a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$19,736 to \$26,625 or from \$13.67 to \$15.89 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$22,710 or \$14.68 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 \$47,000. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$27,000 or \$17.45 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on three equity comparables that have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject, as comparable #1 depicts the subject property again. The comparables are class 2-03 properties that are improved with 1.5-story dwellings of frame exterior construction ranging in size from 1,382 to 1,651 square feet of living area. The dwellings are from 106 to 126 years old. Each comparable has a full basement, two of which have finished area. Each comparable has central air conditioning and either 2 or 2 ½ bathrooms. Two comparables each have a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$34,481 to \$47,375 or from \$24.95 to \$28.69 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 met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The parties submitted ten suggested comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board has given less weight to the appellant's comparables #1, #6 and #7, due to their lack of a garage and/or they have a concrete slab foundation, when compared to the subject. The Board has given reduced weight to the comparables submitted by the board of review, as each dwelling has central air conditioning, unlike the subject and/or they lack a garage, a feature of the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables #2, #3, #4 and #5, which are similar to the subject in location, dwelling size, design, age, foundation type and some features. These four comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$19,736 to \$25,480 or from \$13.85 to \$14.87 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$27,000 or \$17.45 per square foot of living area falls above the range established by the best comparables contained in this record. After considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences when compared to the subject, the Board

finds the subject's improvement assessment is excessive. Therefore, based on this record the Board finds a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment is warranted.

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: _____

February 18, 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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