



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

APPELLANT: William Betancourt  
DOCKET NO.: 21-51213.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 12-01-215-072-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are William Betancourt, the appellant, by attorney Ciarra J. 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 **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:** \$11,570  
**IMPR.:** \$25,668  
**TOTAL:** \$37,238

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-story dwelling of frame and masonry exterior construction with 1,461 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 71 years old. Features of the home include an unfinished basement and a 2-car garage. The property has an approximately 5,785 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 a grid analysis and property characteristic printouts on five equity comparables that are located in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. The printouts depict the comparables are improved with class 2-03, 1-story or 1.5-story dwellings of masonry or frame and masonry exterior construction that range in size from 1,332 to 1,594 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 67 to 79 years old. Each comparable has a concrete slab foundation and from a

1-car to a 2-car garage. Three comparables have central air conditioning and four comparables each have one fireplace. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$15,332 to \$18,856 or from \$11.42 to \$11.83 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$16,932 or \$11.59 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 \$37,238. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$25,668 or \$17.57 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables located in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. The board of review reported that the comparables are improved with class 2-03, 1.5-story dwellings of masonry or frame and masonry exterior construction that range in size 1,323 to 1,440 square feet of living area. The dwellings are each 72 years old. Each comparable has a basement, one with finished area, and a 1-car or a 2-car garage. One comparable has central air conditioning and two comparables each have one fireplace. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$24,626 to \$27,144 or from \$18.05 to \$18.92 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 record contains nine suggested equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board has given less weight to the appellant's comparables dissimilar foundation style. The Board has given reduced weight to board of review comparables #2 and #4 due to their central air conditioning or feature of finished basement, an amenity the subject lacks.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be board of review's comparables #1 and #3. The Board finds that these two comparables are most similar to the subject in location, design, age, foundation, dwelling size and some features. These most similar comparables have improvement assessments of \$24,626 and \$27,144 or \$18.61 and \$18.85 per square foot of living area, respectively. The subject's improvement assessment of \$25,668 or \$17.57 per square foot of living area, is bracketed between the two best comparables on an overall improvement assessment but below the two best comparables on a square foot 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 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: January 21, 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

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

APPELLANT

William Betancourt, by attorney:  
Ciarra J. Schmidt  
Schmidt Salzman & Moran, Ltd.  
111 W. Washington St.  
Suite 1300  
Chicago, IL 60602

COUNTY

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