



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

APPELLANT: Rafael Rodriguez
DOCKET NO.: 21-56881.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 13-26-412-007-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) are Rafael Rodriguez, the appellant, by attorney Joel R. Monarch, Attorney at Law in Chicago; 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: \$13,706
IMPR.: \$40,297
TOTAL: \$54,003

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 1,914 square feet, two-story masonry building on a 3,915 square feet lot in Chicago of Jefferson Township, Cook County constitutes the subject property. The 95-year-old, class 2-11 residence per the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance included two bathrooms and a full basement. The appellant indicated that assessment equity was the basis of the appeal.

Arguing the \$40,297 assessment is inequitably high for the subject improvement, the appellant contends the assessment must be lowered to \$12.64 per improvement square foot. To show the subject was not uniformly assessed, the appellant volunteered six class 2-11 structures within four blocks of the subject as assessment benchmarks. The appellant's proposed comparators featured no garage to a two-car garage, a full basement or slab foundation, and two bathrooms. Moreover, these properties were between 96 and 134 years in building age; 2,080 and 2,972 in living square footage; and \$11.56 and \$13.26 per improvement square foot in assessment.

The county board of review maintained in its “Notes on Appeal” that the subject improvement was fairly assessed at \$40,297, or \$21.05 per living square foot. In defense of the \$54,003 total subject assessment, the board of review nominated four two-story improvements in the subject’s subarea as equity comparables. The county board of review’s selections featured a 1.5- or two-car garage, two or three bathrooms, and a full or partial basement. These suggested comparators ranged from 111 to 123 years in building age; 1,280 to 2,112 square feet in living area; and \$20.12 to \$24.90 per improvement square foot in assessment.

Conclusion of Law

The taxpayer contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. The Illinois Constitution requires that 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). This uniformity provision of the Illinois Constitution does not require absolute equality in taxation, however; 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 a property tax appeal is based on unequal treatment in the assessment, the appellant must prove the inequity of the assessments 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 process should consist of documentation for the year in question of sufficiently similar 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 did not surpass this burden of proof.

In this record, board of review comparable #2 and appellant comparables #1 and #3 best represent the subject and therefore establish the range of equitable assessments for the subject improvement. Board of review comparable #2 caps the high end of the range because it was superior to the subject in terms of improvement size and garage inclusion. Appellant comparable #3 was also larger than the subject and had a one-car garage, while appellant comparable #1 had more living area than the subject, which offset its inferior basement. Given these properties, PTAB finds the range of equitable assessments for the subject runs from \$12.02 to \$21.88 per improvement square foot. Because the subject’s \$21.05 per improvement square foot assessment falls within this range, PTAB concludes the appellant did not demonstrate assessment inequity by clear and convincing evidence 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:

February 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

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