



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

APPELLANT: Ada Velazquez
DOCKET NO.: 21-56907.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 13-35-102-021-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) are Ada Velazquez, 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: \$11,253
IMPR.: \$40,942
TOTAL: \$52,195

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 2,456 square feet, two-story masonry dwelling on a 3,750 square feet parcel in Chicago, Jefferson Township, Cook County comprises the subject property. The 108-year-old building, a class 2-11 residence under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance, contained two bathrooms, a two-car garage, and a full basement.

The appellant contends assessment inequity as the basis of the petition, maintaining that the subject improvement assessment should be reduced to \$11.80 per square foot to be equitable. To show nonuniformity, the appellant presented seven class 2-11 properties within two blocks of the subject. The appellant's suggested comparables each featured a one- or two-car garage, two or three bathrooms, and a full or partial basement. These potential comparators varied from 104 to 112 years in building age; from 2,004 to 3,135 square feet in improvement size; and from \$9.36 to \$13.96 per living square foot in improvement assessment.

The board of review countered that the subject improvement assessment of \$40,942, or \$16.67 per living square foot, was equitable in its “Notes on Appeal.” In defense of the \$52,195 total subject assessment, the county board of review nominated four buildings on the subject’s block as equity comparables. The board of review’s preferred comparators all featured a full basement, a one- or two-car garage, and two bathrooms. These properties were 111 or 113 years in building age; 2,286 to 2,462 square feet in living area; and \$17.00 to \$18.70 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 similarly situated properties with compelling proximity to, and 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 fell short of satisfying this burden of proof.

Of the parties’ submissions, board of review comparables #1 through #3 and appellant comparable #2 most resemble the subject improvement and therefore constitute the best evidence of assessment equity in this record.¹ Board of review comparable #1 identically matched the subject improvement in material respects. Similarly, board of review comparables #2 and #3 compared favorably to the subject: these properties differed from the subject improvement size by six square feet. By contrast, appellant comparable #2 was inferior to the subject due to its smaller improvement and garage. Based on the evidence furnished, an equitable improvement assessment for the subject would fall between \$13.96 and \$17.36 per living square foot. Because the subject assessment of \$16.67 per improvement square foot lands within this range, PTAB concludes the appellant did not demonstrate inequitable assessment by clear and convincing evidence and a reduction commensurate with the appellant’s request is not justified.

¹ The appellant provided internally inconsistent information regarding attributes of the subject property. Because the appellant once indicated that the subject property had two bathrooms, which comports with the board of review’s notes, PTAB finds the subject property contained two bathrooms for the tax year in question.

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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