



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

APPELLANT: William Hough  
DOCKET NO.: 22-23980.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 05-27-308-021-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are William Hough, the appellant, by attorney Dora Cornelio, 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 **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:** \$48,400  
**IMPR.:** \$86,275  
**TOTAL:** \$134,675

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 2022 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 2-story dwelling of masonry exterior construction with 3,500 square feet of living area. The home is approximately 114 years old. Features include a full basement, three full bathrooms, central air conditioning, one fireplace, and a 2-car garage. The property has a 17,600 square foot site and is located in Wilmette, New Trier Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-06 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, including property characteristics printouts, on five equity comparables located within the subject's assessment neighborhood code. The comparables are improved with 2-story or 3-story, class 2-06 dwellings of frame, masonry, or stucco exterior construction ranging in size from 3,164 to 3,737 square

feet of living area. The homes range in age from 104 to 127 years old. Each comparable has a full basement, two or three full bathrooms, one or two half bathrooms, one or two fireplaces, and from a 1.5-car to a 2.5-car garage. Two comparables each have central air conditioning. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$78,441 to \$91,875 or from \$22.83 to \$27.22 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the improvement assessment be reduced.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal." The appellant's submission included a copy of the "Cook County Board of Review" final decision for the 2022 tax year disclosing the subject has a total assessment of \$163,340. The subject has an improvement assessment of \$114,940 or \$32.84 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 located within the subject's assessment neighborhood code. The comparables are improved with 2-story, class 2-06 dwellings of masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 3,092 to 3,135 square feet of living area. The homes range in age from 96 to 103 years old. Each comparable has a full basement, from two to four full bathrooms with two of these having one or two additional half bathrooms, and one fireplace. One comparable has central air conditioning. Two comparables each have a 2-car or a 3-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$139,800 to \$164,960 or from \$44.59 to \$52.77 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested that the subject's assessment be confirmed.

### **Conclusion of Law**

The appellant 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 eight suggested equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables #2 and #5 as well as the board of review comparables which have a dissimilar 3-story design, when compared to the subject's 2-story design, or are less similar to the subject in dwelling size than other comparables in this record. Further, board of review comparable #3 lacks a garage amenity, which is a feature of the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables #1, #3, and #4 which are overall more similar to the subject in design/class, age, and dwelling size with varying degrees of similarity in bathroom count, garage capacity, central air conditioning, and other features. These comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$84,090 to \$91,875 or from \$22.83 to \$24.59 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$114,940 or \$32.84 per square foot of living area falls above the range established by the best comparables in this record and is excessive when considering differences of the

subject when compared to the best comparables. Based on this record, the Board finds the appellant demonstrated with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed and a reduction in the subject's assessment is 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: \_\_\_\_\_

October 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

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