



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

APPELLANT: Urban Edge Group, LLC
DOCKET NO.: 22-40242.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 17-07-210-002-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Urban Edge Group, LLC, the appellant(s), by attorney Jennifer Kanik, of the Law Offices of Terrence Kennedy Jr. 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: \$18,750
IMPR.: \$32,950
TOTAL: \$51,700

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 an approximately 133-year-old two-story dwelling of frame construction with 2,044 square feet of living area. Features of the home include a slab foundation, and a two-car garage. The property has a 3,125 square foot site and is located in Chicago, West Chicago Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-11 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant asserts overvaluation in this appeal. In support of the overvaluation argument, the appellant submitted evidence disclosing that the subject property was sold on June 2, 2022, for a price of \$517,000, or \$252.94 per square foot of living area. The evidence included the master statement and deed from the transaction. The appellant also argues that the property should be further reduced \$37,202 based on a 56 percent occupancy factor due to vacancy and uninhabitability. The appellant attached an affidavit signed by owner Khaled Gad and pictures

regarding uninhabitability in addition to the settlement statement regarding the real estate transaction. The appellant attached pictures of a building permit and water pipe permit.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject as \$52,063. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$520,630, land included, when using the Cook County Real Estate Classification Ordinance level of assessment for class 2 property of 10%. The subject has an improvement assessment of \$33,313 or \$16.30 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information about four suggested equity comparables. The board of review did not specify the proximity of comparable these comparables to the subject property. These properties are 13- to 143-year-old two-story residences with masonry or frame construction. These properties sold between have between 2,124 and 2,668 square feet of living area. The properties have assessment equities between \$17.40 and \$20.33 per square foot. The board of review is requesting that the current assessment be confirmed.

Conclusion of Law

When market value is a basis of the appeal, the taxpayer must prove the value of the property by a preponderance of the evidence. 86 Ill. Admin. Code §1910.63(e); Winnebago County Bd. of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Bd., 313 Ill. App. 3d 1038, 1043 (2d Dist. 2000). Proof of market value may consist of an appraisal of the subject property, a recent sale, comparable sales or construction costs. 86 Ill. Admin. Code §1910.65(c). The Board finds the appellant met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment on this basis is warranted, but not to the extent that the appellant is requesting.

The appellant argued a contention of law. "The Property Tax Appeal Board may consider appeals based upon contentions of law. Such contentions of law must be concerned with the correct assessment of the subject property. If contentions of law are raised, the party shall submit a brief in support of his position." 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(d). "Standard of proof. Unless otherwise provided by law or stated in the agency's rules, the standard of proof in any contested case hearing conducted under this Act by an agency shall be the preponderance of the evidence." 5 ILCS 100/10-15.

The appellant raises the issue of vacancy and uninhabitability in their brief. The appellant does not cite persuasive authority to support a reduction on this basis. The appellant argues vacancy based on willful misconduct of the owner based on 35 ILCS 200/9-180, which allows for "Vacancy is not a recognized basis to seek a reduction of assessed value at the Property Tax Appeal Board." There is, however, a statutory authority that permits pro-rata valuations when a building is uninhabitable under 35 ILCS 200/9-180, which states, "Any buildings, structures or other improvements on the property were destroyed and rendered uninhabitable or otherwise unfit for occupancy or for customary use by accidental means(excluding destruction resulting from the willful misconduct of the owner of such property), the owner of the property on January 1 shall be entitled, on a proportionate basis, to a diminution of assessed valuation for such period during which the improvements were uninhabitable or unfit for occupancy or for customary use."

Furthermore, under their analysis, the appellant presents a calculation but does not provide any explanation for this calculation. The appellant cites a 56 percent occupancy percentage when the building allegedly did not have water from January 1, 2022, to July 2022, but only attached a permit to attach a water pipe as of July 28, 2022, but did not provide evidence of the condition of water in the property from January 1, 2022, and July 2022. The appellant did not provide specific evidence of the condition of the property when it was purchased. Even if the appellant did so, the appellant still valued the property at \$517,000, the purchase price of the arm's length transaction. Additionally, the occupancy percentage calculation and reduction based on it is not supported by any authority cited by the appellant.

The appellant presented evidence that the subject property was sold on June 2, 2022, for a price of \$517,000. The appellant filled out Section IV - Recent Sale Data of the PTAB residential appeal form and disclosed that the parties to the transaction were not related, the property was sold by a realtor named Adrianna Ruiz who works for Kale Realty. The appellant stated that the property was advertised for sale on the multiple listing service for 185 days. The appellant also disclosed that the sale was not due to a foreclosure action. The appellant submitted a copy the settlement statement. This evidence indicates that this sale was an arm's-length transaction. The board of review's evidence was insufficient to overcome the best evidence of the recent sale of the property, as the board of review did not provide evidence to rebut the appellant's supported assertion that the sale was an arm's length transaction.

The Board's task in this case is to determine the correct assessment of the subject property. *See* 35 ILCS 200/16-180. Under Illinois law, real property must be valued at its fair cash value, meaning the price that would be paid for it at a fair, voluntary sale where the buyer and seller are both ready, willing, and able to buy and sell, but neither is compelled to do so. Bd of Educ of Meridian Community School Dist. No. 223 v. Ill. Property Tax Appeal Bd., 2011 IL App (2d) 100068, ¶ 36. A contemporaneous sale of the subject property between parties dealing at arms-length is practically conclusive on the issue of whether an assessment reflected the fair cash market value of the property. Gateway-Walden LLC v. Pappas, 2018 IL App (1st) 162714, ¶ 33.

The Board finds that the best evidence of the subject's market value is the June 2, 2022, sale of the subject for \$517,000. Because the subject's assessment reflects a fair market value of \$520,630, which is greater than the \$517,000 sale price, a reduction in the subject's assessment commensurate with that sale price 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

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

AGENCY

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