



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

APPELLANT: Joseph Johnikutty
DOCKET NO.: 22-46047.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 10-18-114-004-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Joseph Johnikutty, 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 **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: \$8,970
IMPR.: \$65,892
TOTAL: \$74,862

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 two-story dwelling of masonry exterior construction with 3,518 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 18 years old. Features of the home include a full basement,¹ central air conditioning, two fireplaces and a two-car garage. The property has a 6,900 square foot site and is located in Morton Grove, Niles Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-78 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends assessment inequity concerning the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on five equity comparables located in the same neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables consist of

¹ The appellant reports a recreation room in the basement while the assessing officials report an unfinished basement. Thus, it is likely if this feature is present in the dwelling it has not been included in the assessment.

class 2-78 two-story dwellings of masonry, or frame and masonry exterior construction. The comparables range in age from 17 to 62 years old. The dwellings range in size from 3,422 to 3,680 square feet of living area. Each comparable has a full basement, four of which have finished area, central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces, and either a 2-car or a 2.5-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$49,303 to \$54,896 or from \$13.94 to \$14.92 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduced improvement assessment of \$50,694 or \$14.41 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 \$74,862. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$65,892 or \$18.73 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 neighborhood code as the subject and the same block or ¼ of a mile from the subject. The comparables consist of class 2-78 two-story dwellings of masonry exterior construction which are 16 or 18 years old. The dwellings range in size from 3,267 to 3,460 square feet of living area and have full basements one of which has finished area, central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces, and a two-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$63,674 to \$67,778 or from \$18.81 to \$19.59 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 parties submitted a total of nine suggested equity comparables to support their respective positions before the Property Tax Appeal Board which are located in the same neighborhood code and have the same classification as the subject. The Board has given reduced weight to appellant's comparables #2 and #4, due to ages of 34 and 62 years old whereas the subject is significantly newer at 18 years old.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity in the record consists of appellant's comparables #1, #3 and #5 along with the board of review comparables, which range in age from 16 to 19 years old or relatively similar to the 18-year-old subject. The comparables bracket the subject in dwelling size ranging from 3,267 to 3,680 square feet of living area and necessitate adjustments to make the properties more similar to the subject's dwelling size of 3,518 square feet. Four comparables should be adjusted upward for having inferior fireplace counts as compared to the subject's two fireplaces. One comparable has a 2.5-car garage suggesting a downward adjustment to make the comparable more similar to the subject. The best

comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$50,278 to \$67,778 or from \$13.94 to \$19.59 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$65,892 or \$18.73 per square foot of living area is within the range of the best comparables both in terms of overall improvement assessment and on a per-square-foot of living area basis.

The constitutional provision for uniformity of taxation and valuation does not require mathematical equality. The requirement is satisfied if the intent is evident to adjust the taxation burden with a reasonable degree of uniformity and if such is the effect of the statute enacted by the General Assembly establishing the method of assessing real property in its general operation. A practical uniformity, rather than an absolute one, is the test. Apex Motor Fuel Co. v. Barrett, 20 Ill. 2d 395 (1960). Although the comparables presented by the parties disclosed that properties located in the same area are not assessed at identical levels, all that the constitution requires is a practical uniformity which appears to exist on the basis of the evidence.

Based on this record and after considering appropriate adjustments to the best comparables for differences when compared to 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 subject's 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: _____

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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