



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

APPELLANT: MJ CERMAK, LLC
DOCKET NO.: 22-47114.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 20-34-212-016-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are MJ CERMAK, LLC, the appellant, by attorney Abby L. Strauss of Schiller Law P.C. 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: \$7,005
IMPR.: \$15,288
TOTAL: \$22,293

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 three-story multi-family building of masonry exterior construction with 7,644 square feet of gross building area. The building is approximately 99 years old. Features of the building include a full unfinished basement, six bathrooms and a 2-car garage. The property has a 5,604 square foot site and is located in Chicago, Hyde Park Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-11 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 on four equity comparables that have the same assessment neighborhood code and property classification code as the subject. The comparables are located from .56 to .79 of a mile from the subject property. The comparables are improved with three-story multi-family buildings of masonry exterior

construction ranging in size from 7,308 to 7,824 square feet of gross building area. The buildings are from 95 to 99 years old. The comparables each have a full unfinished basement, six bathrooms and either a 2.5-car, a 3.5-car or a 4-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$6,534 to \$7,528 or from \$0.85 to \$0.96 per square foot of gross building area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$7,032 or \$0.92 per square foot of gross building area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$22,293. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$15,288 or \$2.00 per square foot of gross building area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables that have the same assessment neighborhood code and property classification code as the subject. The comparables are located approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from the subject property or within the subject's subarea. The comparables are improved with three-story multi-family buildings of masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 7,506 to 7,596 square feet of gross building area. The buildings are from 92 to 96 years old. The buildings each have a full unfinished basement and six bathrooms. Three comparables each have either a 2-car, a 2.5-car or a 3.5-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$15,800 to \$18,025 or from \$2.10 to \$2.40 per square foot of gross building 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 eight comparable properties for the Board's consideration. The Board finds all the comparables have the same assessment neighborhood code and property classification code as the subject. These comparables are similar to the subject building in size, age and some features. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$6,534 to \$18,025 or from \$0.85 to \$2.40 per square foot of gross building area. The Board finds the board of review comparables are located in closer proximity to the subject and have assessments that range from \$2.10 to \$2.40 per square foot of gross building area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$15,288 or \$2.00 per square foot of gross building area falls within the range of the comparables in the record, and below the range of the board of review comparables, which are located closest to the subject. After considering adjustments to the comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds the appellant did not demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed.

The constitutional provision for uniformity of taxation and valuation does not require mathematical equality. 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 presented.

Based on this record, the Board finds 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

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: August 19, 2025

Clerk of the Property Tax Appeal Board

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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APPELLANT

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