



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

APPELLANT: Alex Lam
DOCKET NO.: 22-56196.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 04-07-103-007-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Alex Lam, the appellant, by attorney Max E. Callahan, of Siegel & Callahan, 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 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: \$21,848
IMPR.: \$53,752
TOTAL: \$75,600

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 brick exterior construction with 3,190 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 25 years old. Features of the home include a basement with finished area, central air conditioning, a fireplace, and a 3-car garage. The property has a 25,704 square foot site and is located in Northbrook, Northfield 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 overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted an appraisal estimating the subject property had a market value of \$756,000 as of January 1, 2022. The appraisal was prepared by Gary J. Wydra, a certified residential real estate appraiser, to determine market value as of January 1, 2022.

The appraiser selected three comparable sales located from 0.38 of a mile to 1.93 miles from the subject. The parcels range in size from 7,500 to 12,750 square feet of land area and are improved with 2-story homes of brick or brick and frame exterior construction ranging in size from 3,124 to 3,884 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 24 to 38 years old. Each home has a basement with finished area, central air conditioning, a fireplace, and a 2-car or a 3-car garage. The comparables sold from January to October 2021 for prices ranging from \$735,000 to \$775,000 or from \$199.54 to \$235.28 per square foot of living area, including land. The appraiser adjusted comparable #1 for sale or financing concessions and then adjusted the comparables for differences from the subject, such as quality of construction, room count, dwelling size, finished basement area, and garage size, to arrive at adjusted prices from \$755,000 to \$772,500. The appraiser concluded a value for the subject of \$756,000 as of January 1, 2022.

Based on this evidence the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect the appraised value conclusion.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$89,999. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$899,990 or \$282.13 per square foot of living area, including land, when applying the level of assessment for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance of 10%.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four comparable sales located in Glenview. The comparables are within a different assessment neighborhood code than the subject and the board of review did not provide the distances of these comparables in relation to the subject. The comparables have varying degrees of similarity to the subject in dwelling size, age, site size, and features and sold from April 2021 to June 2022 for prices ranging from \$1,095,000 to \$1,255,000 or from \$295.05 to \$358.98 per square foot of living area, including land. Based on this evidence the board of review requested the subject's assessment be sustained.

In written rebuttal, the appellant argued the appraisal is the best evidence of market value compared to the unadjusted raw sales data presented by the board of review.

Conclusion of Law

The appellant contends the market value of the subject property is not accurately reflected in its assessed valuation. When market value is the basis of the appeal the value of the property must be proved by a preponderance of the evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). 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 is warranted.

The appellant presented an appraisal and the board of review presented four comparable sales in support of their respective positions before the Board. The Board gives less weight to the board of review's comparables, which are located in a different city and different assessment neighborhood code than the subject and for which no proximity to the subject was provided.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the appraisal submitted by the appellant. The Board finds the appraiser selected comparables that are similar to the subject in location and features and sold proximate in time to the assessment date. The Board finds the appraiser made reasonable adjustments in concluding an opinion of value for the subject. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$899,990 or \$282.13 per square foot of living area, including land, which is above the appraised value conclusion. The Board finds the subject property had a market value of \$756,000 as of the assessment date at issue. Since market value has been established the level of assessment for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance of 10% shall apply. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.50(c)(2).

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:

September 16, 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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