



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

APPELLANT: John Fong
DOCKET NO.: 23-24255.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 06-09-203-025-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) are John Fong, the appellant, by attorney Andreas Mamalakis, of the Law Offices of Andreas Mamalakis in Kenosha; and the Cook County Board of Review.

Based on the facts and exhibits presented in this matter, PTAB hereby finds **No Change** in the Cook County Board of Review's assessment of the property is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

LAND: \$7,605
IMPR.: \$35,593
TOTAL: \$43,198

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

Statement of Jurisdiction

The appellant timely filed the appeal from a Cook County Board of Review decision pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) contesting the assessment for the 2023 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

A 3,311 square feet, two-story frame building on an 11,700 square feet parcel in Hoffman Estates, Hanover Township, Cook County comprises the subject property. The 29-year-old, class 2-78 residence per the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance featured 2.5 bathrooms, air conditioning, a two-car garage, and a full basement. The subject last sold in April 2010 for \$400,000. The appellant waived the right to a hearing on the appeal.

The appellant pleads assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal, arguing that the subject improvement assessment must be reduced to \$7.63 per living square foot. As evidence of subject assessment nonuniformity, the appellant presented five class 2-78 properties within .98 miles of the subject. These suggested comparables included 2.5 or three bathrooms, a full basement, air conditioning except in property #4, and a two- or three-car garage. The appellant's improvements

also spanned 23 to 26 years in building age; 2,698 to 3,745 square feet in area; and \$7.40 to \$7.82 per living square foot in assessment.

The board of review countered that the subject improvement assessment of \$35,593, or \$10.75 per living square foot, was equitable in its “Notes on Appeal.” In defense of the \$43,198 total subject assessment, the county board of review proposed four frame improvements on the subject’s block as assessment comparables. The county board of review’s preferred comparators included 2.5 bathrooms, a full basement, and a two- or three-car garage. These properties were 29 years in building age; 3,002 to 3,347 in living square footage; and \$12.34 to \$13.81 per square foot in improvement assessment.

Conclusion of Law

The taxpayer contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. The Illinois Constitution requires real estate taxes “be levied uniformly by valuation ascertained as the General Assembly shall provide by law.” Ill. Const., art. IX, § 4 (1970); Walsh v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 181 Ill. 2d 228, 234 (1998). Yet this uniformity provision of the Illinois Constitution does not mandate absolute equality in taxation; instead, a reasonable degree of uniformity in the taxing authority’s assessments suffices. Peacock v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 339 Ill. App. 3d 1060, 1070 (4th Dist. 2003).

When unequal treatment in the assessment is the basis of a property tax appeal, appellants must prove the inequity of the assessments by clear and convincing evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e); Walsh, 181 Ill. 2d at 234 (1998). Clear and convincing evidence means more than a preponderance of the evidence, but it does not need to approach the degree of proof required for a criminal conviction. Bazyldo v. Volant, 164 Ill. 2d 207, 213 (1995). Proof of unequal treatment in the assessment process should comprise assessment documentation for the year in question of similarly situated properties with compelling proximity to, and a lack of distinguishing characteristics from, the subject property. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(b). The Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) finds the appellant did not surmount this burden of proof.

As the properties in evidence most similar to the subject improvement size, board of review comparables #1 through #3 circumscribe the range of equitable assessments for the subject improvement. Both board of review comparables #1 and #2 identically matched the subject’s living area, bathroom count, and air conditioning inclusion, with comparator #2 featuring a larger garage than the subject. Meanwhile, board of review comparable #3 included more living square footage and a larger garage than the subject, resulting in an equitable subject assessment range of \$12.34 to \$13.23 per living square foot. Because the subject’s \$10.75 per improvement square foot assessment is lower than those of the comparators, PTAB finds the appellant did not provide sufficiently clear and convincing evidence that the subject assessment was inequitable or that a reduction thereof 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: _____

September 15, 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

State of Illinois
Property Tax Appeal Board
William G. Stratton Building, Room 402
401 South Spring Street
Springfield, IL 62706-4001

APPELLANT

John Fong, by attorney:
Andreas Mamalakis
Law Offices of Andreas Mamalakis
4844 89th Place
Kenosha, WI 53142

COUNTY

Cook County Board of Review
County Building, Room 601
118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60602