



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

APPELLANT: Maria Zubek-Boczek
DOCKET NO.: 23-33648.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 23-11-203-011-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Maria Zubek-Boczek, the appellant(s), 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, 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: \$8,556
IMPR.: \$16,109
TOTAL: \$24,665

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 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

The subject property consists of an 11,040 square foot site improved with a one-story dwelling of frame and masonry construction with 1,356 square feet of living area. The dwelling on the property is forty-eight years old. Features include a two-car garage, partial basement, and one full bathroom and a half bath. The property does not have central air conditioning. The subject property is located in Palos Hills, Palos Township, Cook County and is classified as a 2-03 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant asserts assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on five suggested equity comparables with varying degrees of similarity to the subject property. The five properties offered by the appellant as comparables are each constructed of frame and masonry, have either a two-car or two-and-a-half-car garage, and range in size from 1,382 to 1,576 square feet of living area. Two of the comparables have

central air conditioning and three do not. One has a full basement and four have a crawl space. The comparables range in age from forty-nine to sixty-eight years old. The appellant reports that the comparables are between 0.06 to 0.60 miles from the subject property. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$10.94 to \$11.88 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to \$23,838.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject as \$28,991. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$20,435 or \$15.07 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on three suggested equity comparables. The suggested comparable properties range in size from 1,111 to 1,469 square feet of living area. The board of review's suggested properties are constructed of either masonry, frame, or frame/masonry, have either a two-car or two-and-a-half-car garage, full or partial basements and one or zero fireplaces. Two of the comparables have central air conditioning and one does not. The comparable properties range in age from thirty-seven to fifty-four years old and have improvement assessments ranging from \$15.59 to \$17.71 per square foot of living area. The board of review reports that two of the comparables are located in the same subarea as the subject property and one within a quarter mile, with all in the same neighborhood code. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested that the assessment be confirmed.

Conclusion of Law

The taxpayer asserts assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. The Illinois Constitution requires that 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). This uniformity provision of the Illinois Constitution does not require absolute equality in taxation, however, and it is sufficient if the taxing authority achieves a reasonable degree of uniformity. Peacock v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 339 Ill. App. 3d 1060, 1070 (4th Dist. 2003).

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); 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 needed for a conviction of a crime. Bazyldo v. Volant, 164 Ill. 2d 207, 213 (1995). 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 meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables #3, #4, and #5. These comparable properties had the most similar sized living areas, age, features and proximity to the subject property than other comparables. In comparison, the board of review's comparables #1 and #3 differed in exterior construction from the subject property and were afforded less weight. The appellant's comparables #1 and #2 and the board of review's

comparable #2 were afforded less weight due to having central air conditioning, distinguishing them from the subject property.

The best evidence comparables had improvement assessments of \$11.28 to \$11.88 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$15.07 per square foot of living area falls above the range established by the best comparables in this record. After considering adjustments to these comparables for differences when compared to the subject, the Board finds the subject's improvement assessment is not supported. Based on this record the Board finds the appellant did demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed and a reduction in the subject's assessment 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:

May 19, 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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