



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

APPELLANT: Craig Sparling
DOCKET NO.: 23-41779.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 13-12-309-022-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Craig Sparling, the appellant, by attorney Brian P. Liston, of the Law Offices of Liston & Tsantilis, 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: \$12,250
IMPR.: \$42,954
TOTAL: \$55,204

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 a 3-story, multi-family building of masonry exterior construction with 4,848 square feet of gross building area. The building was built in 1916 and is approximately 107 years old. Features include a full basement, three full bathrooms, three half bathrooms, three fireplaces, and a 1.5-car garage. The property has a 4,375 square foot site and is located in Chicago, Jefferson 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 five equity comparables located within the subject's assessment neighborhood. The comparables are improved with 2-story or 3-story, class 2-11 multi-family buildings of masonry exterior construction ranging in size 4,824 to 4,878 square feet of gross building area. The buildings range in age from 97 to 107 years old. Each comparable has a full basement, three full

bathrooms with two comparables having two or three half bathroom, and from a 1.5-car to a 3-car garage. Two comparables each have three fireplaces. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$38,000 to \$42,954 or from \$7.84 to \$8.86 per square foot of gross building area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$40,966.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$65,000. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$52,750 or \$10.88 per square foot of gross building area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on three comparables located within the subject's assessment neighborhood. The comparables are improved with 2-story, class 2-11 multi-family buildings of masonry exterior construction with either 2,736 or 3,251 square feet of gross building area. The buildings range in age from 105 to 108 years old. Each comparable has a full basement and two or three full bathrooms. Two comparables each have a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments of either \$31,500 or \$37,500 and \$11.51 or \$11.53 per square foot of gross building area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested the subject's assessment be sustained.

Conclusion of Law

The appellant 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 met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The parties submitted seven suggested equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparable #1, as well as the board of review comparables which are dissimilar 2-story buildings, in contrast to the subject's 3-story design, and/or are less similar to the subject in gross building area than other comparables in this record.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables #2 through #5 which are similar to the subject in location, design/class, age, gross building size, and other features. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$41,073 to \$42,954 or from \$8.42 to \$8.86 per square foot of gross building area. The Board gives most weight to the appellant's comparable #5 which is overall most similar, if not identical, to the subject in overall property characteristics and sets the upper limit of the ranges. The subject's improvement assessment of \$52,750 or \$10.88 per square foot of gross building area falls above the range established by best comparables in this record and has a substantially higher improvement assessment than the comparable given most weight by the Board. After considering the necessary adjustments to the best comparables for differences when compared to the subject, the Board finds the appellant demonstrated 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: _____

July 21, 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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