



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

APPELLANT: George Kafkis
DOCKET NO.: 24-20480.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 11-19-216-021-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are George Kafkis, the appellant(s), by attorney Thomas E. Sweeney, of Siegel Jennings Co., LPA 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: \$13,545
IMPR.: \$76,455
TOTAL: \$90,000

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 2024 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 two-story dwelling of masonry construction, approximately ninety-eight years-old, with 2,982 square feet of living area on a 5,418 square foot lot in Evanston, Evanston Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as 2-06 under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance. Features of the home include two full bathrooms, a half bathroom, a slab foundation and a two-car garage.

The appellant contends overvaluation as the basis of appeal. In support of its market value argument, the appellant completed Section IV – Recent Sale Data in its Residential Appeal Form indicating the subject property was purchased on July 3, 2023 for \$565,000 or \$189.47 per square foot of living area. The appellant indicates that the sale did not occur between family members, was sold by the owner without a broker and was not listed on the multiple listing

service or advertised in any other manner. The appellant submitted a copy of the settlement statement which shows fees paid to a buyer's attorney and to a seller's attorney.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" stating the total valuation assessment for the subject property as \$90,000 with an improvement assessment of \$76,455. The valuation assessment reflects a market value of \$900,000 when applying the 10% Cook County Real Estate Classification Ordinance assessment for class two properties, or \$301.81 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four comparable properties with sales taking place from June 5, 2023 to September 1, 2023 for prices ranging from \$1,209,000 to \$1,750,000 or \$353.67 to \$433.80 per square foot of living area. The comparable properties are two-story buildings of frame, masonry or stucco construction, ranging in age from 104 to 147 years-old and ranging in size from 2,787 to 4,524 square feet of living area. The board of review does not report on the proximity of the comparable sales to the subject property. .

Conclusion of Law

The appellant contends that 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 proven by a preponderance of the evidence. 86 Ill. Admin. Code §1910.63(e); Winnebago County Bd. of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Bd., 313 Ill. App. 3d 1038, 1043 (2d Dist. 2000). Proof of market value may consist of a recent sale or appraisal of the subject property, comparable sales, or construction costs. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(c). The Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) finds the appellant *did not meet* this burden of proof.

The Property Tax Appeal Board finds the subject's sale does not meet at least one of the fundamental requirements to be considered an arm's-length transaction. The undisputed evidence shows that the subject property was not posted on the Multiple Listing Service nor advertised or exposed to the public for sale in any other manner. We find that the board of review's sales comparables #1, #2 and #4 are better evidence of market value. The board of review's comparable #3 is 1,542 square feet larger than the subject property in living area and therefore is afforded little evidentiary weight. The best evidence comparables have sale prices ranging from \$433.80 to \$564.52 per square foot of living area. The subject sold for \$189.47 per square foot of living area - less than half of the sales price per square foot at the lowest end of the board of review range. Even taking into consideration the fact that the subject property is without a basement, the disparity in price is prominent. The Board finds the appellant did not prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the subject was overvalued, and a reduction based on market value 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

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

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