



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

APPELLANT: Claudia Merghes
DOCKET NO.: 24-33821.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 20-22-319-032-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Claudia Merghes, the appellant(s), by attorney Robert Rosenfeld, of Robert H. Rosenfeld & Associates, LLC in Northbrook; 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: \$6,995
IMPR.: \$6,925
TOTAL: \$13,920

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), 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 2,124-square-foot frame construction building on an 8,700-square-foot lot in Chicago, Hyde Park Township, Cook County. The 127-year-old home is a class 2-05 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends that the assessed property is inequitably assessed. To show non-uniformity, the appellant proposed four two-story masonry properties within two miles of the subject property, with improvement assessments ranging from \$2.84 to \$2.91 per living square foot. These potential comparators varied from 116 to 136 years in building age and from 1,714 to 1,760 square feet in improvement size.

The board of review countered that the subject improvement assessment of \$6,925 or \$3.26 per living square foot, was equitable in its "Notes on Appeal." In defense of the \$13,920 total subject

assessment, the county board of review nominated four buildings within a subarea or on the same block as the subject property. These properties ranged in age from 112 to 132 years in building age; between 2,000 and 2,176 square feet in living area; and between \$3.74 and \$6.16 per living 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 require 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 the ground for appeal is unequal treatment in the assessment, 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 criminal conviction. *Bazyldo v. Volant*, 164 Ill. 2d 207, 213 (1995). Proof of unequal treatment in the assessment should consist of assessment documentation for the year in question of similarly situated properties with compelling proximity to, and lack of distinguishing characteristics from, the subject property. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(b).

The Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) finds the appellant fell short of satisfying this burden of proof. As the properties in evidence nearest and most similar to the subject improvement, board of review comparables #1, #2, #3, and #4 establish the range of equitable assessments for the subject improvement. As such, based on these comparators, the subject improvement would be equitably assessed from \$3.74 to \$6.16 per living square foot. Because the subject assessment of \$3.26 per improvement square foot falls below this range, PTAB concludes the appellant did not demonstrate inequitable assessment by clear and convincing evidence, and a reduction commensurate with the appellant’s request 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: 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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