



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

APPELLANT: Thomas Crothers
DOCKET NO.: 24-49538.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 13-11-319-018-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Thomas Crothers, the appellant, by attorney Gregory J. Hilton of Property Tax Solutions 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: \$13,125
IMPR.: \$34,450
TOTAL: \$47,575

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 multi-family building of masonry exterior construction with 2,650 square feet of gross building area. The building is approximately 112 years old. Features of the building include a full basement, two bathrooms and a 2-car garage.¹ The property has a site with 3,750 square feet of land area 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 eight equity comparables that have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and are located

¹ The parties differ as to whether or not the subject building has a fireplace. The appellant reported the subject has one fireplace, while the board of review reported the subject has no fireplace.

within .10 of a mile from the subject property. The comparables are class 2-11 properties improved with two-story multi-family buildings of masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 2,508 to 3,118 square feet of gross building area. The buildings are from 107 to 111 years old. Each comparable has a full basement and two bathrooms. Seven comparables each have a 1-car or a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$32,688 to \$33,875 or from \$10.48 to \$13.11 per square foot of gross building area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment to \$31,270 or \$11.80 per square foot of gross building area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$58,000. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$44,875 or \$16.93 per square foot of gross building area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables that have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject, one of which is located along the same street as the subject property. The comparables are class 2-11 properties improved with two-story multi-family buildings of frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 2,168 to 2,670 square feet of gross building area. The buildings are from 111 to 119 years old. The comparables each have a full basement, three with finished area. Each comparable has two, three or five full bathrooms and either a 2-car or a 2.5-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$43,875 to \$50,875 or from \$19.02 to \$20.24 per square foot of gross building area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

Conclusion of Law

The taxpayer 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 a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted based upon the evidence in the record.

The parties submitted twelve comparable properties for the Board's consideration. The Board has given less weight to the appellant's comparables #1, #2, #4 and #6, as well as board of review comparables #1 and #4 due to differences from the subject in building size or they lack a garage, a feature of the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables #3, #5, #7 and #8, along with board of review comparables #2 and #3, which are similar to the subject in location, building size, design and age. However, the Board finds these six comparables have varying degrees of similarity when compared to the subject in features such as basement finish, bathroom count and garage capacity, suggesting adjustments would be required to make them more equivalent to the subject. Nevertheless, the comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$32,688 to \$50,875 or from \$11.43 to \$19.05 per square foot of gross building

area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$44,875 or \$16.93 per square foot of gross building area falls within the range established by the best comparables in the record. However, after considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds the subject's improvement assessment is excessive. 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 warranted.

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

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

APPELLANT

Thomas Crothers, by attorney:
Gregory J. Hilton
Property Tax Solutions
16 W. Ontario
2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60654

COUNTY

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