FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION
ILLINOIS PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD

APPELLANT: Joe Helfrich
DOCKET NO.: 24-50263.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 14-33-331-008-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Joe Helfrich, the appellant, by attorney Michael R. O'Malley, of Schmidt Salzman & Moran, Ltd. 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:	$34,875
IMPR.:	$50,782
TOTAL:	$85,657

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 3-story multi-family building of frame and masonry exterior construction with 3,074 square feet of gross building area. The building is approximately 142 years and features a partial basement. The property has a 2,250 square foot site and is located in Chicago, North Chicago 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 regarding 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 buildings of frame, masonry, or frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 2,814 to 3,316 square feet of gross building area. The buildings are from 132 to 144 years old. Four comparables each have a full basement and one

comparable has a slab foundation. One comparable has central air conditioning. One comparable has one fireplace. Two comparables each have a 1-car or a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from $49,104 to $54,613 or from $15.58 to $17.45 per square foot of gross building area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment to $50,782.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of $131,091. The subject property has an improvement assessment of $96,216 or $31.30 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 located within the subject's assessment neighborhood. The comparables are improved with 3-story, class 2-06, class 2-10, or class 2-11 buildings/dwellings of masonry or frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 2,790 to 3,156 square feet of gross building/living area. The buildings/dwellings are from 137 to 144 years old. Two comparables each have a full basement, one of which has finished area, and two comparables have either a slab or crawl space foundation. One comparable has central air conditioning. Two comparables each have one or two fireplaces. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from $92,622 to $157,184 or from $33.20 to $49.80 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 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.Adm.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.Adm.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 record contains nine suggested equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables #2, #4, and #5, as well as board of review's comparables #1 and #2, due to substantial differences when compared to the subject in design, size, foundation type, central air conditioning, and/or garage amenity. The Board also gives less weight to board of review comparables #3 and #4 which are single family homes in contrast to the subject which is a multiple-family building. The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables #1 and #3 which overall most similar to the subject in location, design/class, size, age, and most features. These comparables have improvement assessments of $50,800 and $54,613 or $15.58 and $16.52 per square foot of gross building area, respectively. The subject's improvement assessment of $96,216 or $31.30 per square foot of gross building area falls above the two best comparables in this record and appears to be excessive. Based on this record and after considering appropriate adjustments to the two best comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed and a reduction in the subject's assessment, commensurate with the appellant's request, 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:

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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: November 17, 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 9-215 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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