FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION
ILLINOIS PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD

APPELLANT: Githesh Ramamurthy
DOCKET NO.: 07-21207.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 05-20-407-048-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Githesh Ramamurthy, the appellant, by attorney Mitchell L. Klein of Schiller Klein PC in Chicago; and the Cook County Board of Review.

Based on the facts and exhibits presented, 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:	$ 94,319
IMPR.:	$ 299,983
TOTAL:	$ 394,302

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject property is improved with a two-story dwelling of masonry construction containing 7,453 square feet of living area. The dwelling is two years old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning, three fireplaces, and an attached three-car garage. The dwelling is located in Winnetka, New Trier Township, Cook County.

The appellant's appeal is based on unequal treatment in the assessment process. The appellant submitted information on three comparable properties described as two-story stucco, masonry, or frame and masonry dwellings. The comparables have the same assigned neighborhood and classification codes as the subject. One of the comparables is located on the same tax block as the subject; one is located 0.32 mile from the subject; and another is located 1.45 miles from the subject. The comparable dwellings are each seven years old, and they range in size from 7,113 to 7,673 square feet of living area. Each comparable has central air conditioning, two fireplaces, a garage, and a full basement, one of which is finished. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from $33.35 to $42.99 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment is $46.38 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the

appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's final assessment was disclosed. The board of review presented descriptions and assessment information on four comparable properties consisting of two-story masonry dwellings that range in age from two to four years old. The comparables have the same assigned neighborhood and classification codes as the subject. The dwellings range in size from 6,235 to 8,259 square feet of living area. Each comparable has a full finished basement, central air conditioning, three to six fireplaces, and a garage. Three comparables have other improvements as well. These properties have improvement assessments ranging from $4.96 to $58.00 per square foot of living area. The comparable assessed at $4.96 per square foot of living area has a 10% partial assessment which indicates an assessment at 100% of $49.58 per square foot of living area. As part of its evidence, the board of review also disclosed that the subject property sold in February 2006 for $4,400,000. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

In rebuttal, the appellant's attorney noted the comparables submitted by the board of review differed from the subject property in size and location.

After reviewing the record and considering the evidence, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this appeal. The Board further finds a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The appellant contends unequal treatment in the subject's improvement assessment as the basis of the appeal. Taxpayers who object to an assessment on the basis of lack of uniformity bear the burden of proving the disparity of assessment valuations by clear and convincing evidence. Kankakee County Board of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 131 Ill.2d 1 (1989). After an analysis of the assessment data, the Board finds the appellant has met this burden.

Both parties presented assessment data on a total of seven equity comparables. Although the comparables submitted by the board of review were very similar to the subject in age and exterior construction, three comparables were smaller than the subject, and one was larger. In addition, the board of review comparables had full finished basements, while the subject has a full unfinished basement. As a result, the board of review's comparables received reduced weight in the Board's analysis. The Board finds the appellant's comparables were most similar to the subject in size and were very similar in age. Although comparables one and three had frame and masonry or stucco exterior construction, they were located near the subject. Although comparable two was located 1.45 miles from the subject, it had masonry exterior construction like the subject. Due to

their similarities to the subject, these comparables received the most weight in the Board's analysis. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from $33.35 to $42.99 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of $46.38 per square foot of living area falls above the range established by the most similar comparables. After considering adjustments and the differences in both parties' comparables when compared to the subject, the Board finds the subject's improvement assessment is not equitable 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.

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: April 22, 2011

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 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 the subsequent year 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.

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.