



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

APPELLANT: Madonna Grames  
DOCKET NO.: 09-21192.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 23-24-300-260-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Madonna Grames, the appellant; and the Cook County Board of Review.

Based on the facts and exhibits presented, 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:** \$ 2,075  
**IMPR.:** \$ 23,220  
**TOTAL:** \$ 25,295

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**ANALYSIS**

The subject property consists of a 2,244 square foot parcel improved with a 15-year-old, two-story, townhouse dwelling of frame and masonry construction containing 1,547 square feet of living area and located in Palos Township, Cook County. Features of the residence include two and one half bathrooms, a full-unfinished basement, central air-conditioning, a fireplace and a two-car attached garage.

The appellant appeared before the Property Tax Appeal Board claiming unequal treatment in the assessment process of the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this claim, the appellant submitted assessment data and descriptive information on four properties suggested as comparable to the subject. The appellant also submitted photographs and Cook County Assessor's Internet Database sheets for the subject and the suggested comparables, a location map and a copy of the board of review's decision. Based on the appellant's documents, the four suggested comparables consist of two-story, 15 or 16-year-old, townhouse dwellings of frame and masonry construction located within the same Sidwell block as the subject. The improvements

range in size from 1,485 to 1,989 square feet of living area. The comparables contain two or two and one-half bathrooms, a full-unfinished basement, central air-conditioning, a fireplace and a two-car attached garage. The improvement assessments range from \$10.36 to \$12.02 per square foot of living area.

At hearing, the appellant argued that the appellant's four comparables are superior to the subject in location in that they have water views or an end unit location. The appellant also argued that although the appellant's comparables are superior to the subject in location, they are assessed lower than the subject. The appellant indicated that the subject dwelling is not waterfront and does not have water views. Based on the evidence submitted, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the subject's total assessment of \$25,295. The subject's improvement assessment is \$23,220 or \$15.01 per square foot of living area. In support of the assessment the board submitted property characteristic printouts and descriptive data on four properties suggested as comparable to the subject. The suggested comparables consist of fifteen-year-old, two-story 1,547 square foot townhouse dwellings of frame and masonry construction located on the same street and block as the subject. The comparables contain two and one-half bathrooms, a full-unfinished basement, central air-conditioning, a fireplace and a two-car attached garage. The improvement assessments range from \$15.32 to \$17.56 per square foot of living area.

At hearing, the board's representative indicated that the board of review's comparables are located on the same street and block as the subject with similar views. Based on the evidence presented, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's improvement assessment.

After hearing the testimony 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 appellant's argument was unequal treatment in the assessment process. The Illinois Supreme Court has held that 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). The evidence must demonstrate a consistent pattern of assessment inequities within the assessment jurisdiction. After an analysis of the assessment data, the Board finds the appellant has not overcome this burden.

The Board finds the board of review's comparables to be the most similar properties to the subject in the record. They are similar to the subject in improvement size, exterior construction, amenities, age and design. *In addition*, they are located on the

same street and block as the subject with similar views. These four properties have improvement assessments ranging from \$15.32 to \$17.56 per square foot of living area. The subject's per square foot improvement assessment of \$15.01 falls below the range established by these properties. The Board finds the appellant's four comparables differ from the subject in improvement size and/or location and accorded less weight. After considering adjustments and the differences in both parties' comparables when compared to the subject, the Board finds the subject's improvement assessment is equitable and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not 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.

*Ronald R. Cuit*

Chairman

*K. L. Fern*

Member

*Frank A. Huff*

Member

*Mario Morris*

Member

Acting 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: January 20, 2012

*Allen Castrovillari*

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.