



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

APPELLANT: Dominic Forte
DOCKET NO.: 09-30770.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 13-25-427-015-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Dominic Forte, the appellant, by attorney Timothy C. Jacobs of Gary H. Smith 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: \$8,845
IMPR.: \$16,520
TOTAL: \$25,365

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject property consists of two improvements situated on one parcel. Both improvements are approximately 123 years old. Dwelling #1 is a two-story multi-family dwelling with frame construction. Dwelling #1 has 2,160 square feet of living area, two apartment units, and a full unfinished basement. Dwelling #2 is a two-story coach house with frame construction. Dwelling #2 has 835 square feet of living area with one apartment unit. The subject property has a 3,250 square foot site and is located in Chicago, West Chicago Township, Cook County.

The appellant's appeal is based on overvaluation. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted an appraisal estimating the subject property had a market value of \$285,000 as of January 1, 2009. The appraisal was prepared by Robert Merel, a State of Illinois certified real estate appraiser. In estimating the market value of the subject property, the appraiser developed the sales comparison and the income approaches to value.

Under the income approach, the appraiser identified the subject's gross monthly rent as \$2,850 for all three apartment units. The appraiser applied a gross rent multiplier of 100 to the subject's gross monthly rent to arrive at an indicated value by the income approach of \$285,000.

Under the sales comparison approach, the appraiser provided information on three comparable sales described as two or three-story, multi-family dwellings of frame or masonry construction. The dwellings range in age from 108 to 122 years and in size from 2,455 to 3,747 square feet of living area. Each comparable has three apartment units and a full basement. Two comparables have garages. The comparables have sites that range in size from 2,825 to 3,125 square feet of land area. The comparables sold from May to November 2008 for prices of either \$285,000 or \$340,000 or from \$76.06 to \$138.49 per square foot of living area, including land. After making adjustments to the comparables for differences from the subject, the appraiser estimated the comparables had adjusted prices ranging from \$255,000 to \$312,500 or from \$68.05 to \$127.29 per square foot of living area, including land. Based on this data, the appraiser estimated the subject property had an estimated value under the sales comparison approach of \$285,000.

The appellant's appraiser gave more emphasis to the sale comparison approach and estimated the subject property had a market value of \$285,000 as of January 1, 2009. Based on this evidence, the appellant's attorney requested that subject's assessment be calculated by applying the 10% ordinance level of assessments for Class 2 residential property in Cook County to the estimate of market value contained in the appraisal report. Based on this record, counsel requested the subject's total assessment be reduced to \$28,500.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject property's total assessment of \$57,202 was disclosed. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$642,719 when applying the 2009 three year average median level of assessments for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance of 8.90% as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review submitted information on eight suggested equity comparables for dwellings #1 and #2. However, the board of review did not

address the subject's market value argument. The board of review also presented a list of twenty properties that sold from December 1992 to December 2008 for prices that ranged from \$10 to \$595,000. Descriptive data for these sale properties was not provided. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

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 the market value of the subject property is not accurately reflected in its assessed valuation. When market value is the basis of the appeal the value of the property must be proved by a preponderance of the evidence. National City Bank of Michigan/Illinois v. Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board, 331 Ill.App.3d 1038 (3rd Dist. 2002); 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of market value may consist of an appraisal of the subject property, a recent sale, comparable sales or construction costs. (86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(c)). The Board finds the appellant met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The Board finds that the board of review presented no substantive or descriptive market value evidence. The Board gives no weight to the equity evidence submitted by the board of review as it is not responsive to the appellant's appeal. The board of review provided a list of twenty sale properties but no descriptive data for these properties was given. As a result, no weight has been given to this evidence.

The Board finds the appellant's appraisal report is the best evidence of the subject's market value as of the January 1, 2009 assessment date. The appraiser estimated a market value of \$285,000 for the subject property as of January 1, 2009. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$642,719 using the 2009 three year median level of assessments for Class 2 property in Cook County of 8.90% as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue. The subject's market value as reflected by its assessment is in excess of the market value estimate contained in the appraisal report.

Based on this record, the Board finds the subject property had a market value of \$285,000 as of the January 1, 2009 assessment date. Since market value has been determined, the 2009 three

year average median level of assessments for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance of 8.90% shall apply. (86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.50(c)(2)).

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: March 21, 2014



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.