



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

APPELLANT: Surendraray Thakkar
DOCKET NO.: 10-33077.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 07-15-108-039-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Surendraray Thakkar, the appellant, by attorney Christopher G. Walsh, Jr. in Chicago, 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: \$1,306
IMPR.: \$18,753
TOTAL: \$20,059

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject property is improved with a two-story dwelling of frame and masonry construction. The dwelling is a townhouse that is approximately 33 years old and contains 1,604 square feet of living area. Features of the home include a concrete slab foundation, central air conditioning, a fireplace, and a two-car garage. The subject property has a 1,340 square foot site and is located in Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg Township, Cook County.

The appellant's appeal is based on overvaluation. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted evidence disclosing the subject property was purchased on December 20, 2007 for a price of \$187,500 or \$116.90 per square foot of living area, land included. The appellant partially completed Section IV - Recent Sale Data of the residential appeal form and disclosed the name of the seller, HSBC Mortgage Services, and that the subject's sale was not a transfer between related parties. To further document the sale, the appellant submitted a copy of the Illinois Real Estate Transfer Declaration, PTAX-203, disclosing

the subject property was purchased in December 2007 for a price of \$187,500. On the transfer declaration, question #7 ("Was the property advertised for sale?") was marked "YES". In a letter that accompanied the appeal, counsel stated the subject had a market value of \$187,500 and the assessment should be calculated by applying the 10% ordinance level of assessment for Class 2 residential property in Cook County. Based on this record, the appellant requested the subject's assessment be reduced to \$18,750.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein its final assessment of the subject totaling \$20,059 was disclosed. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$200,590 or \$125.06 per square foot of living area, land included, using the ordinance level of assessments.

In support of the assessment, the board of review submitted information on four comparable properties and provided a sale price for one of these comparables. The comparable that sold, comparable #4, is a two-story dwelling of frame and masonry construction. The dwelling is a townhouse that is 33 years old and has 1,604 square feet of living area. Features include a concrete slab foundation, central air conditioning, a fireplace, and a two-car garage. This comparable sold in June 2008 for a price of \$205,000 or for \$127.81 per square foot of living area, land included. 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 not warranted.

The appellant contends the market value of the subject property is not accurately reflected in its assessed valuation. Fair cash value is defined in the Property Tax Code as "[t]he amount for which a property can be sold in the due course of business and trade, not under duress, between a willing buyer and a willing seller." (35 ILCS 200/1-50). The Supreme Court of Illinois has construed "fair cash value" to mean what the property would bring at a voluntary sale where the owner is ready, willing, and able to sell but not compelled to do so, and the buyer is ready, willing, and able to buy but not forced to do so. Springfield Marine Bank v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 44 Ill.2d 428 (1970). A contemporaneous sale between two parties dealing at arm's length is not only relevant to the

question of fair cash value but practically conclusive on the issue on whether the assessment is reflective of market value. Korzen v. Belt Railway Co. of Chicago, 37 Ill.2d 158 (1967). 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 has not met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value in the record is the sale of board of review comparable #4 in June 2008. The sale date of this comparable property was more proximate in time to the January 1, 2010 assessment date than the sale of the subject property in December 2007. Moreover, the board of review's evidence revealed that this comparable was identical to the subject in all respects. Comparable #4 sold for a price of \$205,000 or for \$127.81 per square foot of living area, land included. The subject property has an assessment of \$20,059 which is supported by the best sale in this record. The Board finds the subject's assessment reflects a market value that is less than the best sale in the record.

Based on this record, the Board finds no change in the assessment 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.

Ronald R. Cuit

Chairman

K. L. Fern

Member

Member

Mario Morris

Member

J. R.

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 18, 2014

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.