

BOARD OF REVIEW OPEN FOR APPEALS FOR OAK PARK PROPERTIES;

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The Cook County Board of Review has announced that it will be accepting appeals of the assessed valuations of Oak Park properties between August 1 and August 30, 2017. According to Oak Park Township Assessor Ali ElSaffar, this appeal period marks the second opportunity Oak Park property owners will have to appeal their 2017 assessed values.

When Oak Park properties were reassessed by the Cook County Assessor earlier this year, local property owners had an opportunity to contest their new assessments through the Cook County Assessor's appeal process. The Board of Review provides local property owners a second chance to appeal their assessments. Those who did not file an appeal with the Assessor's office may appeal to the Board of Review. In addition, those who filed appeals with the Assessor but did not like the results also have the right to appeal to the Board of Review.

"The Cook County Board of Review has the authority to review and change the decisions of the Cook County Assessor," ElSaffar said. "But those seeking to appeal with the Board of Review can do so only if they file an appeal by August 30. Those who miss the filing deadline will lose their rights to appeal their 2017 assessed valuations." Since Cook County tax bills always arrive one year late, property owners should be aware that the money-saving effects of successful 2017 appeals will not appear on tax bills until the summer of calendar year 2018.

During the appeal period, the Township Assessor's office will be available to help taxpayers identify comparable properties (properties similar to the property owner's that have lower assessed values), and otherwise help prepare the evidence to substantiate appeals. To avoid long waits in his office, ElSaffar asks that those seeking help from the Township call in advance for appointments.

Release Date: July 31, 2017