

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MARTIN
COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.

WAL-MART STORES EAST LP, Foreign
Limited Partnership,

Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT

vs.

JENNY FIELDS, as Property Appraiser of
Martin County, Florida; RUTH
PIETRUSZEWSKI, as Tax Collector of
Martin County, Florida; and JIM
ZINGALE, as Executive Director of the
State of Florida Department of Revenue,

Defendants.

Plaintiff, Wal-Mart Stores East LP ("Taxpayer"), sues Defendants, Jenny Fields, as Property Appraiser of Martin County, Florida ("Property Appraiser"), Ruth Pietruszewski, as Tax Collector of Martin County, Florida ("Tax Collector") and Jim Zingale, as Executive Director of the Department of Revenue of the State of Florida (the "Department") and alleges:

1. This is an action for statutory relief. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to *Florida Statutes §§194.036 and 194.171*. Venue is proper in Martin County as the subject property, as described below, and the Property Appraiser, are located in Martin County, Florida.
2. Taxpayer is a foreign limited partnership authorized to conduct business in Martin County, Florida.
3. Property Appraiser is the duly elected Property Appraiser of Martin County, Florida. She is charged with the responsibility of discharging the duties of said office and is named as a party in accordance with *Florida Statutes §194.181(2)*.

4. Tax Collector is the duly elected and acting Tax Collector for Martin County, Florida, and is obligated to discharge the duties of said office. Tax Collector is named as a party in accordance with *Florida Statutes §194.181(3)*.

5. Department is named as a defendant to this action as mandated by *Florida Statutes §194.181(5)*, because the tax assessment is also being contested on the grounds that it is contrary to the laws and Constitution of the State of Florida.

6. Taxpayer was the owner and the party responsible under the law for payment of 2024 *ad valorem* taxes for the real property located in Martin County, Florida, assessed under Parcel Control No. 38-38-41-020-001-00010.00000 (the "Property").

7. Property Appraiser certified the 2024 Property assessment. Such assessment is in excess of the Property's just value, in violation of *Florida Statutes*, including *§193.011*, and in violation of Article VII, Section 4 of the Florida Constitution.

8. Property Appraiser's assessment of the Property is arbitrarily based on appraisal practices which are not professionally accepted appraisal practices nor acceptable mass appraisal standards within Martin County.

9. Taxpayer has paid the taxes on the Property as required under *Fla. Stat. § 194.171(3) and (4)*. Evidence of said payment is as Exhibit "A".

10. Taxpayer will be irreparably damaged if Defendants are permitted to keep the collection of the full tax based on the Property Appraiser's assessment.

11. Taxpayer has complied with all conditions precedent to the maintenance of this lawsuit, and has timely brought this action.

12. Defendants are liable for payment of all taxable costs pursuant to *Florida Statutes §194.192(1)*.

WHEREFORE, Taxpayer demands judgment against the Defendants as follows:

- (i) Establishing the just value of the Property and directing such adjustments between the Parties as may be necessary in connection therewith or directing the Property Appraiser to reassess the Property for the 2024 tax year in compliance with Florida law;
- (ii) Recalculating the taxes that should have been paid based on an assessment equal to the Property's just value, and ordering a refund to the Taxpayer of the excess amounts paid;
- (iii) Awarding costs in favor of Taxpayer pursuant to Fla. Stat. §194.192; and
- (iv) Granting such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

DESIGNATION OF SERVICE E-MAIL ADDRESS

Pursuant to *Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.080* and *Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.516*, undersigned counsel's designation of his primary e-mail address for service of all papers and pleadings filed in this action is as follows:

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