

## **Phase 3 - Construction**

**Hello, esteemed NCAD members and Friends of NC Deaf Community. Me James Wilson. Now I am going to talk about Tillinghast Place, apartments for Deaf tenants in Charlotte, NC. Really about what, Phase Three which was the Construction! Now you remember from Phase Two, I mentioned about the NCILDP being formed as a 501(c)3 organization entailing as the owners of the property, also being separated from NCAD as it became the sponsor. With the understanding, the NCAD has the power to appoint seven members whom they want to serve on the NCILDP as the owner group. NCAD did during Phase 3 and they did an excellent job rounding up seven members to serve on the NCILDP. With this in mind, I commended NCAD for being sensitive with the selection of members, especially maintaining balance and diversity such as a Hispanic member, balance of gender, and a Senior Citizen. A Deaf Senior Citizen himself was the President of Deafolinas that was established a few years earlier in Concord/Kannapolis, NC. From there, the NCILDP proceeded with Phase Three and moved forward. I wanted you to know the background information. (Pause)**

**The HUD has informed us the NCILDP that everything checked out necessarily for Phase 3 but realized one more thing needed to be decided upon. The name of the property?? And the fact that we only had one week to decide. Perry C. Craven Associates already had a couple names on the list for the property but I advised them that the decision was ours, not theirs. They agreed so we moved forward with determining the new name based on knowledge of Deaf Community, Deaf History and Deaf Heritage. While employed with the DSDHH Charlotte Office, I suddenly remembered while as NCAD president receiving a NCAD paperback with swivel publication regarding a brief background of NCAD History. From there, Dr. David Ray Tillinghast was mentioned and that he was a teacher at NC School for the Deaf. He was a strong Deaf leader for NC and advocate for Deaf Education.**

**There was more information about him via two newspaper companies in Virginia. I would like and hope that someday we will be able to locate the authentic state incorporation with signatures on it. He was responsible for starting it and that he reached out to over 100 Deaf community leaders in NC to gather in Raleigh, NC. He was a man of vision that impacted the crowd showing up there. During that time, the NCAD was officially established in 1908. Also, there was an authentic document where numerous signatures were made on it. He became a legacy and was the reason why we all are still here. The property was named after David Ray Tillinghast. Oh, he was the first elected NCAD President. With that idea, we sought NCAD's approval and it was quick. Then to HUD and was quickly approved for them to proceed with legal and tax purposes. Now you know why we named the Tillinghast Place Apartments after him. (Pause)**

**Secondly, during the construction, I had been to the construction site a couple times upon its project completion. I was required to wear a white hard hat for safety purposes. I remember the first time I went to the site, I parked on the street and walked to the site. Actually nothing much to see except a lot of work on topography. They began their work on footing and foundation for four cottages with the parking lot in the middle of these cottages. While walking on the site, I saw a few construction workers talking to me. I told them I was Deaf, then they shouted as if they were asking someone to come forward. The site manager approached me asking who I was and why on the site. As I mentioned myself responsible for the construction, he checked his paperboard and asked if I was James Wilson. Yes, it was me and then gave me the hard hat taking the tour of the construction site. As I showed up several times, I saw them putting up frames, roof, and putting appliances to several units. Even installing sewer and water lines. That was for eighteen months, for me I believe I visited there 6-8 times. The last time I was on the site, I saw appliances being moved inside some units as well as installing outdoor HVAC's. That was called Phase 3-Construction, and I witnessed it from the beginning to the end!**

**Now I close Phase 3, it will lead into Phase Four, what? Inspection which was tough. More to tell you but thank you for watching me again!!**