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Hillwood Adds Mobile Access to Tacara Village in Fort Worth

INDIANAPOLIS, July 19, 2021 – A home is “smart” when it can help with day-to-day life experiences by automating technology for security, convenience, comfort, and entertainment. In the multihousing industry, smart technology embedded within the right access control system enhances a resident experience and gives a property an added advantage.

Hillwood Development Company of Fort Worth, Texas, is setting the standard for smart living by integrating security, service, and amenities into modern, convenient technology solutions at its Tacara Village property. The company has integrated the Dwelo smart home platform with dormakaba’s Saffire LX Series electronic locks featuring Bluetooth® Low Energy (BLE) technology. This combination gives mobile-minded residents the convenience of using a smart device to simplify access throughout the property.

“The dormakaba integration with Dwelo is a differentiator for us,” said Cara Glover, Director of Multifamily Operations at Hillwood. “We’re the first to offer smart home features in our area. Residents can unlock their doors, control their thermostats so they stay nice and cool in the Texas heat, and control their lights right from their phone.”

According to Glover, Tacara residents are eager for new and modern technology.

“It’s imperative that we’re forward thinking and offer modern, convenient amenities for our residents that they enjoy,” said Glover. “They’re eager for it and they love the convenience of unlocking their apartment door for guests or dog walkers when not at home.”

Connectivity is Key

dormakaba worked alongside Dwelo to integrate Saffire smart locks into the Dwelo app. The Saffire LX Series features sophisticated RFID technology in a contemporary design. Easy-to-use, flexible and secure, these locks were designed specifically for multihousing properties and can be retrofitted into any environment for a high performance and seamless look throughout a property. Saffire is managed by dormakaba’s web-based Community™ access management software. Integrating dormakaba with Dwelo provides intuitive access management of residences, amenities, common areas, and perimeters from a single platform. It also offers the convenience of both RFID credentials such as fobs or key cards and BLE mobile access keys for a seamless experience with no need for additional software.

“The integration has been particularly convenient for our maintenance team,” said Glover. “Training on Community software and Saffire locks took just one day. The technology is intuitive, robust, and easy to use. Our team can come in in the morning and program access to several units at a time, complete their work, and know who’s coming and going and at what time.”

Chris Price, Senior Development Manager for Hillwood Multifamily concurs that the partnership between Hillwood, Dwelo, and dormakaba has been a benefit for residents and for Hillwood.

“Tacara is a 322-unit, Class A multifamily property,” said Price. “It was developed with the intention of including smart home technology. We wanted to be touch-free on the property from common area doors all the way to the unit door, and it is enabled by the Dwelo app.”

Price said that dormakaba’s Saffire electronic lock also offers options for retrofitting properties that are not smart apartment enabled. Adding Saffire can often decrease costs for property management and increase net operating income by an additional two percent.

“Saffire doesn’t have to work with the Dwelo app,” said Price. “It also works using dormakaba’s BlueSky app, so residents and staff in mature properties can still enjoy the benefits and convenience of mobile electronic access.”

Price said that Hillwood chose dormakaba because of its longevity in the lock business and its reputation in the hospitality market.

“In terms of holistic solutions, the hospitality market is ahead of multifamily, but we’re catching up,” said Price. “From the moment a resident enters our property, their experience begins. Connectivity and smart apartments are changing the landscape of the resident experience in positive ways. It’s engagement reimaged.”

For more information about dormakaba’s mobile solutions, visit amer.dormakaba.com.

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About dormakaba

dormakaba is one of the top three companies in the global market for access and security solutions. With strong brands such as Dorma and Kaba in our portfolio, we are a single source for products, solutions, and services related to doors and secure access to buildings and rooms. With around 16,000 employees and numerous cooperation partners, we are active in over 130 countries. dormakaba is headquartered in Rümlang (Zurich/Switzerland) and generates an annual turnover of over CHF 2 billion.

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