

The Q News

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Every Move You Make

Many of us at the Quintet feel safe 24-7 with the entry and garage gates, locked entry doors, and fob system. CCTV cameras at the kiosk, Clubhouse, building entrances and exits, and in the garage add further protection. In the past months, the issue of unit-based security systems arose. Acknowledging their limited knowledge on the issue, several residents asked for a quick “home security for dummies” review.

Most Common Equipment

All of the Quintet’s units already have two security devices – smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. A few of us installed flood sensors on our hot water heaters. The issue before the HOA is how to deal with other options that focus on intruders entering individual units. The most common equipment are doorbell cameras, nanny cameras, door/window sensors, motion sensors, and professional monitoring.



Doorbell Cameras. These record who stops by your front door and lets you speak with them remotely via your smartphone. They are triggered by motion outside your door (within a pre-set range) and usually store their recordings in the cloud. They are helpful for talking to delivery workers, welcoming guests, and catching package thieves. The Quintet already has a system in place for screening delivery access.

Nanny Cameras. These are focused inside your unit. They record ongoing action and

monitor what is happening when you are away. They are often used when outside help is in the home or to monitor pets.

Door/Window Sensors. These are typically mounted on a door or window to alert you when they are opened. They guard entrances and are connected to an alarm to warn you of entry.

Motion Sensors. These are similar to door/window sensors but are triggered by motion in a particular area.

Professional Monitoring. Many of the above security devices depend on the owner to follow up if an alert occurs. Professional monitoring connects to a professional call center that can contact emergency services for you.

Complicating Issues

Security systems installed by one resident do not always impact other residents. For example, nanny cameras are focused on what’s happening inside a single unit. But doorbell cameras and sensors will likely impact other units in two important ways. The first is privacy. Doorbell cameras (e.g., Ring Camera) capture what is happening not only in front of the installer’s doorway but also close-by neighbors. The Ring Camera’s closest range is 5’ – meaning anything passing within 5’ will be recorded. Neighbors who share hallways are likely to have their comings and goings recorded and forwarded to the cloud. This makes some residents uneasy.

The second issue is the impact of audible alarms. Although not all systems trigger an audible alarm, those that do almost always seem to sound when the resident is not home, thus leaving their neighbors to cope with the piercing alarm.

What’s Next

Residents will be surveyed to gather feedback on how the HOA should proceed. Watch for additional information.

Suggestions, comments, and ideas are welcome. Email us at Quintet.QNews@gmail.com