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Monday, May 5, 2008

FOR: McClurg Court Center RMK Management Corp.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

McClurg Court Center Completes First Phase of Safety Update

RMK Management Corp. has announced the completion of the first phase of its \$6 million fire sprinkler system installation at McClurg Court Center, a 1,058-unit apartment complex in downtown Chicago's Streeterville neighborhood.

“While the previous system at McClurg Court Center met the standards required by the City of Chicago when the building opened in 1970, the safety of our residents is always a priority so we wanted to ensure we had the best system in place,” said Diana Pittro, executive vice-president of RMK. “The owners, MEPT McClurg Court LLC, voluntarily installed this new system, which will allow the building to maintain its status as one of Chicago’s premier apartment communities for years to come.”

According to Pittro, the project was complicated because McClurg Court Center is 94 percent leased. Therefore the installation had to be planned and implemented strategically so that residents were disrupted as little as possible.

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The installation was completed by a multi-level team comprised of: United States Fire Protection, Inc., who installed the piping; M. Ecker, who installed the drywall and soffit; Simplex Grinnell, the fire alarm system installer; construction manager, M & R Development; engineering firm Rolf Jensen & Associates; and the community's management and ownership. The teams worked at a rate of four floors, or 52 units, per week.

According to John Egan, general manager of McClurg Court Center, the teams met once a week to keep the project on track.

“Our corporation contractor, M. Ecker, was able to pre-fabricate the soffit used to cover the sprinkler piping. He even pre-painted the materials, minimizing the time his team needed to be in each unit,” said Egan.

Egan added that the crews were able to complete their work during normal business hours while most of the residents were out of their homes. A cleaning staff followed the crews to make sure that residences were left clean.

“We made sure to go above and beyond for our residents, particularly those with special needs such as working from home or sleeping during the day due to an evening job,” said Egan. “We even arranged for some to stay in guest suites throughout their retrofit. Our residents were extremely good sports about the entire process. In fact, one of our residents even wrote a funny poem about it.”

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Throughout the project, RMK executed a resident awareness campaign to make sure their lives weren't too disrupted. Residents received ongoing letters, schedules and instructions and could also check its status on their online, residential portal. RMK also hired Titan Security to provide eight on-site security specialists to ensure residents' belongings were unharmed.

The installation on Tower B passed all safety testing conducted by the Chicago Fire Department. Tower A began installation the week of April 7. It is slated to be completed at the end of June.

Chicago-based RMK Corp. manages more than 7,500 apartment homes in the Chicago and Minneapolis areas. The company's portfolio spans a range of apartment types, from high-rise and mid-rise buildings to two- and three-story walk-up, garden apartments.

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