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## Tustin residents fight apartment conversion

By [ELYSSE JAMES](#)

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TUSTIN Residents of Columbus Square are hoping to persuade the city's Planning Commission to deny a permit allowing senior condos to become apartments.

The residents are planning to attend the 7 p.m. meeting Tuesday at City Hall, 300 Centennial Way, to voice their opposition to senior rental living in the community on the former Tustin Marine base, now known as Tustin Legacy.

"The community is united, and at the last meeting we had well over 150 people there," said Shai Rambod, a resident of Columbus Square.

Homebuilder Lennar is requesting the change to its conditional use permit because of the economy, according to city staff. The builder is planning for 153 of the 240 senior units in Coventry Court in Columbus Square to be affordable housing.

The senior community also would have its own recreation center and 1.7 parking spaces per unit. Tustin Coventry Seniors LLC would be the property owner once the units are built and is planning to contract Meta Housing Corporation as a property manager and senior housing provider, according to city documents.

Residents are concerned about property values, parking, homeowners association dues and voting rights.

Columbus Square resident Lee Whiteley moved from Fullerton. Two of the important topics for he and his wife, he said, were about the street parking rules, and whether other homes would be rented or owned.

Whiteley and others say they bought their homes before a 2009 change to the disclosure form allowing for rental property.

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