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REPORT SHEDS LIGHT ON POLICE-CUSTODY DEATHS



In this image from a Richmond Police Department body-worn camera video, police restrain Ivan Gutzalenko in Richmond on March 10, 2021. Gutzalenko died after medics injected him with a 5 milligram dose of midazolam while he was restrained.

In a 10-year period, 7 Bay Area men died after medics injected sedative while police tried to restrain them; official reports suggest their deaths were result of other issues

By Nate Gartrell and Jakob Rodgers Staff writers

RICHMOND » Ivan Gutzalenko was struggling to breathe in March 2021 as two Richmond police officers restrained him after stopping him for allegedly being intoxicated and bleeding from

his hand. Gutzalenko told the officers they were hurting him and he bucked to try to get one of them off his back.

A paramedic viewed Gutzalenko's action as aggression and went to his ambulance to get a 5 milligram dose of midazolam, a sedative. When he returned three minutes later, Gutzalenko lay mo-



"He's faking like he's unconscious," an officer said, according to footage of the incident. The medic plunged the needle into his bicep.

Gutzalenko's heart stopped. The 47-year-old father was declared dead at a hospital.

Gutzalenko was one of seven Bay Area men, including another in Richmond, who died after paramedics injected them with midazolam while police struggled to control them, according to an Associated Press investigation that is shedding new light on forced sedation of peo-**DEATHS** » PAGE 6



A paramedic, left, holds a syringe as he prepares to inject Gutzalenko, 47, with the sedative midazolam in Richmond. An investigation by The Associated Press found that at least 16 people died by a powerful sedative injection in California from 2012 to 2021.

SINGLE-FAMILY

Ruling could upend housing

Judge overturns law that allows splitting properties

By Kate Talerico

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A controversial housing law that abolished singlefamily zoning across California has been ruled unconstitutional by a Los Angeles County judge, but the narrow ruling is likely to be appealed by the state and it's unclear how it might affect the Bay Area.

Passed in 2021, Senate Bill 9 allows single-family homeowners to split their lots in two and build two homes on each lot - allowing up to four units in a lot previously zoned for just one

Five Southern California cities - Redondo Beach, Carson, Torrance, Whittier and Del Mar - sued the state in 2022, claiming the law was unconstitutional because it interfered with local authority over land use and zoning

The Los Angeles County Superior Court judge's ruling, issued Monday, means that SB 9 can't be applied in these five cities. The judge is expected to produce a ruling in the next month that could strike down SB 9 in cities across the state.

What will happen in the Bay Area remains to be seen. For now, legal experts say SB 9 still applies. But if the ruling next month applies more widely, the law could be struck down in what are known as charter cities, those that have authority over municipal affairs, even when they might be at odds with a state statute. California has more than 120 charter cities, including Oakland, San Jose and San Francisco, meaning SB 9 could be upended in the region's three largest

The attorney general's office said it is reviewing the decision and "will consider all options in defense of SB

Housing advocates worry that the court ruling chips away at a key piece of legislation intended to increase density around the state.

The writing is on the wall for this particular court ruling to upend fu-SB9» PAGE6

CDC CALLS HEALTH RISK LOW

Bird flu's disturbing migration to cattle: Are state's herds safe from H5N1 strain?

California is taking steps to monitor, help prevent virus's arrival at dairies

By Lisa M. Krieger

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U.S. health officials are closely monitoring the recent leap of avian flu from birds to cattle, and earlier this month, to a Texas dairy farmer.

The Centers for Disease Control worrisome development, as the more and Prevention stresses the current public health risk is low — the virus isn't known to spread among people or through the food supply, is rarely caught from exposure to infected animals and where human infections have occurred, is often mild and manageable.

But the leap of the H5N1 influenza strain, widespread among wild fowl and a regular threat to domestic poultry, into cattle was unexpected, and a

the virus spreads, the more chances it has to mutate. The COVID-19 pandemic was a stark lesson in the risk of "spillover," when pathogens spread from animals to humans.

People have frequent contact with cattle, creating opportunities for more exposure. Experts suspect that it may be transmitted among animals in a herd, or by contaminated milking equipment.

BIRD FLU » PAGE 6



RICH PEDRONCELLI — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cows at a dairy in California in 2016. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says that samples of pasteurized milk in eight states have tested positive for remnants of the bird flu virus.

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