S.F. stops ticketing of stolen vehicles

System notifying owners set up by MTA, police after Chronicle report

By St. John Barnard-Smith

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Municipal Transportation Agency Director Jeff Temme and Police Chief Scott Satter asked Mayor London Breed in a letter Wednesday that the two agencies work together to flag stolen vehicles and notify owners — rather than cite them.

Breed ordered the MTA to stop ticketing stolen cars hours after an Oct. 9 Chronicle investigation exposed the practice. The report showed that from May 1 to Sept. 10, SFMTA parking control officers ticketed an vehicle that had been reported stolen, issuing fines totaling nearly $70,000. Some were written up multiple times, one received eight citations.

Since Nov. 9, MTA workers have identified 26 stolen cars and reported them to the police, officials said.

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inner Richmond neighborhood resident Susan Kostal, who was one of several car theft victims featured in the Chronicle’s story, and her Honda CRV was stolen in 2014 and subsequently ticketed.

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Tickets continue on A13

Escape from homelessness

Mother a testament to how system can work with support through each stage of recovery

By Maggie Angst

LATINA TATE-AZEVEDO still remembers how desperate and alone she felt as she walked along the Golden Gate Bridge in a breeze and started to think of jumping.

She paused and said a prayer:

“I will not go back. I will get myself together.”

As she began to lift a leg onto the railing, someone pulled her back, she said.

Four years later, the 47-year-old new mother and lives in a two-bedroom permanent supportive housing project dedicated to families.

Tate-Azevedo’s story is a testament to how the city’s at-times dysfunctional system can work well when someone is supported throughout the entirety of the

Families continue on A14

Summary

CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT Part 1

ATTORNEYS making millions off effort to empower minority voters

By Jason Fagone and Daniel Lempres

At first, Deidre Siguenza couldn’t make sense of the legal threat against her school district, even though she’s a lawyer in the East Bay.

Martinez, her small hometown president of the school board in 2017: a brief, blunt

The sender was an attorney in Malibu she’d never heard of, Kevin Shenkman.

The letter made allegations about the way the board conducted its elections. It mentioned race, discrimination against Latino voters and a state law called the California Voting Rights Act.

Shenkman said he would sue the school system unless it changed its election rules and the threat arrived in the mail.

It was addressed to her, as

An attorney Kevin Shenkman sent a letter alleging election issues under the California Voting Rights Act to Deidre Siguenza, the president of the school board in Martinez, in 2017.

TOP: Plaintiffs’ attorneys like Kevin Shenkman and their clients have wielded the CVRA against hundreds of jurisdictions.

A potty training book sits on her bedside table. A small Christmas tree stands in front of her living room window, looking out on the city’s skyline, surrounded by piles of presents nearly as tall as the city’s tallest buildings.

She is grateful for where she landed.

To get here, but Tate-Azevedo is grateful for where she landed.

Six months ago, she and Gunner moved into City Gardens, San Francisco’s largest permanent supportive housing project dedicated to families.

Tate-Azevedo’s story is a testament to how the city’s at-times dysfunctional system can work well when someone is supported throughout the entirety of the

Families continue on A14

The Chronicle

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