

# COLD-CASE BLAME GAME

## B'klyn DA: Cops dropped ball on '95 slay

By ALEX GINSBERG

Investigators for the Brooklyn DA told a judge yesterday that an embarrassing 12-year delay in bringing to justice the alleged killer of a teenager wasn't their fault — it was the NYPD's.

But the finger-pointing won't help them if a judge decides there was no good reason for the decade-plus lapse — and tosses the mur-

der case against John Sinagra, a one-time mob wannabe and ex-co-defendant of alleged rogue FBI agent, Lindley DeVecchio.

Former Detective Investigator Joseph Malewich testified he learned Sinagra's name way back in 1995, as he and another DA flatfoot debriefed an informant inside a JFK Airport hotel room.

"Sinagra was responsible for shooting and pulling the

trigger and that's basically it," Malewich testified, summarizing the session with informant John Novoa.

So what happened to the hot tip on the unsolved murder of 18-year-old Patrick Porco?

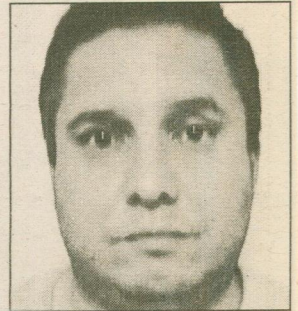
"At first, it was presented to my supervisors in the written form, and subsequently NYPD was notified about the information I had about the homicide," said Malewich.

The NYPD inexplicably closed the case a year later, making no mention of Sinagra. But it appeared to copy verbatim whole sections of Malewich's report.

"When you looked at that report, did you see any similarities in the language?" asked Sinagra's lawyer Joseph Giamita.

"Yes," the retired detective acknowledged.

*alex.ginsberg@nypost.com*



**JOHN SINAGRA**  
Fingered as killer.