

Bragg 'didn't get the gun' Then used in slay

By TINA MOORE

The office of Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg (right) failed to request a warrant to confiscate a gun used in an armed robbery by a serial offender — who then fatally shot a man with that same weapon exactly a month later, a police-union boss alleged.

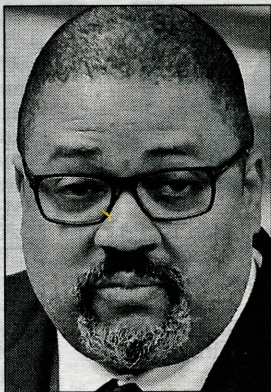
Tyrell Rodgers, 29, allegedly pointed the silver revolver at his estranged girlfriend and stole her cellphone while threatening to kill her on Feb. 8, court records show. He then allegedly killed a man with that same revolver on March 8 — after Bragg's office failed to request a warrant from a judge that detectives on the robbery case had hoped to receive.

"Why didn't DA Bragg's office act?" Detectives' Endowment Association President Paul DiGiacomo asked. "Why did another New Yorker have to die?"

Rodgers, who has 23 prior arrests, was charged with second-degree murder in the March 8 slaying.

In the alleged February robbery, he pointed the gun at his girlfriend, court records state.

Detectives requested a warrant to search for the



handgun after the robbery was reported on Feb. 17, the union said. DiGiacomo said the warrant never materialized.

The next month, Rodgers took the gun to meet a man he had been arguing with over the phone, court records show. Rodgers allegedly wound up fatally shooting the man's friend.

Rodgers was arrested on March 10 — the day the warrant was finally executed by Bragg's office.

Bragg's office declined to comment on the warrant. But at Rodgers' arraignment, prosecutors noted his "girlfriend indicated to police that defendant frequently carries this weapon around."

Additional reporting by Tamar Lapin