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Page: 01B

Mayor: No plans for sports complex
ALISON HERGET/KEYPORT BUREAU

Mayor Thomas G. Hall is trying to quash rumors that the township would turn municipally-owned land on Middletown-Lincroft Road into a football field.

"There is not going to be a football field," Hall said at Monday's Township Committee meeting. "It has never had the support — I don't think — of many of the people that participate. It has never had the support of anybody, I don't believe, sitting at this table, and probably never will."

Hall said he was hoping to put an end to the rumors that have been circulating for months about the future of the two adjacent 7.5-acre parcels of land.

Debate about the property's future arose after a Lincroft neighborhood meeting earlier this year at which residents said township officials made it clear there would be a facility on the site.

The fate of the land has caused "No **Sports Complex**" signs to pop up on front lawns all over Lincroft and had spawned the formation of a community group informally dubbed "Stop the **Sports Complex**."

"We'll tell everyone to take the signs down, but not to get rid of them," said Lincroft resident Tony Avallone, co-organizer of the group, on Tuesday. Avallone said he was pleased to hear of the **mayor's** announcement but will be keeping tabs to make sure the land stays undeveloped.

The township purchased the land more than two years ago through the state Green Acres Program.

"This thing was an urban legend that took on a life of its own," Hall said Tuesday. "I've never been a proponent of putting a football field there."

Committeeman-elect Patrick Short, who will be the lone Democrat on the governing body come January, said he is happy for the residents who would have been affected by the field.

"Their voices have been heard, and they have gone through a process where the outcome was what the **mayor** said it was," said Short, who had spent time during campaign season speaking out against development at the site.