stollings anthony m Form 4 February 21, 2018

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB 3235-0287 Number:

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

January 31, Expires: 2005 Estimated average

OMB APPROVAL

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue.

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

burden hours per response... 0.5

See Instruction

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

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FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/ [FFBC]

(Check all applicable)

(Middle) (Last) (First)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)

Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify

255 EAST FIFTH STREET, SUITE

02/16/2018

below) President & COO

2900

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Applicable Line)

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

CINCINNATI, OH 45202

| (City) | (State) | (Zip) Tab | ole I - Non- | Derivativ | e Secu | ırities Ac | quired, Disposed | l of, or Benefi | cially Owned |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|--------|-------------|--|--|---|
| 1.Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transactic Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securi on(A) or D (Instr. 3, | ispose | d of (D) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
| Common Stock | 02/16/2018 | | A | 2,996 (1) | A | \$ 0 | 16,548 | I | Restricted |
| Common Stock | 02/16/2018 | | D | 2,996 (2) | D | \$ 28.85 | 13,552 | I | Restricted |
| Common Stock | 02/16/2018 | | A | 2,098 (2) | A | \$ 28.85 | 9,918 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | 7,187 | I | Restricted-P |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | 37,825 | I | USB Brokerage |

Account

SEC 1474

(9-02)

9. Nu Deriv

Secu

Bene Own Follo Repo Trans (Instr

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transac Code (Instr. 8 | etion (8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | | ate | Amor Unde Secur | le and ant of rlying ities . 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) |
|---|---|---|---|------------------------------------|-----------|---|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| | | | | Code | V | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | |

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

stollings anthony m 255 EAST FIFTH STREET SUITE 2900

President & COO

CINCINNATI, OH 45202

Signatures

/s/ Billie L. 02/21/2018 Meents, POA

**Signature of Reporting Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Award of stock pursuant to FFBC incentive plan.
- (2) Vesting of Restricted Stock Award less shares used for taxes. Shares were awarded and immediately vested pursuant to the Company's short-term incentive plan.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Reporting Owners 2

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