

munafo samuel j
 Form 4
 January 25, 2006

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 munafo samuel j

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/ [FFBC]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 300 HIGH STREET
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 01/21/2006

____ Director
 Officer (give title below)
 ____ 10% Owner
 ____ Other (specify below)
 EVP-Banking

HAMILTON, OH 45011
 (City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	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)
			Code	V	Amount or Price		
Common Stock	01/21/2006		M ⁽¹⁾		774 A \$ 17.4	D	
Common Stock	01/24/2006		M		3,074 A \$ 11.3019	D	
Common Stock	01/24/2006		J ⁽²⁾		728.65 A \$ 0	I	401-K
Common Stock						I	Joint w/Spouse
Common Stock	01/21/2006		M ⁽³⁾		1,250 D \$ 0	I	Restricted

Common Stock 109.6394 I Spouse/Son Custodial Account

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Amount or Number of Shares
1996 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 11.3019	01/24/2006		M	3,074	01/24/1997 01/24/2006	Common Stock	3,074
1997 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 11.1355					01/28/1998 01/28/2007	Common Stock	4,193
1998 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 19.097					01/27/1999 01/27/2008	Common Stock	5,238
1998 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 19.087					01/27/1999 01/27/2008	Common Stock	2,386
1999 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 22.565					01/25/2000 01/25/2009	Common Stock	4,201
1999 (NQ)	\$ 22.565					01/25/2000 01/25/2009	Common Stock	4,461

Stock Option						
2000 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.56		01/24/2001	01/24/2010	Common Stock	5,694
2000 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 17.56		01/24/2001	01/24/2010	Common Stock	9,426
2001 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 16.0124		01/22/2002	01/22/2011	Common Stock	6,244
2001 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 16.0124		01/22/2002	01/22/2011	Common Stock	1,631
2002 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.2		01/17/2003	01/17/2012	Common Stock	5,000
2003 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 16.58		01/22/2004	01/22/2013	Common Stock	5,000
2004 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.09		01/21/2005	01/21/2014	Common Stock	2,500
2005 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.51		04/18/2006	04/18/2015	Common Stock	5,711
2005 (NQ) Sock Option	\$ 17.51		04/18/2006	04/18/2015	Common Stock	6,289

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
			EVP-Banking	

munafo samuel j
300 HIGH STREET
HAMILTON, OH 45011

Signatures

terri j ziepfel

01/24/2006

 Signature of
Reporting Person

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) Vesting of Restricted Stock Award (less shares sold to cover taxes)
- (3) Vesting of Restricted Stock Award
- (2) Update as of 12/31/05

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