fontaine elizabeth e Form 4/A January 25, 2006

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

Washington, D.C. 20549

if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

Check this box

SECURITIES obligations may continue.

See Instruction 1(b).

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)

(Last)

(City)

300 HIGH STREET

HAMILTON, OH 45011

(State)

(Zip)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * fontaine elizabeth e

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/ [FFBC]

(First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction

> (Month/Day/Year) 01/21/2006

(Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year) 01/24/2006

Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

(Check all applicable)

Principal Accounting Officer

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

below)

10% Owner Other (specify

OMB

Number:

Expires:

response...

OMB APPROVAL

Estimated average

burden hours per

3235-0287

January 31,

2005

0.5

Table I. Non Donivetive Conveities Assuring Disposed of an Doneficially Or

Director

_X__ Officer (give title

Issuer

below)

Person

| (City) | (State) | Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--------------|----------------|--|------------|--|---|---|--|
| 1.Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | asaction Date 2A. Deemed h/Day/Year) Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | | on(A) or D (D) | Securities Acquired () or Disposed of () () () () () () () () () () () () () | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | Code V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | (Instr. 4) | | |
| Common Stock | 01/21/2006 | | M <u>(1)</u> | 78 | A | \$ 17.4 | 5,073 | D | | |
| Common Stock | 01/22/2006 | | M(1) | 155 | A | \$ 17.4 | 5,228 | D | | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | 8,047 | I | 401-K | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | 254 | I | Joint w/Spouse | |
| Common Stock | 01/21/2006 | | M(2) | 125 | D | \$0 | 1,450 | I | Restricted | |

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| Common | 01/22/2006 | N4(2) | 250 | D | Φ.Ω | 1 200 | т | Dantui ata d |
|--------|------------|-----------------------|-----|---|------------|-------|---|--------------|
| Stock | 01/22/2006 | $M_{\underline{(2)}}$ | 230 | ע | 2 0 | 1,200 | 1 | Restricted |

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

(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. Transactic Code (Instr. 8) | 5. onNumber of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) e | | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | | 8. Prio Deriv Secur (Instr. |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|--------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| | | | | Code V | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | |
| 1998 (ISO) Stock Option | \$ 19.087 | | | | | 01/27/1999 | 01/27/2008 | Common Stock | 2,541 | |
| 1999 (ISO) Stock Option | \$ 22.565 | | | | | 01/25/2000 | 01/25/2009 | Common Stock | 578 | |
| 2000 (ISO) Stock Option | \$ 17.56 | | | | | 01/24/2001 | 01/24/2010 | Common Stock | 1,050 | |
| 2001 (ISO) Stock Option | \$ 16.0124 | | | | | 01/22/2001 | 01/22/2011 | Common Stock | 5,250 | |
| 2002 (ISO) Stock Option | \$ 17.2 | | | | | 01/17/2002 | 01/17/2012 | Common Stock | 2,000 | |
| 2003 | \$ 16.58 | | | | | 01/22/2004 | 01/22/2013 | Common | 2,000 | |

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| (ISO) Stock Option | | | | Stock | |
|----------------------------------|----------|------------|------------|-----------------|-------|
| 2004 (ISO) Stock Option | \$ 17.09 | 01/21/2005 | 01/21/2014 | Common Stock | 1,000 |
| 2005 (ISO) Stock Option | \$ 17.51 | 04/18/2006 | 04/18/2015 | Common Stock | 3,600 |

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

fontaine elizabeth e 300 HIGH STREET HAMILTON, OH 45011

Principal Accounting Officer

Signatures

terri j ziepfel 01/24/2006

**Signature of Person

**Bate

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)
- (2) Vesting of Restricted Stock Award

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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