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FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/ Form 4 May 18, 2006 OMB APPROVAL FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION OMB 3235-0287 Washington, D.C. 20549 Number: Check this box January 31, Expires: if no longer 2005 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF subject to Estimated average **SECURITIES** Section 16. burden hours per Form 4 or response... 0.5 Form 5 Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, obligations Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction 1(b). (Print or Type Responses) 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading kramer william j Issuer Symbol FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP (Check all applicable) /OH/ [FFBC] (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction X_ Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify (Month/Day/Year) below) below) 1008 RUBY LANE 05/18/2006 (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person _ Form filed by More than One Reporting COLDWATER, OH 45828 Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 7. Nature of 1.Title of 3. 4. Securities Acquired 5. Amount of 6. Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Transaction(A) or Disposed of (D) Securities Ownership Indirect (Instr. 3) Code (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Beneficially Beneficial Form: any Direct (D) (Month/Day/Year) Owned Ownership (Instr. 8) or Indirect (Instr. 4) Following Reported (I) (A) Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) or (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price Common 1,775.6391 D Stock FFBC (Directors 54 (1) Α Р D 485 05/18/2006 16.03 Fee Stock Plan) Common 3.766 I Restricted Stock

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

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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. Transactio Code (Instr. 8)	5. orNumber of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	5		(Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Prio Deriv Secur (Instr.
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
2005 (NQ) Sock Option	\$ 18.65					06/28/2006	06/28/2015	Common Stock	8,663	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
1	Director	10% Owner	Officer Other				
kramer william j 1008 RUBY LANE COLDWATER, OH 45828	Х						
Signatures							

terri j ziepfel 05/18/2006

<u>**</u>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) Additional shares purchased resulting from correction to fees paid to directors for 1st qrt 2006.

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.