FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/

Form 4 May 18, 2006

OMB APPROVAL

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

OMB Number:

3235-0287

0.5

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

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

January 31, Expires: 2005 Estimated average

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

burden hours per response...

See Instruction

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1(b).

(Last)

(City)

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

olszewski richard e

Symbol

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP

/OH/ [FFBC]

(Check all applicable)

(First)

(Street)

(State)

(Middle)

(Zip)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

X_ Director Officer (give title below)

10% Owner Other (specify

501 ST. ANDREWS DRIVE

(Month/Day/Year) 05/18/2006

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

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

Applicable Line)

X 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

SCHERERVILLE, IN 46375

1.Title of	2. Transaction Date	2A. Deemed
Security	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if
(Instr. 3)		any
		(Month/Day/Year)

3.	4. Securities Acquired
Transactio	on(A) or Disposed of (D)
Code	(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)
(Instr. 8)	

5. Amount of	6.	7
Securities	Ownership	Iı
Beneficially	Form: Direct	В
Owned	(D) or	C
Following	Indirect (I)	(]
Reported	(Instr. 4)	

ndirect Beneficial Ownership Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

. Nature of

(A) or

Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

Code V Amount (D) Price

4,922

Stock **FFBC**

Plan)

Common

(Directors 05/18/2006 Fee Stock

54 (1) P

485

D

D

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.

SEC 1474 (9-02)

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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	2. Conversion	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if	4. Transactio	5. orNumber	6. Date Exerci Expiration Date		7. Title and A Underlying S		8. Prio Deriv
Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security		any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	(Month/Day/Y e		(Instr. 3 and		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					
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
olszewski richard e 501 ST. ANDREWS DRIVE SCHERERVILLE, IN 46375	X					

Signatures

terri j ziepfel 05/18/2006

**Signature of Date
Reporting Person

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.

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