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FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/ Form 4 October 09, 2007 **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 MURPH KNAPKE Issuer Symbol FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP (Check all applicable) /OH/ [FFBC] (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction X_ Director 10% Owner Other (specify Officer (give title (Month/Day/Year) below) below) **300 HIGH STREET** 10/08/2007 (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 HAMILTON, OH 45011 Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned 1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 4. Securities Acquired (A) 7. Nature of 3. 5. Amount of 6. Ownership Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Transaction Disposed of (D) Securities Indirect (Instr. 3) Code (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Beneficially Form: Beneficial any (Month/Day/Year) Ownership (Instr. 8) Owned Direct (D) Following or Indirect (Instr. 4) Reported (\mathbf{I}) (A) Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) or (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price Common 21,275 D Stock **FFBC** (Directors Ρ 305 D 10/08/2007 A 6,200 13.7718 Fee Stock Plan) Common Ι IRA 5.000 Stock Common I Restricted 2,512 Stock

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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. Transacti Code (Instr. 8)	5. orNumber of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	5	te	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	
2000 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 16.9048					04/25/2001	04/25/2010	Common Stock	8,663	
2003 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 15.68					04/22/2004	04/22/2013	Common Stock	8,663	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Addre	ess	Relationships						
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other				
MURPH KNAPKE 300 HIGH STREET HAMILTON, OH 45011	Х							
Signatures								
Terri J. Ziepfel	10/09/2007							
<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).

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.