

Bush James Peter  
Form 4  
March 09, 2012

**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 \*  
Bush James Peter

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
AMERICAN EXPRESS CO [AXP]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
200 VESEY STREET, 3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
03/09/2012

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
EVP, World Service

(Street)  
NEW YORK, NY 10285-5001

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

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V Amount (A) or (D) Price			
Common Stock	03/09/2012		M	40,000 A \$ 16.71	105,479.7709	D	
Common Stock	03/09/2012		S	32,599 (1) D \$ 53.255 (2)	72,880.7709	D	
Common Stock					6,013 (3)	I	by 401(k) Plan

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

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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 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)	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 16.71	03/09/2012		M	40,000	01/29/2010 <sup>(4)</sup> 01/28/2019	Common Stock	40,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Bush James Peter 200 VESEY STREET 3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER NEW YORK, NY 10285-5001			EVP, World Service	

## Signatures

/s/ Michael G. Kuchs,  
attorney-in-fact  
Date: 03/09/2012

**\*\*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) The reported disposition represents the sale of shares to cover the cost of exercise and withholding tax obligations arising from the stock options exercises reported above and the sale of 50% of the net shares acquired from these exercises; Mr. Bush will retain the balance of the net shares in accordance with the Company's retention guidelines for executive officers.
- (2) The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$53.20 to \$53.36. The reporting person undertakes to provide to American Express Company, any security holder of American Express Company, or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within this range.
- (3) Shares held in reporting person's account under the Company's Retirement Savings Plan. This plan uses unit accounting, and the number of shares that a participant is deemed to hold varies with the unit price of the Company pooled stock fund.

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(4) These options became exercisable as follows: 17,953 on 1/29/2010; 17,954 on 1/29/2011; and the balance on 1/29/2012.

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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