

hoying john c
Form 4
April 25, 2006

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
Expires: January 31, 2005
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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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 *
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2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/ [FFBC]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
300 HIGH STREET
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
04/24/2006

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
SVP-Retail Banking

HAMILTON, OH 45011
(City) (State) (Zip)

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

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)
				(A) or (D) Code V Amount (D) Price			
Common Stock					875	D	
Common Stock					3,157.77	I	401-K
Common Stock					500	I	Raymond James Brokerage Account
Common Stock	04/24/2006		A	2,200 A \$ 0	4,275	I	Restricted

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

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SEC 1474
(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. 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)	8. Amount or Number of Shares
2003 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 16.58					01/22/2004 01/22/2013	Common Stock	2,000
2003 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.2					01/17/2003 01/17/2012	Common Stock	1,000
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	5,711
2005 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 17.51					04/18/2006 04/18/2015	Common Stock	2,889
2006 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 16.02	04/24/2006		A	6,242	04/24/2007 04/24/2016	Common Stock	6,242
2006 (NQ)	\$ 16.02	04/24/2006		A	4,458	04/24/2007 04/24/2016	Common Stock	4,458

Stock
Option

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
hoying john c 300 HIGH STREET HAMILTON, OH 45011			SVP-Retail Banking	

Signatures

terri j ziepfel	04/25/2006
**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.
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