

fontaine elizabeth e
Form 4
January 20, 2006

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 *
fontaine elizabeth e

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)
01/18/2006

____ Director
 Officer (give title below) _____ 10% Owner
_____ Other (specify below)
Principal Accounting Officer

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 Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price
Common Stock	01/18/2006		M		923	A	\$ 11.3019
Common Stock							4,995
Common Stock							8,047
Common Stock							254
Common Stock							1,575
						D	
						I	401-K
						I	Joint w/Spouse
						I	Restricted

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

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(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. P Der Sec (Ins	
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
1996 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 11.3019	01/18/2006		M	923	01/24/1997 01/24/2006	Common Stock	923	11
1998 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 19.087					01/27/1999 01/27/2008	Common Stock	2,541	
1999 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 22.565					01/25/2000 01/25/2009	Common Stock	578	
2000 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.56					01/24/2001 01/24/2010	Common Stock	1,050	
2001 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 16.0124					01/22/2001 01/22/2011	Common Stock	5,250	
2002 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.2					01/17/2002 01/17/2012	Common Stock	2,000	
2003 (ISO)	\$ 16.58					01/22/2004 01/22/2013	Common Stock	2,000	

Stock Option						
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	3,600

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
fontaine elizabeth e 300 HIGH STREET HAMILTON, OH 45011			Principal Accounting Officer	

Signatures

terri j ziepfel 01/20/2006

__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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