

fontaine elizabeth e
Form 4
January 20, 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

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 _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ 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	D	
Common Stock					8,047	I	401-K
Common Stock					254	I	Joint w/Spouse
Common Stock					1,575	I	Restricted

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)

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
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.

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.