

BALLESTER ALEJANDRO M
 Form 4
 May 25, 2012

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
BALLESTER ALEJANDRO M

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
POPULAR INC [BPOP]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 P.O. BOX 364548
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
05/24/2012

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)

SAN JUAN, PR 00936-4548
 (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 Ownership (Instr. 4) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|---------|---|-------------|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Common Stock Par Value \$0.01 per share | 05/24/2012 | 05/24/2012 | J ⁽¹⁾ | | 21,605 | A | \$ 0 | 163,071 | D | |
| Common Stock Par Value \$0.01 per share | | | | | | | | 20,000 | I | By wife |
| Common Stock Par Value \$0.01 per share | | | | | | | | 4,657 | I | By daughter |

| | | | |
|---|-------|---|-------------|
| Common Stock Par Value \$0.01 per share | 2,733 | I | By son |
| Common Stock Par Value \$0.01 per share | 4,647 | I | By daughter |

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. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| BALLESTER ALEJANDRO M P.O. BOX 364548 SAN JUAN, PR 00936-4548 | X | | | |

Signatures

Marie Reyes-Rodriguez, Attorney-in-fact 05/25/2012

**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) Award of Restricted Stock pursuant to Popular, Inc.'s 2004 Omnibus Incentive Plan. The restriction of such restricted stock award lapses upon the retirement of the director.

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.