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FREDS INC Form 3

December 22, 2016

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number:

3235-0104

Expires:

response...

January 31, 2005

0.5

Estimated average burden hours per

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

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting 2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Person * Statement FREDS INC [FRED] A Alden Global Capital LLC (Month/Day/Year) 12/20/2016 (Last) (First) (Middle) 4. Relationship of Reporting 5. If Amendment, Date Original Person(s) to Issuer Filed(Month/Day/Year) 885 THIRD AVENUE, 34TH (Check all applicable) **FLOOR** (Street) 6. Individual or Joint/Group _X__ 10% Owner Director Officer _ Other Filing(Check Applicable Line) (give title below) (specify below) Form filed by One Reporting Person NEW YORK, NYÂ 10022 _X_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned 1. Title of Security 2. Amount of Securities 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Beneficially Owned Ownership Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Form: (Instr. 5) Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) By Strategic Investment Class A Common Stock (1) 3,741,995 I Opportunities LLC (2) Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially SEC 1473 (7-02) owned directly or indirectly. Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

required to respond unless the form displays a

currently valid OMB control number.

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of	5. Ownership Form of Derivative	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
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Date Expiration Title Amount or Security Direct (D)
Exercisable Date Number of or Indirect
Shares (I)
(Instr. 5)

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships				
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other	
Alden Global Capital LLC 885 THIRD AVENUE, 34TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10022	Â	ÂX	Â	Â	
Strategic Investment Opportunities LLC 885 THIRD AVENUE, 34TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10022	Â	ÂX	Â	Â	
Freeman Heath 885 THIRD AVENUE, 34TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10022	Â	ÂX	Â	Â	

Signatures

Alden Global Capital LLC, By: /s/ Heath Freeman, President		
**Signature of Reporting Person	Date	
Strategic Investment Opportunities LLC, By: Alden Global Capital LLC, By: /s/ Heath Freeman, President	12/22/2016	
**Signature of Reporting Person	Date	
/s/ Heath Freeman	12/22/2016	
**Signature of Reporting Person	Date	

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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).

This Form 3 is filed jointly by Strategic Investment Opportunities LLC ("Opportunities"), Alden Global Capital LLC ("Alden") and Heath Freeman (collectively, the "Reporting Persons"). Each Reporting Person may be deemed to be a member of a Section 13(d) group

- that owns more than 10% of the Issuer's outstanding shares of Class A Common Stock ("Common Stock"). Each Reporting Person disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares of Common Stock reported herein except to the extent of his or its pecuniary interest therein, and this report shall not be deemed to be an admission that any Reporting Person is the beneficial owner of such shares of Common Stock for purposes of Section 16 or for any other purpose.
- Shares of Common Stock owned directly by Opportunities. Alden, as the investment manager of Opportunities, may be deemed to

 (2) beneficially own the shares of Common Stock owned directly by Opportunities. Mr. Freeman, as President of Alden, may be deemed to beneficially own the shares of Common Stock owned directly by Opportunities.

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.

Reporting Owners 2