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AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO

Form 4

March 15, 2016

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

3235-0287

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OMB APPROVAL

if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

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obligations may continue. See Instruction

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

1(b).

(Last)

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
GERLACH JAMES M

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

AMERICAN EQUITY

INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

below)

CO [AEL]

(Check all applicable) _X__ Director

10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify

6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY

(First)

(Middle)

03/11/2016

(Month/Day/Year)

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Person

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Dispo						or Beneficially	y Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	ate, if TransactiorDisposed of (D) Code (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)		
Common Stock	03/11/2016		M	27,750	A	\$ 9.27	239,667	D	
Common Stock	03/11/2016		M	47,250	A	\$ 10.24	286,917	D	
Common Stock	03/11/2016		M	20,000	A	\$ 7	306,917	D	
Common Stock	03/11/2016		M	40,000	A	\$ 10.85	346,917	D	
Common Stock	03/11/2016		S	135,000	D	\$ 15.3165	211,917	D	

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(1)

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)	TransactionDerivative Code Securities		ative Expiration Date ities (Month/Day/Year) red (A) sposed of		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 9.27	03/11/2016		M		27,750	06/11/2013	06/11/2020	Common Stock	27,750
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 10.24	03/11/2016		M		47,250	03/15/2013	03/15/2016	Common Stock	47,250
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 7	03/11/2016		M		20,000	05/08/2012	05/08/2019	Common Stock	20,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 10.85	03/11/2016		M		40,000	06/11/2011	06/11/2018	Common Stock	40,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
GERLACH JAMES M 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266	X					

Signatures

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of	03/15/2016
Attorney	03/13/2010

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**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).
- This transaction was executed in multiple trades at prices ranging from \$15.23 to \$15.515. The price reported in column 4 is an average (1) price. The reporting person hereby undertakes to provide upon request to the SEC staff, the issuer or a security holder of the issuer full information regarding the number of shares sold and the prices at which the transactions were settled.

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.

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