Shank James R Form 3 February 25, 2019

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number:

3235-0104

0.5

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

January 31, Expires: 2005

Estimated average burden hours per

response...

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 2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Person * Statement FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/ [FFBC] Shank James R (Month/Day/Year) 02/19/2019 (Last) (First) (Middle) 4. Relationship of Reporting 5. If Amendment, Date Original Person(s) to Issuer Filed(Month/Day/Year) 255 EAST 5TH STREET, SUITE (Check all applicable) 2900 (Street) 6. Individual or Joint/Group 10% Owner Director _X__ Officer Other Filing(Check Applicable Line) (give title below) (specify below) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Internal Auditor Person CINCINNATI, OHÂ 45202 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(State)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)

(City)

2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)

Ownership Form:

4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)

Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)

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

(Zip)

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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.

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

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)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date		Amount or Number of Shares	Derivative Security	Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	

(Instr. 5)

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Shank James R
255 EAST 5TH STREET, SUITE 2900 Â Â Â Înternal Auditor Â

Signatures

/s/ Denise R.
Manus, POA

**Signature of Reporting
Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

No securities are beneficially owned

- * 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).

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