

RICHARDSON FRANK E III  
 Form 4  
 January 16, 2009

**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 \*  
 RICHARDSON FRANK E III

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 300 JOHNNY BENCH DRIVE  
 (Street)  
 OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73104  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 SONIC CORP [SONC]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 01/14/2009

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

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	01/14/2009		M		60,750	A	\$ 4.87
Common Stock	01/14/2009		S		29,920	D	\$ 9.98

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 Underlying (Instr. 3 a)
Non-qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 4.87	01/14/2009		M	60,750	01/20/2002 01/20/2009	Common Stock
Non-qualified Stock Options (right to buy)	\$ 10.15	01/15/2009		A	12,403	01/15/2012 <sup>(2)</sup> 01/15/2016	Common Stock
Restricted Stock Units	\$ 0	01/15/2009		A	4,134	<u>(3)</u> <u>(3)</u>	Common Stock

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
RICHARDSON FRANK E III 300 JOHNNY BENCH DRIVE OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73104		X		

## Signatures

/s/ Carolyn C. Cummins for Frank E.  
Richardson

01/16/2009

\_\_\_\_\_  
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) This price represents the weighted average sales price. The shares sold at prices ranging from \$9.81 to \$10.08. The reporting person will provide full details regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price upon the SEC's request.
- (2) One-third of the total number of options granted on January 15, 2009 will vest on each of the first three anniversary dates following the date of grant.
- (3) One-third of the total number of Restricted Stock Units granted will vest on each of the vesting dates (January 1, 2010, January 1, 2011 and January 1, 2012) and will be issued in shares of Sonic Corp. common stock on a one-for-one basis, subject to certain restrictions.

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.