WALSH PETER

Form 4

December 15, 2006

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

OMB Number:

3235-0287 January 31,

2005

0.5

Check this box if no longer

subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Estimated average

OMB APPROVAL

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Form 5 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).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

(First)

WALSH PETER

(Last)

Security

(Instr. 3)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

AMERISTAR CASINOS INC

[ASCA]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

(Middle)

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

12/14/2006

(Check all applicable) 10% Owner

Sr. V.P. and General Counsel

Other (specify X_ Officer (give title below)

3773 HOWARD HUGHES PKWY, SUITE 490S

> (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original

> > Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

Director

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

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

LAS VEGAS, NV 89169

(City) 1. Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed

(State)

(Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

(Zip)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial (I) Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

Reported (A) Transaction(s) or (Instr. 3 and 4)

Code V Amount (D) Price

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.

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

1. Title of Derivative Conversion 3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed

5. Number of (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if TransactionDerivative

6. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date**

7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities

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Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	(Month/Day/Year)		(Instr. 3 and 4)	
			Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Share

Stock

Options Common 12/13/2007(1) 12/14/2013 \$ 31.675 12/14/2006 50,900 Stock (Right to buy)

Reporting Owners

Relationships Reporting Owner Name / Address Director 10% Owner Officer Other

WALSH PETER 3773 HOWARD HUGHES PKWY SUITE 490S LAS VEGAS, NV 89169

Sr. V.P. and General Counsel

50,90

Signatures

Peter Walsh 12/15/2006 **Signature of Date Reporting Person

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) Option vests in five equal, annual installments commencing on December 13, 2007.
- (2) Securities owned by the Walsh Family Trust dated 9-11-03, of which Mr. Walsh and his spouse are co-trustees.

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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