

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/
Form 4
January 18, 2005

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
LEFFERSON C DOUGLAS

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/ [FFBC]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
180 GAY STREET

(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
01/17/2005

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

WILLIAMSBURG, OH 45176

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

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 | 01/17/2005 | | J ⁽¹⁾ | | | 1,529 | A | \$ 0 | 11,102 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | | 9,253.4501 | I | 401-K |
| Common Stock | 01/17/2005 | | J ⁽²⁾ | | | 2,471 | D | \$ 0 | 17,865 | I | Restricted Award |

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

number.

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 Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| 1996 (ISO) Stock Option | \$ 11.3019 | | | | | 01/24/1996 | 01/24/2006 | Common Stock | 1,537 |
| 1998 (ISO) Stock Option | \$ 19.087 | | | | | 01/27/1999 | 01/27/2008 | Common Stock | 1,271 |
| 1999 (ISO) Stock Option | \$ 22.565 | | | | | 01/25/2000 | 01/25/2009 | Common Stock | 4,201 |
| 1999 (NQ) Stock Option | \$ 22.565 | | | | | 01/25/2000 | 06/12/2010 | Common Stock | 1,574 |
| 2000 (ISO) Stock Option | \$ 17.56 | | | | | 01/24/2001 | 01/24/2010 | Common Stock | 5,694 |
| 2000 (NQ) Stock Option | \$ 17.56 | | | | | 01/24/2001 | 01/24/2010 | Common Stock | 6,433 |
| 2001 (ISO) Stock Option | \$ 16.0124 | | | | | 01/23/2002 | 01/23/2011 | Common Stock | 6,244 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|-------|
| 2001 (NQ) Stock Option | \$ 16.0124 | 01/23/2002 | 01/23/2011 | Common Stock | 4,256 |
| 2002 (ISO) Stock Option | \$ 17.2 | 01/17/2003 | 01/17/2012 | Common Stock | 5,813 |
| 2002 (NQ) Stock Option | \$ 17.2 | 01/17/2003 | 01/17/2012 | Common Stock | 4,187 |
| 2003 (ISO) Stock Option | \$ 16.58 | 01/22/2004 | 01/22/2013 | Common Stock | 6,031 |
| 2003 (NQ) Stock Option | \$ 16.58 | 01/22/2004 | 01/22/2013 | Common Stock | 3,969 |
| 2004 (ISO) Stock Option | \$ 17.09 | 01/21/2005 | 01/21/2014 | Common Stock | 2,500 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| LEFFERSON C DOUGLAS 180 GAY STREET WILLIAMSBURG, OH 45176 | | | Executive Officer | |

Signatures

Terri J. Ziepfel 01/18/2005

__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) Vesting of Restricted Stock Award (less shares sold to cover taxes)

(2) Vesting of Restricted Stock Award

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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