

hoying john c

Form 4

January 19, 2006

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
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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)

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

01/17/2006

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

SVP-Retail Banking

300 HIGH STREET

(Street)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
Applicable Line)

____X____ Form filed by One Reporting Person

____ Form filed by More than One Reporting
Person

HAMILTON, OH 45011

(City) (State) (Zip)

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price
Common Stock	01/17/2006		J ⁽¹⁾	63	A	\$ 17.505	625
Common Stock							1,830.91
Common Stock							500
Common Stock	01/17/2006		J ⁽¹⁾	63	D	\$ 0	2,325

Raymond
James
Brokerage
Account

Restricted

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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 Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Pri Deriv Secur (Instr.
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
2003 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 16.58					01/22/2004	01/22/2013	Common Stock	2,000	
2003 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.2					01/17/2003	01/17/2012	Common Stock	1,000	
2004 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.09					01/21/2005	01/21/2014	Common Stock	1,000	
2005 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.51					04/18/2006	04/18/2015	Common Stock	5,711	
2005 (NQ) Sock Option	\$ 17.51					04/18/2006	04/18/2015	Common Stock	2,889	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Reporting Owners

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Director 10% Owner Officer Other

hoying john c
300 HIGH STREET
HAMILTON, OH 45011

SVP-Retail Banking

Signatures

terri j ziepfel

01/19/2006

**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

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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