LEFF DAVID Form 4 February 24, 2006

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL

OMB 3235-0287 Number:

January 31, Expires: 2005

Estimated average burden hours per

response... 0.5

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

Check this box

Form 5 Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, obligations may continue.

Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction 1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

LEFF DAVID Issuer Symbol PROVIDENT FINANCIAL (Check all applicable) SERVICES INC [PFS] (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction X_ Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

(Month/Day/Year) below) 830 BERGEN AVENUE 02/22/2006

(Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line)

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

JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306 Person

(City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 4. Securities 5. Amount of 6. Ownership 7. Nature of 3. Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if TransactionAcquired (A) or Securities Form: Direct Indirect (Instr. 3) Code Beneficially Beneficial Disposed of (D) (D) or (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Owned Ownership (Instr. 8) Indirect (I) Following (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

> Reported (A) Transaction(s) or

(Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price

Common 96,233 D Stock

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

Persons who respond to the collection of **SEC 1474** information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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

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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. Transacti Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number on Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exerci Expiration Dat (Month/Day/Y	e	7. Title and A Underlying S (Instr. 3 and	Securities
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Options	\$ 18.55	02/22/2006		A	2,000	02/22/2007	02/22/2016	Common Stock	2,000 (1)
Stock Options	\$ 18.57					07/17/2004	07/17/2013	Common Stock	160,000 (2)

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
LEFF DAVID 830 BERGEN AVENUE JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306	X					

Signatures

/s/ John F. Kuntz, pursuant to power of attorney

**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) Stock options vest at a rate of 20% per year over a period ending on February 22, 2011.
- (2) Stock options vest at a rate of 20% per year over a period ending on July 17, 2008.

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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