

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/  
Form 8-K  
March 12, 2009

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): March 6, 2009

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Ohio (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	0-12379 (Commission File Number)	31-1042001 (IRS Employer Identification No.)
4000 Smith Road Cincinnati, Ohio (Address of principal executive offices)		45209 (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (513) 979-5837

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))



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First Financial Bancorp.

Item Regulation FD Disclosure.

7.01

On March 6, 2009, First Financial Bancorp filed a response (Response) with the Office of the Special Inspector General for Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP). The Response provides information related to the U.S. Department of the Treasury's investment in First Financial pursuant to the Capital Purchase Plan. A copy of the Response is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

First Financial Bancorp does not intend for this Item 7.01 or Exhibit 99.1 to be treated as "filed" for purposes of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or incorporated by reference into its filings under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Item Exhibits.

9.01

The following exhibit shall not be deemed to be "filed" for purposes of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

(c) Exhibit:

99.1 First Financial Bancorp. Response to SIGTARP dated March 6, 2009

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP.

By: /s/ J. Franklin Hall  
J. Franklin Hall  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: March 12, 2009

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First Financial Bancorp.

Exhibit Index

Exhibit No. Description

99.1 First Financial Bancorp. Response to SIGTARP dated March 6, 2009.