DONNELLY MICHAEL JOSEPH

Form 4 July 17, 2017

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

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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 * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading DONNELLY MICHAEL JOSEPH Issuer Symbol KROGER CO [KR] (Check all applicable) (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) Director 10% Owner Other (specify X_ Officer (give title THE KROGER CO., 1014 VINE 07/13/2017 below) STREET **Executive Vice President** (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 CINCINNATI, OH 45202 Person

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Tab	le I - Non-	Derivative	Secur	rities Acq	uired, Disposed of,	or Beneficiall	y 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. Securition(A) or Dis (Instr. 3, 4)	sposed	of (D)	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)
Common Stock	07/13/2017		A	48,430 (1)	A	\$ 0	278,281.8714	D	
Common Stock	07/13/2017		F	2,817 (2)	D	\$ 22.92	275,464.8714	D	
Common Stock	07/14/2017		F	7,236 (2)	D	\$ 23.01	268,228.8714 (3)	D	

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

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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	2.	3. Transaction Date	3A. Deemed	4.	5. Number of	6. Date Exer	cisable and	7. Title and A	Amou
Derivative	Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transactio	orDerivative	Expiration D	ate	Underlying S	Secur
Security	or Exercise		any	Code	Securities	(Month/Day/	Year)	(Instr. 3 and	4)
(Instr. 3)	Price of		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Acquired (A) or				
	Derivative				Disposed of (D)				
	Security				(Instr. 3, 4, and				
					5)				
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Am Nui Sha
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 22.92	07/13/2017		A	165,698	<u>(4)</u>	07/13/2027	Common Stock	16

Reporting Owners

	Relationships
Reporting Owner Name / Address	•

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

DONNELLY MICHAEL JOSEPH THE KROGER CO. 1014 VINE STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202

Executive Vice President

Signatures

/s/ Michael J. Donnelly, by Stacey M. Heiser, Attorney-in-Fact

07/17/2017

**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) Restricted stock awarded pursuant to a long-term incentive plan of The Kroger Co. The restrictions on these shares lapse in equal annual installments in whole amounts over a five-year period, at the rate of 20% per year commencing one year from the date of the award.
- (2) Payment of tax liability associated with restricted stock.
- (3) The total amount of securities directly owned by the reporting person includes shares in the Company's employee benefit plans that are deemed to be 'tax-conditioned plans' pursuant to Rule 16b-3, to the extent disclosed on reports received from plan trustees.
- (4) These options were granted under a long-term incentive plan of The Kroger Co. and vest in equal annual installments over a five-year period, at the rate of 20% per year commencing one year from the date of the grant.

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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