

BENNETT LANCE
Form 3
January 26, 2012

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 * | | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol | |
| Â BENNETT LANCE | | (Month/Day/Year) | DIME COMMUNITY BANCSHARES INC [DCOM] | |
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 01/26/2012 | |
| 209 HAVEMEYER STREET | | | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer | |
| (Street) | | | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) | |
| BROOKLYN,Â NYÂ 11211 | | | (Check all applicable) | |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other (give title below) (specify below) Executive VP & General Counsel | |
| | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Common Stock | 7,448 | I | 401(k) Plan |
| Common Stock | 14,973 | D | Â |
| Common Stock | 9,276 | I | ESOP |
| Restricted Stock Award | 12,793 | I | Restricted Stock Award |

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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

| 1. Title of Derivative Security | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying | 4. Conversion | 5. Ownership | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
|---------------------------------|---|--|---------------|--------------|----------------------------------|

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| (Instr. 4) | (Month/Day/Year) | | Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | | or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|----------------------|
| | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | |
| Stock Options (Right to Buy) | 05/01/2011 | 05/01/2017 | Common Stock | 11,250 | \$ 13.74 | I | Stock Options |
| Stock Options (Right to Buy) | 04/29/2012 ⁽¹⁾ | 04/29/2021 | Common Stock | 4,758 | \$ 15.46 | I | Stock Options |
| Stock Options (Right to Buy) | 01/27/2009 | 01/27/2014 | Common Stock | 11,250 | \$ 19.9 | I | Stock Options |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| BENNETT LANCE 209 HAVEMEYER STREET BROOKLYN, NY 11211 | Â | Â | Â Executive VP & General Counsel | Â |

Signatures

/s/ LANCE BENNETT
01/26/2012
Date

**Signature of Reporting Person

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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) Amount vests in equal annual installments on April 29, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, respectively.

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.