FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/

Form 4

January 18, 2005

FORM 4

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

OMB 3235-0287

Check this box if no longer subject to

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Number: January 31, Expires: 2005

OMB APPROVAL

Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue.

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

Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

See Instruction

(Print or Type Responses)

1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * IMMELT MARK W			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) 371 HEATI	, , , ,	(Mon	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 01/17/2005			Director 10% Owner _X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below) Executive Officer of Affiliate				
HAMII TO	(Street) N, OH 45013		amendment, D Month/Day/Yea		ıl		Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed b	r Joint/Group Fi by One Reporting y More than One	Person	
(City)		(Zip)	abla I Non	Dominatina	Commi	itios A	Person equired, Disposed	l of an Panafiai	ally Oumad	
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	e 2A. Deemed	3. if Transact Code	4. Secur ionAcquire Dispose	ities d (A) o d of (D	or O)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	·	
			Code V	/ Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)			
Common Stock	01/17/2005		<u>J(1)</u>	2,346	A	\$ 0	21,759	D		
Common Stock							1,749.7939	I	401-K	
Common Stock	01/17/2005		J(2)	3,793	D	\$0	21,859	I	Restricted	

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

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number.

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. onNumber 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 1 3 (
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
1997 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 11.1342					01/28/1997	01/28/2007	Common Stock	1,640	
1998 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 19.087					01/27/1998	01/27/2008	Common Stock	5,238	
1998 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 19.087					01/27/1998	01/27/2008	Common Stock	7,468	
1999 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 19.1017					01/25/1999	01/25/2009	Common Stock	4,201	
1999 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 19.1017					01/25/1999	01/25/2009	Common Stock	13,124	
2000 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.56					01/24/2001	01/24/2010	Common Stock	5,694	
2000 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 17.56					01/24/2001	01/24/2010	Common Stock	28,116	
	\$ 16.0124					01/22/2002	01/22/2011		6,244	

8. Pri Deriv Secur (Instr

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2001 (ISO) Stock Option				Common Stock	
2001 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 16.0124	01/22/2002	01/22/2011	Common Stock	4,256
2002 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.2	01/17/2003	01/17/2012	Common Stock	5,813
2002 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 17.2	01/17/2003	01/17/2012	Common Stock	4,187
2003 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 16.58	01/22/2004	01/22/2013	Common Stock	6,031
2003 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 16.58	01/22/2004	01/22/2013	Common Stock	3,969
2004 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.09	01/21/2005	01/21/2014	Common Stock	2,500

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address					
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other	

IMMELT MARK W 371 HEATHWOOD HAMILTON, OH 45013

Executive Officer of Affiliate

Relationships

Signatures

Terri J. Ziepfel 01/18/2005

**Signature of 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).

Reporting Owners 3

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- (1) Vesting of Restricted Stock Award (less shares sold to cover taxes)
- (2) 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. 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.