STERLING BANCORP

Form 5

January 26, 2009

FORM 5

OMB APPROVAL

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

3235-0362 Number: January 31,

1.0

no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue.

Check this box if

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OMB

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

See Instruction Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 1(b). Form 3 Holdings Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section Reported

Form 4

Transactions Reported

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer **Ugelow Seth** Symbol STERLING BANCORP [STL] (Check all applicable) 3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Last) (First) (Middle) (Month/Day/Year) Director 10% Owner Other (specify X _ Officer (give title 12/31/2008 below) below) STERLING BANCORP, 650 Sr. Vice President/Controller FIFTH AVENUE (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting Filed(Month/Day/Year)

NEW YORK, NYÂ 10019

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

(check applicable line)

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

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

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

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not 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)

1. Title of	2.	3. Transaction Date	3A. Deemed	4.	5.	6. Date Exercisable and	7. Title and Amo
Derivative	Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transaction	Number	Expiration Date	Underlying Secur
Security	or Exercise		any	Code	of	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 3 and 4)
(Instr. 3)	Price of		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Derivative		

SEC 2270

(9-02)

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Derivative Securities Security Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)

> Title (A) (D) Date Exercisable Expiration

> > Date

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or Nu of Sh

5

Non-qualified

Common Â Â Â 03/15/2012(1) 03/15/2017 stock options \$ 17.99 Stock (right to buy)

Reporting Owners

Relationships Reporting Owner Name / Address

> Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Ugelow Seth

STERLING BANCORP Â Sr. Vice President/Controller Â 650 FIFTH AVENUE

Signatures

NEW YORK, NYÂ 10019

/s/ Ugelow, Seth 02/12/2009 **Signature of Date Reporting Person

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).
- Non-qualified options become exercisable commencing on the fifth anniversary of the grant for a term of 10 years from grant date (first exercisable date listed).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided 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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