

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/
Form 4
January 23, 2006

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN 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 *
LEFFERSON C DOUGLAS

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) (First) (Middle)
3514 ISLAND TRAIL DRIVE

(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
01/13/2006

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
EVP & COO

WILLIAMSBURG, OH 45176

(City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially 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. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	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)
			Code	V Amount (A) or (D) Price			
Common Stock	01/13/2006		M	1,537 A \$ 11.3019	15,182	D	
Common Stock					9,961	I	401-K
Common Stock					16,251	I	Restricted Award

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. Number 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. Amount or Number of Shares	
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
1996 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 11.3019	01/13/2006		M	1,537	01/24/1997 01/24/2006	Common Stock	1,537	
1998 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 19.087					01/27/1999 01/27/2008	Common Stock	1,271	
1999 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 22.565					01/25/2000 01/25/2009	Common Stock	4,201	
1999 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 22.565					01/25/2000 06/12/2010	Common Stock	1,574	
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	6,433	
2001 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 16.0124					01/23/2002 01/23/2011	Common Stock	6,244	
2001 (NQ) Stock	\$ 16.0124					01/23/2002 01/23/2011	Common Stock	4,256	

Option 2002 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.2	01/17/2003	01/17/2012	Common Stock	5,813
Option 2002 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 17.2	01/17/2003	01/17/2012	Common Stock	4,187
Option 2003 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 16.58	01/22/2004	01/22/2013	Common Stock	6,031
Option 2003 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 16.58	01/22/2004	01/22/2013	Common Stock	3,969
Option 2004 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.09	01/21/2005	01/21/2014	Common Stock	2,500
Option 2005 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.51	04/18/2006	04/18/2015	Common Stock	5,711
Option 2005 (NQ) Sock Option	\$ 17.51	04/18/2006	04/18/2015	Common Stock	19,289

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
LEFFERSON C DOUGLAS 3514 ISLAND TRAIL DRIVE WILLIAMSBURG, OH 45176			EVP & COO	

Signatures

Terri J. Ziepfel 01/23/2006
 **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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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