munafo samuel j Form 3 December 20, 2005

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number:

3235-0104

Expires:

response...

January 31, 2005

0.5

Estimated average burden hours per

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

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Ad Person *_ munafo sa		orting	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)		3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/ [FFBC]						
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	12/16/2005	5	4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer			5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)			
300 HIGH S	TREET							Titod(Monday Toda)			
(Street) HAMILTON, OH 45011					(Check all applicable) Director 10% OwnerX Officer Other (give title below) (specify below) EVP)	6. Individual or Joint/Group			
							r	Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person			
(City)	(State)	(Zip)		Table I - N	Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned						
1.Title of Secur (Instr. 4)	ity			2. Amount of Beneficially (Instr. 4)		3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)		ture of Indirect Beneficial ership . 5)			
Common Sto	ock			424.0547		D	Â				
Common Stock				23,900.2823		I	401-K				
Common Stock				451.1061		I	Joint w/Spouse				
Common Stock				11,149.4665		I	Restricted				
Common Stock				79.3457		I	Spouse/Son Custodial Account				
Common Sto	ock			109.6394		I	Spor	use/Son Custodial Account			
Reminder: Repo owned directly o	pond to the cained in this	collection of	. 2	EC 1473 (7-02	2)						
required to respond unless the form displays a											

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

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1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercis Expiration Dat (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of	5. Ownership Form of Derivative	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	Derivative Security	Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	
1996 (ISO) Stock Option	01/24/1997	01/24/2006	Common Stock	3,074	\$ 11.3019	D	Â
1997 (ISO) Stock Option	01/28/1998	01/28/2007	Common Stock	4,193	\$ 11.1355	D	Â
1998 (ISO) Stock Option	01/27/1999	01/27/2008	Common Stock	5,238	\$ 19.097	D	Â
1998 (NQ) Stock Option	01/27/1999	01/27/2008	Common Stock	2,386	\$ 19.087	D	Â
1999 (ISO) Stock Option	01/25/2000	01/25/2009	Common Stock	4,201	\$ 22.565	D	Â
1999 (NQ) Stock Option	01/25/2000	01/25/2009	Common Stock	4,461	\$ 22.565	D	Â
2000 (ISO) Stock Option	01/24/2001	01/24/2010	Common Stock	5,694	\$ 17.56	D	Â
2000 (NQ) Stock Option	01/24/2001	01/24/2010	Common Stock	9,426	\$ 17.56	D	Â
2001 (ISO) Stock Option	01/22/2002	01/22/2011	Common Stock	6,244	\$ 16.0124	D	Â
2001 (NQ) Stock Option	01/22/2002	01/22/2011	Common Stock	1,631	\$ 16.0124	D	Â
2002 (ISO) Stock Option	01/17/2003	01/17/2012	Common Stock	5,000	\$ 17.2	D	Â
2003 (ISO) Stock Option	01/22/2004	01/22/2013	Common Stock	5,000	\$ 16.58	D	Â
2004 (ISO) Stock Option	01/21/2005	01/21/2014	Common Stock	2,500	\$ 17.09	D	Â
2005 (ISO) Stock Option	04/18/2006	04/18/2015	Common Stock	5,711	\$ 17.51	D	Â
2005 (NQ) Sock Option	04/18/2006	04/18/2015	Common Stock	6,289	\$ 17.51	D	Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Reporting Owners 2

munafo samuel j 300 HIGH STREET Â Â Â EVP Â HAMILTON, OHÂ 45011

Signatures

terri j ziepfel 12/20/2005

**Signature of Person

**Bignature of 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).

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.

Signatures 3