hoying john c Form 3 December 20, 2005

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

response... 0.5

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * hoying john c		2. Date of Event Requirir Statement (Month/Day/Year)		g 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/ [FFBC]					
(Last) 300 HIGH S7	(First)	(Middle)	12/16/2005		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner		g	5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)	
	(Street)							6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)	
HAMILTON, OH 45011					_X_ Officer (give title below	Other (specify below) SVP		_X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person	
(City)	(State)	(Zip)		Table I - N	lon-Derivat	ive Securit	ies Be	neficially Owned	
1.Title of Securi (Instr. 4)	ty			2. Amount of Beneficially (Instr. 4)		3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Na Owne (Instr	*	
Common Sto	ck			2,388		D	Â		
Common Sto	ck			562		I	401-	K	
Common Sto	ck			2,392.91		I	401-	K	
Common Sto	ck			500		I	Rayı	mond James Brokerage ount	
Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficial owned directly or indirectly.				ially S	EC 1473 (7-02	2)			
Persons who respond to the collection of									

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

information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a

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1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (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)	
2003 (ISO) Stock Option	01/22/2004	01/22/2013	Common Stock	2,000	\$ 16.58	D	Â
2003 (ISO) Stock Option	01/17/2003	01/17/2012	Common Stock	1,000	\$ 17.2	D	Â
2004 (ISO) Stock Option	01/21/2005	01/21/2014	Common Stock	1,000	\$ 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	2,889	\$ 17.51	D	Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
Troporting of the France / France of	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
hoying john c 300 HIGH STREET HAMILTON, OH 45011	Â	Â	SVP	Â		

Signatures

terri j ziepfel 12/20/2005

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

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.

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