

<b>OMB APPROVAL</b>	
OMB Number:	3235-0287
Estimated average burden hours per response:	0.5

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <b>BRADSHAW JAMIL</b>  (Last) (First) (Middle) <b>200 E JACKSON STREET</b>  (Street) <b>MUNCIE IN 47305</b>  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <b>FIRST MERCHANTS CORP [ FRME ]</b>	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) <b>X</b> Other (specify below) <b>Senior Vice President</b>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <b>12/14/2012</b>	
	4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)	
		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)  <b>X</b> 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	12/14/2012		M		1,750	A	\$5.89	21,276.059	D	
Common Stock <sup>(1)</sup>	12/14/2012		S		1,750	D	\$14.02	19,526.059 <sup>(2)</sup>	D	

**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 Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$5.89	12/14/2012		M			1,750	02/25/2012	02/25/2020	Common Stock	1,750	\$0.00	0.00	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

- Employee Stock Option - Right to Buy equals 9,220 shares.
- Includes 2,762.452 shares held in 401(k) retirement account, and 5,503.353 restricted stock awards.

**Remarks:**

Exhibit 24; Confirming Statement

Jennifer Mainord (Confirming Statement on File) 12/17/2012

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

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

\* 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.

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 Number.

Confirming Statement

This statement confirms that the undersigned, Jami L. Bradshaw, has authorized and designated, Jennifer Mainord or Rhonda Bost, to execute and file on the undersigned's behalf, all Forms 3, 4, and 5 (including any amendments thereto) that the undersigned may be required to file with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as a result of the undersigned's ownership of or transactions in securities of First Merchants Corporation. The authority of Jennifer Mainord or Rhonda Bost under this statement shall continue until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms 3, 4 and 5 with regard to the undersigned's ownership of or transactions in securities of First Merchants Corporation, unless earlier in writing. The undersigned acknowledges Jennifer Mainord or Rhonda Bost are not assuming any of the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Date: September 10, 2012

/s/ Jami L. Bradshaw  
Signature

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