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FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

| OMB APPRC | VAL | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number: | 3235-0287 | | | | | | | | |
| Estimated average burden | | | | | | | | | |
| hours per response. | 0.5 | | | | | | | | |

| 1. Name and Addre | ess of Reporting Pers DHN | son* | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>FIRST MERCHANTS CORP</u> [FRME] | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|----------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) 200 E JACKSON STREET | | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 07/31/2017 | X Officer (give title X Other (specify below) Chief Credit Officer / Executive Vice President | | | | |
| (Street) MUNCIE | | | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person | | | | |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | | Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| Table I - Nor | 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) | Transaction | | | | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership | |
| | | | Code | v | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | | (Instr. 4) | |
| Common Stock | 07/31/2017 | | A | | 7,500 | A | \$40.44 | 32,625.37 ⁽¹⁾ | 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. Transa Code (8) | | of Deriv Secu Acqu (A) or Dispo of (D) | of Expiration Derivative Securities Acquired A) or Disposed of (D) Instr. 3, 4 | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | e Amount of | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | ive derivative y Securities) Beneficially Owned | Ownership Form: Direct (D) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---|---|--|---|------------------------------|---|--|---|---------------------|--|-----------------|-------------|--|---|---|----------------------------------|--|
| | | | | Code | v | and 5) | | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | on Title Shares | | | | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

1. Includes Restricted Stock Awards totaling 21,444.370 shares

Remarks:

Addison Nicoll (Confirming Statement on File)

08/02/2017

** 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.