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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 APPR	OVAL								
OMB Number:	3235-0287								
Estimated average burden									
hours par rosponso:	0 5								

1. Name and Addre ENGLISH R	ss of Reporting Perso ODERICK	n*	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>FIRST MERCHANTS CORP</u> [ FRME ]		tionship of Reporting Perso ( all applicable) Director	rson(s) to Issuer 10% Owner		
(Last) 200 E JACKSO	ast) (First) (Middle) 10 E JACKSON STREET		3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 06/30/2012		Officer (give title below)	Other (specify below)		
(Street) MUNCIE	IN	47305	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 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person				
(City)	(State)	(Zip)						

## 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)			4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported	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	Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)		(1130.4)
Common Stock <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	06/30/2012		Α		401	Α	\$0.00	9,159.567	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		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	Amount or Number of Shares				
Non- Employee Director Stock Option (right to buy)	\$12.46	06/30/2012		A		1,500		01/01/2013	06/30/2022	Common Stock	1,500	\$0.00	10,628	D	

Explanation of Responses:

1. Non-employee director stock options (Right to Buy) = 10,628 shares

2. Includes 7,351 shares held in restricted stock awards.

**Remarks:** 

## Justin Bates (Confirming

<u>Statement on File)</u>

07/03/2012

\*\* 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.