

PARENTE CHARLES E
 Form 4
 February 02, 2009

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 OF SECURITIES

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 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 PARENTE CHARLES E

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC [CBU]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 356 SEDGWICK COURT
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 01/05/2009

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)

NAPLES, FL 34108

(City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 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	01/05/2009		M	2,697 A \$ 0 ⁽¹⁾	10,510	D	
Common Stock	01/29/2009		P	15,000 A \$ 18.4133	333,000	I	By Benevento & Mayo Partners
Common Stock					3,000	I	By Spouse
Common Stock					21,000	I	By C.E. Parente Trust U/A

Explanation of Responses:

* 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).

Each phantom stock unit relating to the Deferred Compensation Plan entitles the reporting person to receive one share of Community

(1) Bank System, Inc. common stock. On January 5, 2009, the reporting person's phantom stock units were settled for an equal number of shares and cash for .1282 shares at \$23.42 per share.

Each phantom stock unit is the economic equivalent of one share of Community Bank System, Inc. common stock. Phantom Stock (Stock

(2) Balance Plan) may be settled upon the later of the reporting person's attainment of age 55 or termination of service on Community Bank System, Inc.'s Board of Directors.

Each unit of phantom stock is the economic equivalent of one share of Community Bank System, Inc. common stock. The units of

(3) phantom stock relating to the Deferred Compensation Plan will be settled in Community Bank System, Inc. common stock at future dates selected by the reporting person.

(4) Includes 22.5987 phantom stock units acquired on January 9, 2009 under the Deferred Compensation Plan's dividend reinvestment feature.

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.