

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/  
Form 3  
June 22, 2005

**FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0104  
Expires: January 31, 2005  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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)

<p>1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *</p> <p>Â gehlmann gregory a</p> <p>(Last) (First) (Middle)</p> <p>300 HIGH STREET</p> <p>(Street)</p> <p>HAMILTON,Â OHÂ 45013</p> <p>(City) (State) (Zip)</p>	<p>2. Date of Event Requiring Statement</p> <p>(Month/Day/Year)</p> <p>06/21/2005</p>	<p>3. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol</p> <p>FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/ [FFBC]</p>	<p>4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer</p> <p>(Check all applicable)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> <p>(give title below) (specify below)</p> <p>SVP/Corporate General Counsel</p>	<p>5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)</p>	<p>6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person</p>
--	---	--	--	---	--

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock	2,300	I <sup>(1)</sup>	Restricted

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. SEC 1473 (7-02)

**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 control number.**

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

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 Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Title	Amount or Number of		

				Shares		(I) (Instr. 5)	
2005 (ISO) Stock Option	06/21/2006	06/21/2016	Common Stock	5,367 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 18.63	D	Â
2005 (NQ) Sock Option	06/21/2006	06/21/2016	Common Stock	6,033 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 18.63	D	Â

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
gehlmann gregory a 300 HIGH STREET HAMILTON, OH 45013	Â	Â	Â SVP/Corporate General Counsel	Â

## Signatures

terri j ziepfel                      06/22/2005  
 \*\*Signature of                      Date  
 Reporting Person

## 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).
- (1) 25% per year for 4 years

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.