KROGER CO Form 4 March 13, 2017

FORM 4

OMB APPROVAL

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

OMB 3235-0287 Number:

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

January 31, Expires: 2005

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

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

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

(Ctata)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading MCMULLEN W RODNEY Issuer Symbol KROGER CO [KR] (Check all applicable) (First) (Middle) (Last) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) _X__ Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title) _ Other (specify THE KROGER CO., 1014 VINE 03/09/2017 below) STREET Chairman of the Board & CEO (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting CINCINNATI, OH 45202 Person

| (City) | (State) | (Zip) Tab | le I - Non-l | Derivative | Securit | ties A | equired, Disposed of, | or Beneficiall | y Owned |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|--------|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1.Title of | 2. Transaction Date | 2A. Deemed | 3. | 4. Securit | ies Acqu | uired | 5. Amount of | 6. | 7. Nature of |
| Security | (Month/Day/Year) | Execution Date, if | Transactio | or(A) or Dis | sposed o | of | Securities | Ownership | Indirect |
| (Instr. 3) | | any | Code | (D) | | | Beneficially Owned | Form: | Beneficial |
| | | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 8) | (Instr. 3, 4 | 4 and 5) | | Following Reported | Direct (D) | Ownership |
| | | | | | (A) | | Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | or Indirect (I) | (Instr. 4) |
| | | | Code V | Amount | or (D) | Price | (msu. 3 and 4) | (Instr. 4) | |
| Common Stock | 03/09/2017 | | A | 25,875 | A 5 | \$ 0 | 2,424,929.3406 (1) | D | |

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

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| 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. Transactio Code (Instr. 8) | 5. onNumber of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) | | ate | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | of ng s | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Nu Deriv Secur Bene Owne Follo Repo Trans (Instr |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---------------------|--------------------|---|---------------|---|---|
| | | | | Code V | (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | or Title Nu of | umber | | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------|--|--|
| Fg | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other | | |
| MCMULLEN W RODNEY THE KROGER CO. 1014 VINE STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202 | X | | Chairman of the Board & CEO | | | |

Signatures

/s/ W. Rodney McMullen, by Stacey M. Heiser, Attorney-in-Fact

03/13/2017

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

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).
- (1) The total amount of securities directly owned by the reporting person includes shares in the Company's employee benefit plans that are deemed to be 'tax-conditioned plans' pursuant to Rule 16b-3, to the extent disclosed on reports received from plan trustees.

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.

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