

COMMERCE GROUP INC /MA  
Form 4  
December 16, 2004

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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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 \*  
DIGNAN PETER J

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
COMMERCE GROUP INC /MA [CGI]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
36 BOUNDARY STONE ROAD  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
12/15/2004

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
Senior Vice President

SUTTON, MA 01590

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

(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) | 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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V Amount (A) or (D) Price   |   |  |                                   |
| Common stock                    | 12/15/2004                           |  | M                              | 3,071 A \$ 30.8   | 3,071 <sup>(1)</sup>  | D  |                                   |
| Common stock                    | 12/15/2004                           |  | S                              | 3,071 D \$ 60.5   | 0 <sup>(1)</sup>  | D  |                                   |
| Common stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 35,483  | I  | See <sup>(2)</sup>                |

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

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number.

**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. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Option to purchase common stock            | \$ 30.8  | 12/15/2004                           |  | M                              | 3,071   | 04/06/2004 04/07/2009                                    | Common stock  | 3,071                         |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                               | Relationships |           |                       |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer               | Other |
| DIGNAN PETER J<br>36 BOUNDARY STONE ROAD<br>SUTTON, MA 01590 |               |           | Senior Vice President |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Peter J. Dignan 12/16/2004

\*\*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 transactions reported on this Form 4 were made pursuant to a plan intended to comply with Rule 10b5-1(c), previously adopted on September 15, 2004, when the reporting person was not in possession of material nonpublic information.
- (2) The reporting person indirectly beneficially owns 35,483 shares that are held by the Employee Stock Ownership Plan of The Commerce Group, Inc., which number of shares is calculated based on the units that have been credited to the reporting person as a participant in the ESOP and is subject to adjustment from time to time due, in part, to the unit value and the price per share of the Common Stock.

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.