LATAIF LOUIS E

Form 4 March 24, 2006

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL OMB

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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

See Instruction 1(b).

(City)

(State)

(Zin)

(Print or Type Responses)

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * LATAIF LOUIS E | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol GROUP 1 AUTOMOTIVE INC [GPI] | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) | | |
|--|----------|----------|---|---|--|--|
| (Last) 950 ECHO LA | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 03/23/2006 | _X Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) | | |
| | (Street) | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person | | |
| HOUSTON, TX 77024 | | | | Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | |

| (City) | (State) | Tabl | e I - Non-I | Derivative S | Securi | ties Acqu | ired, Disposed of | , or Beneficiall | y 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. Securition(A) or Dis (Instr. 3, 4) | sposed | of (D) | 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) |
| Common Stock | 03/23/2006 | | M | 10,000 | A | \$ 24.55 | 14,247 | D | |
| Common Stock | 03/23/2006 | | S | 9,500 | D | \$ 46.62 | 4,747 | D | |
| Common Stock | 03/23/2006 | | S | 500 | D | \$ 46.71 | 4,247 | D | |

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. Transactic Code (Instr. 8) | | | erivative Expiration Date ecurities (Month/Day/Year) cquired (A) r Disposed of D) nstr. 3, 4, | | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | | 8 1 5 (|
|---|---|---|---|--|-------|------|---|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| | | | | Code V | (A) (| (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | |
| Stock Option - Right to Buy | \$ 24.55 | 03/23/2006 | | M | 10. | ,000 | <u>(1)</u> | 08/07/2012 | Common Stock | 10,000 | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|--|--|--|
| 1 | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other | | | |
| LATAIF LOUIS E 950 ECHO LANE SUITE 100 HOUSTON, TX 77024 | X | | | | | | |
| 0: | | | | | | | |

Signatures

Reporting Person

/s/ Lataif, Louis
E. 03/24/2006

**Signature of 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 options vest annually in one-third increments commencing on the first anniversary of the grant date.

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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