McKinney Stephen M Form 4 March 18, 2019

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if no longer

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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subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue.

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)

See Instruction

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading McKinney Stephen M Issuer Symbol KROGER CO [KR] (Check all applicable) (First) (Middle) (Last) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title _ Other (specify THE KROGER CO., 1014 VINE 03/14/2019 below) below) STREET Senior Vice President (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-	Derivative	Secur	rities Acq	uired, 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. Securit on(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	03/14/2019		A	16,768 (1)	A	\$ 0	170,974.6321	D	
Common Stock	03/15/2019		A	9,804	A	\$ 0	180,778.6321	D	
Common Stock	03/15/2019		F	4,395 (2)	D	\$ 24.75	176,383.6321	D	
Common Stock	03/15/2019		F	1,045 (3)	D	\$ 24.36	175,338.6321 (4)	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)

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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. 5. Number of TransactionDerivative Code Securities (Instr. 8) Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amour Underlying Securit (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(Instr. 3, 4, and 5) (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amo or Num of Sh
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 24.75	03/14/2019		A	45,606	<u>(5)</u>	03/14/2029	Common Stock	45,6

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		

McKinney Stephen M THE KROGER CO. 1014 VINE STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202

Senior Vice President

Signatures

/s/ Stephen M. McKinney, by Stacey M. Heiser, Attorney-in-Fact

03/18/2019

**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) Restricted stock awarded pursuant to a long-term incentive plan of The Kroger Co. The restrictions on these shares lapse in equal annual installments over a four-year period, at the rate of 25% per year commencing one year from the date of the award.
- (2) Payment of tax liability associated with share award.
- (3) Payment of tax liability associated with restricted stock.
- Between July 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018, the reporting person acquired 381.3306 shares of Kroger common stock in the Company's employee benefit plans, based on information from plan trustees. 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.
- (5) These options were granted under a long-term incentive plan of The Kroger Co. and vest in equal annual installments over a four-year period, at the rate of 25% per year commencing one year from the date of the grant.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Reporting Owners 2

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