KROGER CO Form 4 July 17, 2015

## 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. Form 4 or

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

January 31, Expires: 2005

Form 5 obligations **SECURITIES** 

Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Clark Robert W			2. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol KROGER CO [KR]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  (Check all applicable)		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction	(Check all applicable)		
			(Month/Day/Year)	Director 10% Owner		
THE KROGER CO., 1014 VINE STREET		VINE	07/15/2015	X Officer (give title Other (specify below) Group 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		
CINCINNATI, OH 45202				Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Tab	le I - Non-l	Derivative	Secur	rities Acq	uired, Disposed of,	or Beneficially	y Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securiti or(A) or Dis (Instr. 3, 4)	posed	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	07/15/2015		A	13,032 (1)	A	\$ 0	114,694.8466	D	
Common Stock	07/15/2015		F	4,159 (2)	D	\$ 38.33	110,535.8466 (3) (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)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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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. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of orDerivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amour Underlying Securit (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amo or Num of Sh
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 38.33	07/15/2015		A	29,970	<u>(5)</u>	07/15/2025	Common	29,9

## **Reporting Owners**

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Clark Robert W THE KROGER CO. 1014 VINE STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202

Group Vice President

## **Signatures**

/s/ Robert W. Clark, by Stacey M. Heiser, Attorney-in-Fact

07/17/2015

\*\*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 in whole amounts over a five-year period, at the rate of 20% per year commencing one year from the date of the award.
- (2) Payment of tax liability associated with restricted stock.
- (3) On July 13, 2015, the common shares of The Kroger Co. split 2-for-1, resulting in the reporting person's ownership of 50,831.4233 additional common shares.
- (4) 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 in whole amounts over a five-year period, at the rate of 20% 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. 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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