

Wheatley Christine S  
 Form 4  
 July 17, 2017

**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 \*  
 Wheatley Christine S

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 THE KROGER CO., 1014 VINE STREET  
 (Street)

CINCINNATI, OH 45202

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 KROGER CO [KR]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 07/13/2017

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 \_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V Amount (A) or (D) Price   |   |  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 07/13/2017                           |  | A                              | 15,707 (1) A \$ 0   | 70,492  | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 07/13/2017                           |  | A                              | 32,723 (2) A \$ 0   | 103,215   | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 07/13/2017                           |  | M                              | 2,000 A \$ 12.5   | 105,215   | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 07/13/2017                           |  | F                              | 1,503 (3) D \$ 22.92  | 103,712   | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 07/13/2017                           |  | F                              | 845 (4) D \$ 22.92  | 102,867   | D  |   |

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Common Stock 07/14/2017 F 4,057 (4) D \$ 23.01 98,810 D

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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

Table with 8 columns: 1. Title of Derivative Security, 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security, 3. Transaction Date, 3A. Deemed Execution Date, 4. Transaction Code, 5. Number of Derivative Securities, 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date, 7. Title and Underlying Security. Includes rows for Non-Qualified Stock Options.

Reporting Owners

Table with 2 columns: Reporting Owner Name / Address and Relationships. Lists Wheatley Christine S, THE KROGER CO. with relationships: Director, 10% Owner, Officer, Group Vice President, Other.

Signatures

/s/ Christine S. Wheatley, by Stacey M. Heiser, Attorney-in-Fact 07/17/2017 \*\*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) 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) Restricted stock awarded pursuant to a long-term incentive plan of The Kroger Co. The restrictions lapse as to 25% one year from the date of the award, 25% two years from the date of the award, and 50% three years from the date of the award.

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- (3) Payment of exercise price and tax liability associated with the exercise of stock options.
- (4) Payment of tax liability associated with restricted stock.

These options were granted under an option plan of The Kroger Co. and vested in equal annual installments in whole share amounts over a three-year period, at the rate of one-third per year commencing one year after the date of grant, with the remainder vesting three years from the date of grant.

- (6) These options were granted under a long-term incentive plan of The Kroger Co. and vest in equal annual installments 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.

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