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MCMULLEN W RODNEY

Form 4

December 04, 2012

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB

OMB APPROVAL

Number:

3235-0287

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0.5

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if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

obligations

may continue.

See Instruction

Check this box

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 * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading MCMULLEN W RODNEY Issuer Symbol KROGER CO [KR] (Check all applicable) (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) _X__ Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify THE KROGER CO., 1014 VINE 12/03/2012 below) STREET President and COO

(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 Form filed by More than One Reporting

Person

CINCINNATI, OH 45202

| (City) | (State) | (Zip) Tak | ole I - Non- | Derivative | Secu | rities Acqu | ired, Disposed of, o | 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. Securit oner Dispos (Instr. 3, 4 | ed of (| ` ′ | 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 | 12/03/2012 | | M | 95,000 | A | \$ 14.925 | 900,198.4257 | D | |
| Common Stock | 12/03/2012 | | S | 69,635 | D | \$ 26.494 (1) | 830,563.4257 (2) | D | |

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

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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. Transaction 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 | \$ 14.925 | 12/03/2012 | | M | 95,000 | (3) | 12/12/2012 | Common Stock | 95,0 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------|-------|--|--|--|
| Troporting O Water Tumb / Trum Coo | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other | | | |
| MCMULLEN W RODNEY THE KROGER CO. 1014 VINE STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202 | X | | President and COO | | | | |

Signatures

/s/ W. Rodney McMullen, by Bruce M. Gack, Attorney-in-Fact

12/04/2012

**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).
- The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$26.46 to \$26.56, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide to The Kroger Co., any security holder of The Kroger Co., or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the range set forth above.
- (2) 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.
- (3) 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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