KROGER CO Form 4 March 13, 2017

## FORM 4

#### OMB APPROVAL

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

OMB Number: 3235-0287

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or January 31, Expires: January 31, 2005

Expires. 2005
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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Form 5 File obligations 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)

VAN OFLEN MARY ELIZABETH  (Last) (First) (Middle)  THE KROGER CO., 1014 VINE STREET			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol KROGER CO [KR] 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 03/09/2017					S. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  (Check all applicable)  Director 10% OwnerX_ Officer (give title Other (specify below)  Vice President & Controller			
CINCINNA	ATI, OH 45202							Person	lore than One Kej	porting	
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	Tabl	e I - Non-I	Derivative	Secui	rities Acq	uired, Disposed of	, or Beneficiall	y Owned	
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	Execution any		3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securi on(A) or D (Instr. 3,	ispose	d 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	03/09/2017			Code V A	Amount 1,380	(D)	Price \$ 0	58,192.4871	D		
Common Stock	03/09/2017			F	518 (1)	D	\$ 28.83	57,674.4871 <sup>(2)</sup>	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)

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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	2.	3. Transaction Date	3A. Deemed	4.	5.	6. Date Exerc	cisable and	7. Titl	e and	8. Price of	9. Nu
Derivative	Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transaction	orNumber	Expiration D	xpiration Date		nt of	Derivative	Deriv
Security	or Exercise		any	Code	of	(Month/Day/	Year)	Under	lying	Security	Secui
(Instr. 3)	Price of		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Derivative	e		Securi	ities	(Instr. 5)	Bene
	Derivative				Securities			(Instr.	3 and 4)		Own
	Security				Acquired						Follo
	•				(A) or						Repo
					Disposed						Trans
					of (D)						(Instr
					(Instr. 3,						
					4, and 5)						
									A		
									Amount		
						Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	T:41-	or Namelana		
									Number		
				C 1 W	(A) (D)				of		
				Code V	(A) (D)				Shares		

## **Reporting Owners**

Relationships Reporting Owner Name / Address

> Officer Other Director 10% Owner

VAN OFLEN MARY ELIZABETH THE KROGER CO. 1014 VINE STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202

Vice President & Controller

## **Signatures**

/s/ Mary Elizabeth Van Oflen, by Stacey M. Heiser, Attorney-in-Fact

03/13/2017

\*\*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) Payment of tax liability associated with share award.

Between September 30, 2016 and December 31, 2016, the reporting person acquired 90.8832 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.

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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