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Eckhardt Ezra	1										
Form 4 September 14	. 2012										
	Л									PPROVAL	
	FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549							OMB Number:	3235-0287		
Check this if no longe subject to Section 16 Form 4 or Form 5	Filed purs	STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,									
obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).											
(Print or Type Re	esponses)										
1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <u>*</u> Eckhardt Ezra			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol STERLING FINANCIAL CORP					5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer			
		/WA/ [STSA]					(Check all applicable)				
(Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of (Month/E 111 N. WALL STREET 09/14/2				-				Director 10% Owner X Officer (give title Other (specify below) below) COO - Sterling Financial Corp.			
	If Amendment, Date Original led(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 					
SPOKANE,	WA 99201							Person	More than One Re	eporting	
(City)	(State) (Z	Zip)	Table I -	- Non-De	rivative S	ecuri	ties Ac	quired, Disposed o	of, or Beneficia	lly Owned	
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date 2A. I (Month/Day/Year) Exec any (Mor		te, if Ti C	3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (A))	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)		
			С	ode V	Amount	or (D)	Price	(Instr. 3 and 4)			
Common Stock	09/14/2012		A	A <u>(1)</u>	338 <u>(2)</u>	А	\$0	52,393	D		
Common Stock								10,072	Ι	401k	
Common Stock								925	Ι	Spouse IRA	

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

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number.

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. onNumber of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)			7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Nu Deriv Secu Bene Own Follo Repo Trans (Instr
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		
Repo	rting O	wners									
Reporting	Owner Name	e / Address		Relation	ships						

	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Eckhardt Ezra 111 N. WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201			COO - Sterling Financial Corp.	
Signatures				
/s/ Karla J. Gehlen, attorney-in-fact		09/14/2012		
**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).

Grant of salary stock in the form of mandatorily deferred Restricted Stock Units as approved by Sterling's board of directors in March of
 2012. Future RSUs are to be granted each payroll period and will be calculated using the closing price of Sterling's common stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market as of the last trading day in each payroll period.

(2) Units vest immediately upon grant, however, delivery of the awarded shares is deferred until future distribution dates provided in the Agreement between Sterling and Mr. Eckhardt.

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.