Clark Robert W Form 4 January 23, 2018

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL

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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 Clark Robert W Issuer Symbol KROGER CO [KR] (Check all applicable) (First) (Middle) (Last) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title) _ Other (specify THE KROGER CO., 1014 VINE 01/22/2018 below) STREET Senior 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 Form filed by More than One Reporting CINCINNATI, OH 45202 Person

(City)	(State)	(Zip) 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. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securit bor 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	01/22/2018		M	11,000	A	\$ 14.305	130,780.446	D			
Common Stock	01/22/2018		S <u>(1)</u>	11,000	D	\$ 29.572 (2)	119,780.446 (3)	D			

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

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(9-02)

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

I	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	\$ 14.305	01/22/2018		M	11,000	<u>(4)</u>	06/26/2018	Common Stock	11,0

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

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

Senior Vice President

Signatures

/s/ Robert W. Clark, by Dorothy D. Roberts, Attorney-in-Fact

01/23/2018

**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) The sale reported in this Form 4 was effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person on December 19, 2017.
- The price reported is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$29.52 to \$29.66, 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.
- Between July 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017, the reporting person acquired 238.4646 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.
- (4) These options were granted under a long-term incentive plan of The Kroger Co. and vested 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. 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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