

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

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>
<S>

(Print or Type Responses)			<C>	<C>	<C>
1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*			2. Date of Event Re-	4. Issuer Name and Ticker or	
Higginbotham	Dennis	D.	quiring statement	Trading Symbol	
-----			(Month/Day/Year)	Sonic Automotive, Inc. -- SAH	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	9/18/98	5. Relationship of Reporting	6. If Amendment,
Date of			-----	Person(s) to Issuer	Original
(Month/Day/Year)				(Check all applicable)	-----
P.O. Box 770			3. IRS or Social Se-	__ Director	__ 10% Owner
-----			curity Number of	X Officer (give	__ Other
(Street)			Reporting Person	-- title below) (specify below)	7. Individual or
Joint/Group			(Voluntary)	President-Retail Operations	X Form filed by
Applicable Line)				-----	-- Person
New Smyrna Beach, FL		32170			__ Form filed by
One Reporting					Reporting

(City)	(State)	(Zip)			
More than One					

Person
</TABLE>

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>
1. Title of Security	2. Amount of Securities	3. Ownership	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial
(Instr. 4)	Beneficially Owned	Form: Direct	Ownership (Instr. 5)
	(Instr.4)	(D) or Indirect	
		(I) (Instr.5)	

Class A Common Stock	8,250	I	By self as Trustee
			u/t/a dated September 28, 1992

</TABLE>

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.
* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b) (v).

(Over)
SEC 1473 (7-97)

FORM 3 (continued)

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

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>
<S>

<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Date Exer-	3. Title and Amount of Securities	4. Conver-	5. Owner-	6. Nature	

of Indirect
 (Instr. 4)
 Beneficial Ownership
 (Instr. 4)

Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	Exercise Price of Derivative Security	Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr.5)
Date Expirable Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	

None

</TABLE>

Explanation of Responses:

Signature of Reporting Person	Date
**	

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations.
 See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

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.