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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): July 20, 2005

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

1-13395
(Commission File Number)

56-201079
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

6415 Idlewild Road, Suite 109
Charlotte, North Carolina
(Address of principal executive offices)

28212
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (704) 566-2400

N/A
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers.

On July 25, 2005, Sonic Automotive, Inc. announced it had appointed Victor H. Doolan to its board of directors on July 20, 2005. Mr. Doolan was also appointed to Sonic's Audit Committee and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) *Exhibits.*

99.1 Press release of Sonic Automotive, Inc. dated July 25, 2005

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.

By: /s/ Stephen K. Coss

Stephen K. Coss
Senior Vice President and General Counsel

Dated: July 25, 2005

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press release of Sonic Automotive, Inc. dated July 25, 2005

VICTOR H. DOOLAN JOINS SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – July 25, 2005 – Sonic Automotive, Inc. (NYSE: SAH) announced today that veteran auto industry leader, Victor H. Doolan, has been appointed to the Company’s Board of Directors.

Mr. Doolan recently retired from his position as President of Volvo Cars North America in March 2005. During his approximately three-year tenure as President of VCNA, Mr. Doolan led Volvo through a period of consistent sales growth in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Prior to joining Volvo, Mr. Doolan served as the Executive Director of the Premier Automotive Group, the luxury division of Ford Motor Company from July 1999 to June 2002. Mr. Doolan also enjoyed a 23-year career with BMW, culminating with his service as President of BMW of North America from September 1993 to July 1999. During his tenure as President of BMW of North America, Mr. Doolan led BMW through a period of continuous sales growth in the United States. Mr. Doolan has worked in the automotive industry for approximately 36 years.

O. Bruton Smith, the Company’s Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, stated, “We are delighted to add an individual of Vic Doolan’s stature to our Board of Directors. Vic has tremendous experience as an automotive industry leader, with particular expertise in the luxury and import sectors of the industry, both of which are important and growing parts of our company’s business. We are confident that he will make valuable contributions toward the Company’s continued success.”

Sonic Automotive, Inc., a Fortune 300 company based in Charlotte, N.C., is one of the largest automotive retailers in the United States operating 186 franchises and 39 collision repair centers. Sonic can be reached on the Web at <http://www.sonicautomotive.com>.