

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

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**FORM 8-K**

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**CURRENT REPORT**

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

**Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): December 3, 2012**

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**SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

**1-13395**  
(Commission  
File Number)

**56-201079**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**4401 Colwick Road**  
**Charlotte, North Carolina**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**28211**  
(Zip Code)

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

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

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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 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure.**

On December 3, 2012, we issued a press release announcing an amendment to the payment date of a previously announced quarterly cash dividend.

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

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) *Exhibits.*

99.1 Press release of Sonic Automotive, Inc. dated December 3, 2012

**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: December 3, 2012

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INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit  
No.

Description

99.1 Press release of Sonic Automotive, Inc. dated December 3, 2012

***SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AMENDS PAYMENT DATE FOR PREVIOUSLY DECLARED QUARTERLY CASH DIVIDEND***

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** – December 3, 2012 – Sonic Automotive, Inc. (NYSE: SAH), a leader in automotive retailing, today announced that its Board of Directors has approved an amendment to the payment date for the company’s quarterly dividend in the amount of \$0.025 per share payable in cash for stockholders of record on December 14, 2012, which dividend was previously announced by the company on October 23, 2012. The dividend will now be payable on December 21, 2012, rather than the previously announced payment date of January 15, 2013. No changes have been made to the record date (December 14, 2012) or amount (\$0.025 per share) of this previously declared quarterly cash dividend.

Sonic Automotive, Inc., a Fortune 500 company based in Charlotte, N.C., is one of the nation’s largest automotive retailers. Sonic can be reached on the web at [www.sonicautomotive.com](http://www.sonicautomotive.com).

Included herein is a forward-looking statement pertaining to an anticipated cash dividend to stockholders. There are many factors that affect management’s views about future events and trends of the Company’s business. These factors involve risk and uncertainties that could cause actual results or trends to differ materially from management’s view, including without limitation, economic conditions in the markets in which we operate, new and used vehicle sales volume, the success of our operational strategies, the rate and timing of overall economic recovery and the risk factors described in the Company’s annual report on Form 10-K for the year ending December 31, 2011 and in the Company’s quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2012. The Company does not undertake any obligation to update forward-looking information.