
**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 22, 2015

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

1-13395
(Commission
File Number)

56-2010790
(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

Not Applicable
(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 Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

On July 22, 2015, the Board of Directors of Sonic Automotive, Inc. (the “Company”) appointed B. Scott Smith, age 47, as Chief Executive Officer of the Company, effective immediately. He will also continue to serve as the Company’s President and as a director of the Company. B. Scott Smith has been a director of the Company since its organization in January 1997 and President of the Company since March 2007. Mr. Smith served as the Company’s Vice Chairman from October 2002 to March 2007 and as the Company’s Chief Strategic Officer from October 2002 to July 2015. Mr. Smith was President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company from April 1997 to October 2002. B. Scott Smith is the son of O. Bruton Smith and the brother of David Bruton Smith, who serves as Vice Chairman and as a director of the Company.

In connection with B. Scott Smith’s appointment as Chief Executive Officer, a position previously held by O. Bruton Smith, the Company’s Board of Directors appointed O. Bruton Smith, age 88, as Executive Chairman of the Company, effective immediately. As Executive Chairman, O. Bruton Smith will report directly to the Company’s Board of Directors and will work closely with the Board of Directors, the Chief Executive Officer and the Vice Chairman with regard to overall leadership and strategic direction of the Company, guidance of the Company’s senior management, coordination of the Board of Directors’ activities and communication with the Company’s key stakeholders.

The Company has deemed that B. Scott Smith shall be the principal executive officer of the Company for purposes of all documents and certifications to be filed with or submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission or the New York Stock Exchange and for all other similar or related purposes.

A copy of the Company’s press release relating to the foregoing matters 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 July 27, 2015.

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.

Date: July 27, 2015

By: /s/ Stephen K. Coss

Stephen K. Coss
Senior Vice President and General Counsel

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press release of Sonic Automotive, Inc., dated July 27, 2015.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. NAMES O. BRUTON SMITH AS EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN,
B. SCOTT SMITH TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER***

CHARLOTTE, NC (July 27, 2015) – The board of directors of Sonic Automotive, Inc. (NYSE: SAH) today announced the appointment of O. Bruton Smith as Executive Chairman and B. Scott Smith to the position of Chief Executive Officer in conjunction with an executive management realignment. David B. Smith will continue to serve as the Company's Vice Chairman.

O. Bruton Smith has served as Sonic Automotive's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer since its initial public offering in 1997. As Executive Chairman, he will report directly to the board of directors and will work closely with the board, the Chief Executive Officer and the Vice Chairman to engage in the overall leadership and strategic direction of the Company, guide senior management, coordinate activities of the board of directors and communicate with the Company's key stakeholders.

In his expanded role as Chief Executive Officer and President, B. Scott Smith, who is a co-founder of the Company and has served as Sonic Automotive's President and Chief Strategic Officer since 2007, will work closely with the Executive Chairman, the Vice Chairman, executive management and the board of directors to develop the strategic direction of the Company, provide leadership of day-to-day operations and communicate with the Company's key stakeholders.

The realignment became effective immediately upon approval by Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s board of directors.

About Sonic Automotive

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.

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