| FORM | 4 |
|------|---|
|------|---|

| Check this box if no  |
|-----------------------|
| longer subject to     |
| Section 16. Form 4 or |
| Form 5 obligations    |
| may continue. See     |
| Instruction 1(b).     |

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

OMB APPROVAL OMB Number: 3235-0287 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

SEC 1474 (9-02)

### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| (Print or Type Respon                  | ises)  |                          | n  |                    |  |                        |  |                |   |       |   |
|--|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------|--|------------------------|--|----------------|---|-------|---|
| 1. Name and Address<br>Byrd Heath      | 2. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol<br>SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH] |                          |  |                    |  |                        | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer<br>(Check all applicable)<br>Director 10% Owner |                |   |       |   |
| (Last)<br>C/O SONIC AUT<br>COLWICK ROA | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·  | (Middle)<br>INC., 4401   | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br>03/31/2019                   |                    |  |                        |  |                | XOfficer (give title below)         Other (specify below)           EVP and CFO   |       |   |
| (Street)<br>CHARLOTTE, NC 28211        |  |                          | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)                             |                    |  |                        |  |                | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)<br>_X_Form filed by One Reporting Person<br>Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |       |   |
| (City)                                 | (State)  | (Zip)                    | Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned |                    |  |                        |  |                |   |       |   |
| 1.Title of Security<br>(Instr. 3)      |  | Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | Execution Date, if   | Code<br>(Instr. 8) |  | (A) or Disposed of (D) |  | d of (D)<br>5) | 5. Amount of Securities<br>Beneficially Owned Following<br>Reported Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4)  | Form: | 1 |
| Class A Commor                         | n Stock  | 03/31/2019               |  | F                  |  | 2,937<br>( <u>1)</u>   | D  | \$<br>14.81    | 192,242   | D     |   |

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

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 Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

|             | (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |                  |                    |            |    |        |       |              |            |        |         |             |                |             |             |
|-------------|--|------------------|--------------------|------------|----|--------|-------|--------------|------------|--------|---------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Title of | 2.   | 3. Transaction   | 3A. Deemed         | 4.         |    | 5.     |       | 6. Date Exer | cisable    | 7. Tit | le and  | 8. Price of | 9. Number of   | 10.         | 11. Nature  |
| Derivative  | Conversion   | Date             | Execution Date, if | Transactio | on | Numł   | ber   | and Expirati | on Date    | Amou   | unt of  | Derivative  | Derivative     | Ownership   | of Indirect |
| Security    | or Exercise  | (Month/Day/Year) | any                | Code       |    | of     |       | (Month/Day   | /Year)     | Unde   | rlying  | Security    | Securities     | Form of     | Beneficial  |
| (Instr. 3)  | Price of   |                  | (Month/Day/Year)   | (Instr. 8) |    | Deriv  | ative |              |            | Secur  | rities  | (Instr. 5)  | Beneficially   | Derivative  | Ownership   |
|             | Derivative   |                  |                    |            |    | Secur  | ities |              |            | (Instr | . 3 and |             | Owned          | Security:   | (Instr. 4)  |
|             | Security   |                  |                    |            |    | Acqu   | ired  |              |            | 4)     |         |             | Following      | Direct (D)  |             |
|             |  |                  |                    |            |    | (A) o  | r     |              |            |        |         |             | Reported       | or Indirect |             |
|             |  |                  |                    |            |    | Dispo  | sed   |              |            |        |         |             | Transaction(s) | (I)         |             |
|             |  |                  |                    |            |    | of (D) | )     |              |            |        |         |             | (Instr. 4)     | (Instr. 4)  |             |
|             |  |                  |                    |            |    | (Instr | . 3,  |              |            |        |         |             |                |             |             |
|             |  |                  |                    |            |    | 4, and | 15)   |              |            |        |         |             |                |             |             |
|             |  |                  |                    |            |    |        |       |              |            |        | Amount  |             |                |             |             |
|             |  |                  |                    |            |    |        |       | Date         | Expiration |        | or      |             |                |             |             |
|             |  |                  |                    |            |    |        |       | Exercisable  | *          | Title  | Number  |             |                |             |             |
|             |  |                  |                    |            |    |        |       | Excicisable  | Date       |        | of      |             |                |             |             |
|             |  |                  |                    | Code       | V  | (A)    | (D)   |              |            |        | Shares  |             |                |             |             |

### **Reporting Owners**

|  | Relationships |              |             |       |  |  |  |
|--|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------|--|--|--|
| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Director      | 10%<br>Owner | Officer     | Other |  |  |  |
| Byrd Heath<br>C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.<br>4401 COLWICK ROAD<br>CHARLOTTE, NC 28211 |               |              | EVP and CFO |       |  |  |  |

## Signatures

| /s/ Heath R. Byrd               | 04/02/2019 |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| **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) Represents shares delivered by the reporting person to Sonic Automotive, Inc. to satisfy withholding tax obligations due upon vesting of restricted stock units.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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