

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)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)	4. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol	<C>
Price Thomas A.	01/00	Sonic Automotive, Inc. ("SAH")	
----- (Last) (First) (Middle) Date of	----- 01/00	----- Sonic Automotive, Inc. ("SAH")	
(Month/Day/Year) 601 Brannan Street ----- (Street) or Joint/Group	3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)	6. If Amendment, Original
----- (City) (State) (Zip) More than One Person	----- 94107	----- _x_ Director _x_ Officer (give title below) (specify below)	----- _10% Owner _Other 7. Individual Filing (Check Form filed by Person Form filed by Reporting
Applicable Line) San Francisco CA One Reporting		Vice Chairman-Board of Directors	_x_ Form filed by Person
----- (City) (State) (Zip) More than One Person		----- Directors	----- _x_ Form filed by Person

</TABLE>

<TABLE>  
<CAPTION>

Table I - Non Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>
1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
----- Class A Common Stock	----- 1,784,393	----- I	----- By Self as Trustee for The Price Trust
----- Class A Common Stock	----- 20,000	----- D	-----

</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).

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.

FORM 3 (continued)

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

<TABLE>  
<CAPTION>  
<S>

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

