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/ OMB APPROVAL /
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/ hours per response..... 0.5 /
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| FORM 4 | UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
+-----+ | WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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[ ] Check this box if
no longer subject STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP
to Section 16.
Form 4 or Form 5 Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities
obligations may Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the
continue. See Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or
Instruction 1(b). Section 30(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*

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Iuppenlatz Mark J.
-----
(Last) (First) (Middle)

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C/O Sonic Automotive, Inc. 6415 Idlewild Rd., Suite 109
-----
(Street)

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Charlotte NC 28212
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(City) (State) (Zip)

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2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Sonic Automotive, Inc. ("SAH")

3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (voluntary)

4. Statement for Month/Year 10/00

5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)

6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)

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___ Director    X Officer    ___ 10% Owner    ___ Other
--- (give title below)    (specify below)
Vice President - Corp. Development
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7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)

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X Form filed by One Reporting Person
___ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

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Table I--Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

1. Title 7. Nature of In- Security direct (Instr. 3) Bene- ficial	2. Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/	3. Trans- action Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of	6. Owner- ship Form: Direct (D) or
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Owner-ship	Year)	Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	Month (Instr. 3 and 4)	Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
<C>								
Class A Common Stock	10/13/00	P		2,000	A	\$8.00	10,000	D

</TABLE>

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

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) Securities	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Acquired (A) or Disposed of (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)
(D)				

(D)	Code	V	(A)
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>
<C>			

</TABLE>

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

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

11. Name of Indirect derivative Securities Owned beneficially at Month(1) (Instr. 4)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)
<S> <C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>

</TABLE>

Explanation of Responses:

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal
Criminal Violations.
See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

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

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.

/s/ Mark J. Iuppenlitz	11/17/00
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**Signature of Reporting Person	Date