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

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> <C> <S> (Print or Type Responses) 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* 2. Date of Event P. Thomas Requiring Statement (Last) (First) (Middle) 12/17/2001 (Month/Day/Year) 443 West Merrill Street 3. I.R.S. Identification

Person, if an entity

(voluntary)

Birmingham, Michigan 48009

(City) (State) (Zip)

4. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol $\,$

Sonic Automotive, Inc. - SAH

- 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer 6. If Amendment, Date of
- (Check all applicable) Original (Month/Day/Year)
- ______
- X Director 10% Owner 7. Individual or Joint/Group
 ------ Filing (Check Applicable Line)
 Officer (give Other (specify
- title ----- below)

 below)

 X Form filed by One Reporting Person

Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Number of Reporting

- ------

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security 2. Amount of Securities 3. Ownership 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership

(Instr. 4) Beneficially Owned Form: Direct (Instr. 5)

(Instr. 4) (D) or Indirect

(I) (Instr. 5)

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explanation of Responses:	
* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal 2-21-01 Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).	/s/ Thomas P. Capo
See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a). Oate	**Signature of Reporting Person
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 ralid OMB Number. 2/TABLE>	

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