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/       OMB APPROVAL       /
/-----/
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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
to Section 16.
Form 4 or Form 5
obligations may
continue. See
Instruction 1(b).
                STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP
                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

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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*

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Price                Thomas                A.
-----
(Last)                (First)                (Middle)

                2400 Bridgeway, Suite A-230
-----
                (Street)

Sausalito,                CA                94965
-----
(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 08/01

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

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

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X Director      X Officer      ___ 10% Owner      ___ Other
---
                (give title below)                (specify below)
Vice Chairman
-----

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7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)

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X Form filed by One Reporting Person
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___ 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>

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1. Title      2. Trans-      3. Trans-      4. Securities Acquired (A)      5. Amount of      6. Owner-
7. Nature      action      action      or Disposed of (D)      Securities      ship
of In-      Date      Code      (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)      Beneficially      Form:
Security      (Month/      (Instr. 8)           Owned at      Direct
direct      Day/                End of      (D) or
Bene-      Year)                Month
ficial

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Indirect ship 4)	Owner- (Instr. 4)	Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	(Instr. 3 and 4)	(I) (Instr.)
<S> <C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
Class A Common Stock By self as	08/01/01	S		200,000	D	\$21.90		I
Trustee for								
The Price								
Trust								
Class A Common Stock By self as	08/03/01	S		123,300	D	\$22.4959		I
Trustee for								
The Price								
Trust								
Class A Common Stock By self as	08/07/01	S		76,700	D	\$22.4901	1,384,393	I
Trustee for								
The Price								
Trust								
Class A Common Stock By self as	08/10/01	S		3,223(1)	D	\$ 3.1027(1)	16,777	D

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) Securities (D) and 5)	2. Conver- sion or Exercise Price of Deriv- ative Security	3. Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	4. Transac- tion Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Deriv- ative Acquired (A) or Disposed of (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)
<S> <C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>

<CAPTION>

11. Name of Immediate or Indirect Beneficial Owner (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 Beneficially Owned at End of Month
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<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
<C>							

</TABLE>

Explanation of Responses:

(1) This transaction was a private sale by Mr. Price to a family member pursuant to a previously-negotiated agreement.

/s/ Thomas A. Price

09/05/01

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

* If this 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).

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