

# FORM 4

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

| OMB APPROVAL                                   |           |
|--|-----------|
| OMB Number:                                    | 3235-0287 |
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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 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 Responses)

|   |         |          |   |  |  |   |  |  |
|---|---------|----------|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*<br><b>SMITH MARCUS G</b> |         |          | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><b>SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH]</b>        |  |  | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer<br>(Check all applicable)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner<br><input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) |  |  |
| (Last)  | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br><b>09/27/2018</b>                   |  |  |   |  |  |
| 5555 CONCORD PARKWAY SOUTH  |         |          |   |  |  |   |  |  |
| (Street)  |         |          | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)                                    |  |  | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person<br><input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person   |  |  |
| CONCORD, NC 28207   |         |          |   |  |  |   |  |  |
| (City)  | (State) | (Zip)    | <b>Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned</b> |  |  |   |  |  |

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) |   | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |            |       | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|------------|-------|---|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V | Amount  | (A) or (D) | Price |   |  |   |

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.** SEC 1474 (9-02)

**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) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) |   | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) |     | 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 Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|-----|--|-----------------|---|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V | (A)   | (D) | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date |   |  |  |  |  |
| Class B Common Stock                       | (1)  | 09/27/2018                           |  | P                              |   | 976,875   | (2) | (1)  | (1)             | Class A Common Stock  | \$ 21.44                                   | 9,858,125  | I  | by SFC   |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                    | Relationships |           |         |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| SMITH MARCUS G<br>5555 CONCORD PARKWAY SOUTH<br>CONCORD, NC 28207 |               | X         |         |       |

## Signatures

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| /s/ Marcus G. Smith                            | 10/01/2018          |
| <small>**Signature of Reporting Person</small> | <small>Date</small> |

## 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) Shares of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class B Common Stock are convertible into shares of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class A Common Stock on a 1-for-1 basis at the option of the reporting person and there is no expiration date.
- (2) The reported securities were purchased in a private, non-market transaction and are held by Sonic Financial Corporation ("SFC"), a North Carolina corporation of which the reporting person is a shareholder and an officer.

Based solely on the average of the closing price of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class A Common Stock for the 30-day trading period ended September 21, 2018, as reported by the New York Stock Exchange.

Represents the entire amount of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class B Common Stock held by SFC. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class B Common Stock held by SFC, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.

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.