

FORM 5

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

| OMB APPROVAL | |
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| Estimated average burden hours per response... | 1.0 |

ANNUAL 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

- Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).
- Form 3 Holdings Reported
- Form 4 Transactions Reported

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* Byrd Heath | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH] | | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director _____ 10% Owner _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below) _____ <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">EVP and CFO</div> | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|------------|---|---|---|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC., 4401 COLWICK ROAD | | | 3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year) 12/31/2020 | | | | | | |
| (Street) CHARLOTTE, NC 28211 | | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting (check applicable line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | |
| (City) (State) (Zip) | | | Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. 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 at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
| | | | | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Class A Common Stock | 05/01/2020 | | G ⁽¹⁾ | 23,651 | D | \$ 0 | 90,585 | D | |
| Class A Common Stock | 05/01/2020 | | A ⁽¹⁾ | 23,651 | A | \$ 0 | 23,651 | I | By Bucknell Avenue, LLC ⁽¹⁾ |

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.

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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 at End of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|-----------------|--|----------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | | | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | |
| | | | | | (A) (D) | | | | | | | | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|-------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Byrd Heath C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. 4401 COLWICK ROAD CHARLOTTE, NC 28211 | | | EVP and CFO | |

Signatures

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| /s/ Heath R. Byrd | 01/13/2021 |
| <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).
- On May 1, 2020, the reporting person contributed 23,651 directly owned shares of Class A Common stock to Bucknell Avenue, LLC (the "LLC"). The reporting person and (1) his wife collectively own all of the outstanding membership interests in the LLC and the reporting person exercises investment control over the shares of Class A Common Stock owned by the LLC.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided 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.