

# FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL	
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**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).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <b>SMITH DAVID BRUTON</b>		2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <b>SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH]</b>		5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) <b>Chairman and CEO</b>	
(Last) (First) (Middle) <b>C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC., 4401 COLWICK ROAD</b>		3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <b>08/24/2022</b>			
(Street) <b>CHARLOTTE, NC 28211</b>		4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(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)	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
Class A Common Stock	08/24/2022		M <sup>(1)</sup>		97,731	A	\$ 16.76	565,587	D	
Class A Common Stock	08/24/2022		S <sup>(1)</sup>		97,731	D	\$ 55.038 <sup>(2)</sup>	467,856	D	
Class A Common Stock	08/25/2022		M <sup>(1)</sup>		54,670	A	\$ 16.76	522,526	D	
Class A Common Stock	08/25/2022		S <sup>(1)</sup>		54,670	D	\$ 55.596 <sup>(3)</sup>	467,856	D	

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

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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 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		Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
Options to purchase	\$ 16.76	08/24/2022		M <sup>(1)</sup>		97,731	04/10/2020 <sup>(4)</sup>	04/10/2030	Class A Common Stock	97,731	\$ 0	207,071	D	
Options to purchase	\$ 16.76	08/25/2022		M <sup>(1)</sup>		54,670	04/10/2020 <sup>(4)</sup>	04/10/2030	Class A Common Stock	54,670	\$ 0	152,401	D	

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
SMITH DAVID BRUTON C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. 4401 COLWICK ROAD CHARLOTTE, NC 28211	X	X	Chairman and CEO	

## Signatures

/s/ David Bruton Smith		08/26/2022
Signature of Reporting Person		Date

## 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) Employee stock options exercised and corresponding shares sold pursuant to pre-established 10b5-1 Trading Plan.

This transaction was executed in multiple trades at prices ranging from \$55.00 per share to \$55.31 per share. The price reported reflects the weighted average sales price. The reporting person hereby undertakes to provide upon request to the SEC staff, the issuer or a security holder of the issuer full information regarding the number of shares purchased at each separate price within the range set forth in this footnote.

(2) This transaction was executed in multiple trades at prices ranging from \$55.00 per share to \$56.48 per share. The price reported reflects the weighted average sales price. The reporting person hereby undertakes to provide upon request to the SEC staff, the issuer or a security holder of the issuer full information regarding the number of shares purchased at each separate price within the range set forth in this footnote.

(3) The date indicated is the grant date, and the options vest in three equal annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date, subject to continued employment requirements and compliance with certain restrictive covenants.

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

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