KROGER CO Form 5

February 19, 2014

OMB APPROVAL FORM 5 **OMB** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION 3235-0362 Number: Washington, D.C. 20549 Check this box if January 31, Expires: no longer subject 2005 to Section 16. Estimated average ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL Form 4 or Form burden hours per 5 obligations OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES response... 1.0 may continue. See Instruction Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 1(b). Form 3 Holdings Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section Reported 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 Form 4 Transactions Reported 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer MCMULLEN W RODNEY Symbol KROGER CO [KR] (Check all applicable) 3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Last) (First) (Middle) (Month/Day/Year) _X_ Director 10% Owner Other (specify _X__ Officer (give title 02/01/2014 below) below) THE KROGER CO., Â 1014 VINE Chief Executive Officer **STREET** (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting Filed(Month/Day/Year) (check applicable line) CINCINNATI. OHÂ 45202 _X_ Form Filed by One Reporting Person Form Filed by More than One Reporting (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned 1. Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 3. 4. Securities 5. Amount of 6. 7. Nature of Acquired (A) or Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Transaction Securities Ownership Indirect (Instr. 3) Code Disposed of (D) Beneficially Form: Beneficial (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Owned at end of Direct (D) Ownership Issuer's Fiscal or Indirect (Instr. 4) (A) Year (I) or (Instr. 3 and 4) (Instr. 4) Amount (D) Price Common 955,674.6807 Â Â Â Â Â Â Â D Stock (1)(2)Persons who respond to the collection of information Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of **SEC 2270** securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. contained in this form are not required to respond unless (9-02)

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

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| 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) | Number | | | | 7. Title and Amount Underlying Securitie (Instr. 3 and 4) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--------|-----|---------------------|--------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| | | | | | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amour or Number of Shar |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option | \$ 17.31 | Â | Â | Â | Â | Â | (3) | 05/06/2014 | Common Stock | 75,00 |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option | \$ 16.385 | Â | Â | Â | Â | Â | (3) | 05/05/2015 | Common Stock | 75,00 |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option | \$ 19.94 | Â | Â | Â | Â | Â | (3) | 05/04/2016 | Common Stock | 60,00 |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option | \$ 28.27 | Â | Â | Â | Â | Â | (3) | 06/28/2017 | Common Stock | 60,00 |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option | \$ 28.61 | Â | Â | Â | Â | Â | (3) | 06/26/2018 | Common Stock | 65,00 |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option | \$ 22.34 | Â | Â | Â | Â | Â | (3) | 06/25/2019 | Common Stock | 65,00 |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option | \$ 20.16 | Â | Â | Â | Â | Â | (3) | 06/24/2020 | Common Stock | 70,00 |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option | \$ 24.74 | Â | Â | Â | Â | Â | (3) | 06/23/2021 | Common Stock | 91,44 |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option | \$ 21.96 | Â | Â | Â | Â | Â | (3) | 07/12/2022 | Common Stock | 97,44 |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option | \$ 37.76 | Â | Â | Â | Â | Â | (3) | 07/15/2023 | Common Stock | 97,44 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------|--|--|--|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other | | | |
| MCMULLEN W RODNEY THE KROGER CO. 1014 VINE STREET CINCINNATIÂ OHÂ 45202 | ÂX | Â | Chief Executive Officer | Â | | | |

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Signatures

/s/ W. Rodney McMullen 02/19/2014

**Signature of Reporting 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).
- Between February 2, 2013 and February 1, 2014, the reporting person acquired 1,934.2057 shares of Kroger common stock in the (1) Company's employee benefit plans that are deemed to be 'tax-conditioned plans' pursuant to Rule 16b-3,to the extent disclosed on reports received by plan trustees.
- (2) The total amount of securities directly owned by the reporting person includes shares in the Company's employee benefit plans that are deemed to be 'tax-conditioned plans' pursuant to Rule 16b-3, to the extent disclosed on reports received from plan trustees.
- (3) These options were granted under a long-term incentive plan of The Kroger Co. and vest in equal annual installments in whole amounts over a five-year period, at the rate of 20% per year commencing one year from the date of the grant.

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.

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