

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC  
Form 4  
February 14, 2017

# FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
SMITH DAVID BRUTON

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC., 4401 COLWICK ROAD

(Street)

CHARLOTTE, NC 28211

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)

02/12/2017

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

Vice Chairman

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

Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Class A Common Stock            | 02/12/2017                           |  | F                              | (A) or (D)<br>6,355 (1)   | \$ 23.8<br>220,493  | D  |   |
| Class A Common Stock            |                                      |  |                                |   | 69,686 (2)  | I  | As a member of SMDA Development I, LLC                |
| Class A Common Stock            | 02/12/2017                           |  | F                              | (A) or (D)<br>5,137 (1)   | \$ 23.8<br>215,356  | D  |   |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                |   | 69,686 (2)  | I  |   |

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|                            |            |  |   |                      |   |      |            |   |
|----------------------------|------------|--|---|----------------------|---|------|------------|---|
| Class A<br>Common<br>Stock |            |  |   |                      |   |      |            | As a member<br>of SMDA<br>Development<br>I, LLC |
| Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | 02/13/2017 |  | A | <u>55,921</u><br>(3) | A | \$ 0 | 271,277    | D   |
| Class A<br>Common<br>Stock |            |  |   |                      |   |      | 69,686 (2) | I   |
|                            |            |  |   |                      |   |      |            | As a member<br>of SMDA<br>Development<br>I, LLC |

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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(9-02)

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

| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 5. Number<br>of<br>Derivative<br>Securities<br>Acquired<br>(A) or<br>Disposed<br>of (D)<br>(Instr. 3,<br>4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Underlying<br>Securities<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) | 9. Nu<br>Deriv<br>Secur<br>Bene<br>Own<br>Follo<br>Repor<br>Trans<br>(Instr |
|---|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|
|   |  |   |   |                                      |  | Date<br>Exercisable  | Expiration<br>Date  | Title   | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares                                      |
|   |  |   |   |                                      |  | Code   | V (A) (D)   |   |   |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |               |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer       | Other |
| SMITH DAVID BRUTON<br>C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.<br>4401 COLWICK ROAD<br>CHARLOTTE, NC 28211 | X             |           | Vice Chairman |       |

## Signatures

/s/ David Bruton  
Smith

02/14/2017

          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) Represents shares delivered by the reporting person to Sonic Automotive, Inc. to satisfy withholding tax obligations due upon vesting of restricted stock units.
  - (2) The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by SMDA Development I, LLC except to the extent of his pecuniary interest, if any, therein.  
  
Represents shares of Class A Common Stock issuable upon conversion of restricted stock units granted by the Compensation Committee of Sonic Automotive, Inc. pursuant to the Sonic Automotive, Inc. 2012 Stock Incentive Plan. The restricted stock units may only be settled in shares of Class A Common Stock and are subject to forfeiture based on the satisfaction of performance criteria for fiscal year 2017. If the performance criteria are met, this award will vest in three annual installments, with twenty-five percent (25%) of the shares vesting on March 31, 2018, thirty percent (30%) of the shares vesting on February 13, 2019 and forty-five percent (45%) of the shares vesting on February 13, 2020.
  - (3)

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.