

PROVIDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES INC
 Form 4
 August 23, 2006

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, 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 *
 WARD KEVIN J

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 PROVIDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES INC [PFS]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 830 BERGEN AVENUE
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 08/21/2006

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Vice Chairman and COO

JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306
 (City) (State) (Zip)

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

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 Ownership (Instr. 4) | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|---------|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | Price | | | | | |
| Common Stock | 08/21/2006 | | F | V | 5,018 | D | \$ 18.34 | 74,192 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | 3,800 | I | By Wife |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | 33,792 ⁽¹⁾ | I | By ESIP |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | 2,519 | I | By SERP |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | 4,075 | I | By ESOP |

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

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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 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. P | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Stock Options | \$ 18.57 | | | | | 07/17/2004 | 07/17/2013 | Common Stock | 330,000 <u>(2)</u> |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| WARD KEVIN J 830 BERGEN AVENUE JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306 | | | Vice Chairman and COO | |

Signatures

/s/ John F. Kuntz, pursuant to power of attorney
08/22/2006
Date

__Signature of Reporting Person

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) Reflects transaction not required to be reported pursuant to Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
- (2) Stock options vest at a rate of 20% per year over a period ending on July 17, 2008.

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.