

PROVIDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES INC  
 Form 4  
 February 24, 2006

**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 \*  
 MULKERIN JOHN P

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)  
 02/22/2006

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

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		
				Code	V	Amount	
Common Stock					403,970	D	
Common Stock					26,792 <sup>(3)</sup>	I	By 401(k) <sup>(1)</sup>
Common Stock					625 <sup>(3)</sup>	I	By ESOP <sup>(2)</sup>

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

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SEC 1474  
 (9-02)

number.

**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. Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Options	\$ 18.55	02/22/2006		A	7,000	02/22/2007 02/22/2016	Common Stock	7,000 <u>(4)</u>

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
MULKERIN JOHN P 830 BERGEN AVENUE JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306	X			

## Signatures

/s/ John F. Kuntz, pursuant to power of attorney

02/23/2006

\*\*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) Shares of common stock currently held in the First Sentinel Bancorp, Inc. 401(k) Plan.
- (2) Shares of common stock currently held in the First Sentinel Bancorp, Inc. employee stock ownership plan.
- (3) Reflects transaction not required to be reported pursuant to Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
- (4) Stock options vest at a rate of 20% per year over a period ending on February 22, 2011.

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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