

PROVIDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES INC  
 Form 3  
 January 31, 2012

**FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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**INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 *		2. Date of Event Requiring Statement	3. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol	
Â Christy James A.		(Month/Day/Year)	PROVIDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES INC [PFS]	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer	5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)
239 WASHINGTON STREET			(Check all applicable)	
(Street)			<input type="checkbox"/> Director	<input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner
JERSEY CITY,Â NJÂ 07302			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	(give title below) (specify below)	
			SVP, CRO of Provident Bank / General Auditor	
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				

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock	2,512	D	Â
Common Stock	1,171	I	By 401(k)
Common Stock	6,309	I	By ESOP

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

**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.**

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security	4. Conversion or Exercise	5. Ownership Form of	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
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	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	(Instr. 4) Title	Amount or Number of Shares	Price of Derivative Security	Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	(Instr. 5)
Stock Options	02/03/2010	02/03/2019	Common Stock	1,560 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 10.4	D	Â
Stock Options	01/29/2009	01/29/2018	Common Stock	1,060 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 12.54	D	Â
Stock Options	01/29/2008	01/29/2017	Common Stock	10,753 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 17.94	D	Â
Stock Options	02/22/2007	02/22/2016	Common Stock	5,000 <sup>(4)</sup>	\$ 18.55	D	Â
Stock Options	07/21/2006	07/21/2015	Common Stock	5,000 <sup>(4)</sup>	\$ 18.03	D	Â
Stock Options	07/17/2004	07/17/2013	Common Stock	7,000 <sup>(4)</sup>	\$ 18.57	D	Â

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Christy James A. 239 WASHINGTON STREET JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302	Â	Â	Â SVP, CRO of Provident Bank	General Auditor

## Signatures

/s/ John F. Kuntz, Pursuant to Power of Attorney  
 Date: 01/31/2012

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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) Stock options vest at a rate of 20% per year over a period ending February 3, 2014.
- (2) Stock options vest at a rate of 20% per year over a period ending January 29, 2013.
- (3) Stock options vest at a rate of 20% per year over a period ending January 29, 2012.
- (4) Stock options have fully vested.

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.