

Kearney Michael  
Form 4  
February 21, 2012

**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 \*  
Kearney Michael

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
ASBURY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP INC [ABG]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
02/16/2012

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
EVP & COO

C/O ASBURY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP, INC., 2905 PREMIERE PARKWAY NW

(Street)

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

DULUTH, GA 30097

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price
Common stock, par value \$.01 per share	02/16/2012		F		<u>7,186</u> <sup>(1)</sup>	D	\$ 0 140,141
Common stock, par value \$.01 per share	02/16/2012		M		<u>15,634</u> <sup>(2)</sup>	A	\$ 0 155,775
Common stock, par	02/16/2012		F		<u>6,637</u> <sup>(3)</sup>	D	\$ 0 149,138

value \$.01  
per share

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)
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title Amount or Number of Shares
Performance Shares	(4)	02/16/2012		M	15,634	(4) (4)	Common stock, par value \$.01 per share 15,634

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Kearney Michael C/O ASBURY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP, INC. 2905 PREMIERE PARKWAY NW DULUTH, GA 30097			EVP & COO	

## Signatures

Darlene Quashie,  
Attorney-in-Fact  
02/21/2012  
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) Represents the number of shares of the Issuer's common stock withheld for payment of taxes on shares of restricted stock granted on February 16, 2010.

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- These shares of the Issuer's common stock were awarded by the Issuer to the Reporting Person as settlement of certain performance shares that were granted for the performance period of fiscal year 2010 (the "2010 Period"). Each performance share converts into one share of the Issuer's common stock and the vesting of such performance shares are contingent upon the Issuer meeting certain performance objectives over the 2010 Period. Had the Issuer's achieved 100% of its performance goals for the 2010 Period, the Reporting Person would have received 35,000 shares. The Issuer achieved 134% of its targeted performance goals for the 2010 Period and thus awarded the Reported Person 46,900 shares of its common stock, representing 134% of the targeted amount. One-third of these performance shares vested as of the grant date and these shares represent the second vested tranche of this award, with the final tranche vesting on the third anniversary of the grant date.
- (2)
- (3) Represents the number of shares of the Issuer's common stock withheld for payment of taxes on performance shares granted on February 16, 2010.
- Each performance share represents a contingent right to receive a share of the Issuer's common stock based on the Issuer's performance during the 2010 Period and the award granted to the Reporting Person as a result of such performance. In order for the Reporting Person to receive these performance shares on the second and third anniversaries of the grant date, the Reporting Person must be an employee of the Issuer on such dates. This transaction represents the vesting of the second tranche of this award.
- (4)

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.