PROVIDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES INC Form 3 January 31, 2012 FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

# Washington, D.C. 20549

## 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

#### OMB APPROVAL

OMB 3235-0104 Number: January 31, 2005 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <sup>*</sup> Christy James A.			2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol PROVIDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES INC [PFS]					
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	01/27/2012	4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer			5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)		
239 WASHINGTON STREET (Street)				(Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner			6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)		
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302				XOfficer (give title below SVP, CRO c			_X_Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	Table I - N	on-Derivati	ive Securiti	es Be	neficially Owned		
1.Title of Secu (Instr. 4)	rity		2. Amount o Beneficially (Instr. 4)		3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nat Owne (Instr.	1		
Common St	ock		2,512		D	Â			
Common Stock			1,171		Ι	By 4	By 401(k)		
Common Stock			6,309		Ι	By E	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	2. Date Exercisable and	3. Title and Amount of	4.	5.	6. Nature of Indirect
(Instr. 4)	Expiration Date	Securities Underlying	Conversion	Ownership	Beneficial
	(Month/Day/Year)	Derivative Security	or Exercise	Form of	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 <u>(1)</u>	\$ 10.4	D	Â
Stock Options	01/29/2009	01/29/2018	Common Stock	1,060 <u>(2)</u>	\$ 12.54	D	Â
Stock Options	01/29/2008	01/29/2017	Common Stock	10,753 <u>(3)</u>	\$ 17.94	D	Â
Stock Options	02/22/2007	02/22/2016	Common Stock	5,000 <u>(4)</u>	\$ 18.55	D	Â
Stock Options	07/21/2006	07/21/2015	Common Stock	5,000 <u>(4)</u>	\$ 18.03	D	Â
Stock Options	07/17/2004	07/17/2013	Common Stock	7,000 (4)	\$ 18.57	D	Â

# **Reporting Owners**

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
	Director	rector 10% Owner Officer		Other			
Christy James A. 239 WASHINGTON STREET JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302	Â	Â	SVP, CRO of Provident Bank	General Auditor			
Signatures							
/s/ John F. Kuntz, Pursuant to Po Attorney	wer of	/31/2012					
**Signature of Reporting Person	1		Date				
Explanation of Responses:							
* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, <i>see</i> 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.