#### STERLING BANCORP

Form 5

January 26, 2009

## FORM 5

#### **OMB APPROVAL**

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

**OMB** 3235-0362 Number: January 31,

no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue.

Check this box if

Expires: 2005 Estimated average

### ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

burden hours per response... 1.0

10% Owner

\_ Other (specify

See Instruction Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 1(b). Form 3 Holdings Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section Reported

Form 4

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

Transactions Reported

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \* 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer **Ugelow Seth** Symbol STERLING BANCORP [STL] 3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Last) (First) (Middle) (Month/Day/Year) Director

12/31/2008

(Check all applicable)

below)

STERLING BANCORP, 650 FIFTH AVENUE

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

below)

\_X\_\_ Officer (give title

Sr. Vice President/Controller

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

(check applicable line)

NEW YORK, NYÂ 10019

\_X\_ Form Filed by One Reporting Person Form Filed by More than One Reporting

(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) o Disposed of (D (Instr. 3, 4 and	)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at end of Issuer's	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
						Fiscal Year	(111811.4)	(111811.4)
				Amount (D)	Price	(Instr. 3 and 4)		

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

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.

**SEC 2270** (9-02)

#### Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of	2.	3. Transaction Date	3A. Deemed	4.	5.	6. Date Exercisable and	7. Title and Amo
Derivative	Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transaction	Number	Expiration Date	Underlying Secur
Security	or Exercise		any	Code	of	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 3 and 4)
(Instr 3)	Price of		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr 8)	Derivative		

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Derivative Securities
Security Acquired
(A) or
Disposed
of (D)
(Instr. 3,

(A) (D) Date Exercisable Expiration Title

4, and 5)

Date

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or Nu of Sha

5

Non-qualified

stock options \$ 17.99  $\hat{A}$   $\hat{A}$   $\hat{A}$   $\hat{A}$   $\hat{A}$   $\hat{A}$  03/15/2012 $\underline{^{(1)}}$  03/15/2017  $\underline{^{(1)}}$  Stock

**Reporting Owners** 

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Ugelow Seth

STERLING BANCORP 650 FIFTH AVENUE Â Â Â Sr. Vice President/Controller Â

NEW YORK, NYÂ 10019

# **Signatures**

/s/ Ugelow, Seth 02/12/2009

\*\*Signature of Date
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) Non-qualified options become exercisable commencing on the fifth anniversary of the grant for a term of 10 years from grant date (first exercisable date listed).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided 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.

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