

STERLING BANCORP  
Form 5  
February 11, 2005

**FORM 5**

**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).  
Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

**ANNUAL 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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
CICERO JOSEPH J  
  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
STERLING BANCORP [STL]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
  
(Check all applicable)  
 Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
Sr. VP and Controller

650 FIFTH AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR  
  
(Street)

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)  
12/31/2004

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting  
  
(check applicable line)

NEW YORK, NY 10019  
  
(City) (State) (Zip)

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 at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	788	I	By 401(k)
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	3,137	I	By ESOP

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

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**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
Incentive Stock Options (right to buy)	\$ 11.13	Â	Â	3 <sup>(1)</sup>	Â Â	02/14/2002 02/14/2011	Common Stock	1,980
Incentive Stock Options (right to buy)	\$ 15.32	Â	Â	3 <sup>(1)</sup>	Â Â	02/06/2003 02/06/2012	Common Stock	5,400

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
CICERO JOSEPH J 650 FIFTH AVENUE 4TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10019	Â	Â	Â Sr. VP and Controller	Â

## Signatures

/s/ Cicero,  
Joseph J

02/11/2005

\*\*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) Includes securities issued as a result of a stock split in the form of a 20% dividend paid by issuer on December 8, 2004; exercise prices have been adjusted accordingly.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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