

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 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>Peraino Vito C</u> | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>03/12/2012</u> | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC [AFG]</u> | |
| | | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Sr. VP & General Counsel</u> | 5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>301 EAST FOURTH STREET</u> | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |
| (Street) <u>CINCINNATI OH 45202</u> | | | |
| (City) (State) (Zip) | | | |

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) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <u>Common Stock</u> | <u>43,495.343⁽¹⁾</u> | <u>D</u> | |

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 (Instr. 4) | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|-------------------|---|--|--|---|
| | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | | | | |
| <u>Stock Option Grant</u> | <u>(2)</u> | <u>02/27/2014</u> | <u>Common Stock</u> | <u>18,000</u> | <u>20.01</u> | <u>D</u> |
| <u>Stock Option Grant</u> | <u>(2)</u> | <u>02/24/2015</u> | <u>Common Stock</u> | <u>22,501</u> | <u>20.28</u> | <u>D</u> |
| <u>Stock Option Grant</u> | <u>(2)</u> | <u>02/22/2016</u> | <u>Common Stock</u> | <u>22,500</u> | <u>26.89</u> | <u>D</u> |
| <u>Stock Option Grant</u> | <u>(2)</u> | <u>02/22/2017</u> | <u>Common Stock</u> | <u>18,750</u> | <u>36.57</u> | <u>D</u> |
| <u>Stock Option Grant</u> | <u>(2)</u> | <u>02/21/2018</u> | <u>Common Stock</u> | <u>18,000</u> | <u>27.2</u> | <u>D</u> |
| <u>Stock Option Grant</u> | <u>(2)</u> | <u>02/12/2019</u> | <u>Common Stock</u> | <u>18,000</u> | <u>19.1</u> | <u>D</u> |
| <u>Stock Option Grant</u> | <u>(2)</u> | <u>02/11/2020</u> | <u>Common Stock</u> | <u>11,000</u> | <u>24.83</u> | <u>D</u> |
| <u>Stock Option Grant</u> | <u>(2)</u> | <u>02/16/2021</u> | <u>Common Stock</u> | <u>12,000</u> | <u>34.34</u> | <u>D</u> |

Explanation of Responses:

1. Includes 12,430 shares of restricted stock that vest four years from the date of grant and 1,072.343 shares held in the Issuer's dividend reinvestment plan.

2. These Employee Stock Options were granted under the Issuer's Stock Option Plan and 2005 Stock Incentive Plan and become exercisable in five equal installments beginning on the first anniversary of the grant date.

Remarks:

Vito C. Peraino03/14/2012

** Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

* 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).

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

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 Number.