KROGER CO Form 4 July 14, 2017

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

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OMB APPROVAL

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

Check this box

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 may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction

(Print or Type Responses)

1(b).

(Last)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Gates Anne

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

KROGER CO [KR]

(Check all applicable)

C/O THE KROGER CO., 1014

(First)

(Street)

(Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year) 07/13/2017

X_ Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify below)

VINE STREET

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

CINCINNATI, OH 45202

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if (Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially (D) or Owned Indirect (I) Following (Instr. 4) Reported

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)

(A) or

Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

Code V Amount (D) Price

6,799 D

Common Stock

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)

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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. Transacti Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number on f 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. Price Derive Secure (Instr.
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Phantom Stock - Incentive Shares	\$ 0 <u>(1)</u>	07/13/2017		A	7,237	(2)	(2)	Common Stock	7,237	\$

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
•	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
Gates Anne C/O THE KROGER CO. 1014 VINE STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202	X					

Signatures

/s/ Anne Gates, by Stacey M. Heiser,
Attorney-in-Fact

**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) Each phantom share represents the right to receive one common share upon distribution from the deferred compensation account.
- (2) Shares of phantom stock will be distributed following termination of the reporting person's services as an Independent Director of The Kroger Co.

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.

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