Byrne Richard J Form 4 May 29, 2018

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

MFA FINANCIAL, INC. [MFA]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year)

05/24/2018

Check this box if no longer

subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

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 Number:

3235-0287

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January 31, 2005

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(Print or Type Responses)

1(b).

(Last)

1. Title of

Security

(Instr. 3)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Byrne Richard J

> (First) (Middle)

C/O MFA FINANCIAL, INC., 350 PARK AVENUE, 20TH FLOOR

(Street)

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

Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

6. Ownership

Form: Direct

7. Nature of

Ownership

(Instr. 4)

Indirect

(D) or Indirect Beneficial

5. Amount of

Beneficially

Securities

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

NEW YORK, NY 10022

(City)

(State) (Zip)

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)

Reported (A) Transaction(s) or

Owned (I) (Instr. 4) Following

(Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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

1. Title of Derivative Conversion Security or Exercise

3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if any

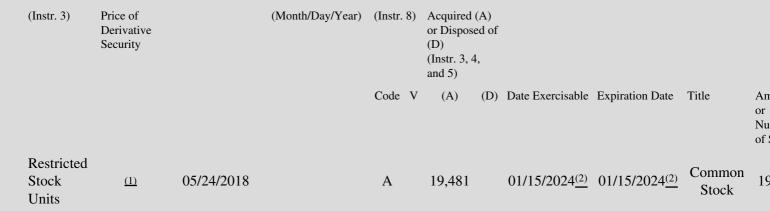
4. 5. Number of TransactionDerivative Code Securities

6. Date Exercisable and Expiration

(Month/Day/Year)

7. Title and Amo Underlying Secu (Instr. 3 and 4)

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Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Byrne Richard J

C/O MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

C/O MFA FINANCIAL, INC. 350 PARK AVENUE, 20TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10022

Signatures

/s/ Harold E. Schwartz, by power of attorney

05/29/2018

**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 restricted stock unit represents the right to receive one share of MFA Financial, Inc. common stock.
- The restricted stock units were fully vested as of the date of grant and will be settled in an equivalent number of shares of MFA common stock. Except in certain circumstances, the restricted stock units will be settled on the earlier of (i) the reporting person's termination of service as a director of MFA Financial, Inc. and (ii) on or about January 15, 2024.

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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