

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0287
Estimated average burden hours per response:	0.5

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>PALAGIANO VINCENT F</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>209 HAVEMEYER STREET</u>  (Street) <u>BROOKLYN NY 11211</u>  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>DIME COMMUNITY BANCSHARES INC</u> [ <u>DCOM</u> ]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Chairman and CEO</u>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>05/26/2004</u>	
		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person  <input type="checkbox"/> 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 Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	05/26/2004		M		50,000	A	\$4.3	655,623	D	
Common Stock	05/26/2004		S		50,000	D	\$17	605,623	D	
Common Stock								75,136	I	401(k) Plan
Common Stock								48,570	I	ESOP
Common Stock								252,597	I	BMP

**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 Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Stock Options (Right to buy)	\$4.3	05/26/2004		M			50,000	12/26/1997	12/26/2006	Common Stock	50,000	\$4.3	292,405	D	
Stock Options (Right to buy)	\$10.91							11/21/2002	11/21/2011	Common Stock	168,750		168,750	D	
Stock Options (Right to buy)	\$13.16							02/01/2004	02/01/2013	Common Stock	174,750		174,750	D	
Stock Options (Right to buy)	\$19.9							01/27/2008	01/27/2014	Common Stock	174,750		174,750	D	

Explanation of Responses:

VINCENT F. PALAGIANO      05/28/2004

\*\* 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 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).

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.