

// Check 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

U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20549  
 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP  
 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(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person FARRELL JOSEPH H. (Last) (First) (Middle) 209 HAVEMEYER STREET BROOKLYN NEW YORK 11211 (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol DIME COMMUNITY BANCORP, INC.("DIME")	6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) X Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other (Specify below)	3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)	4. Statement for Month/Year December 31, 1996	5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)
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TABLE 1 -- NON-DERIVATIVE SECURITIES ACQUIRED, DISPOSED OF, OR BENEFICIALLY OWNED

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr.4)
COMMON STOCK	02/01/97	A	15,870 A \$18.64	15,870	I	By RRP Trust
TOTAL				15,870	I	
TOTAL				30,000	D	

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

FORM 5 (continued) 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)	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. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)
STOCK OPTIONS	\$14.50	12/26/96	A	39,675	12/26/97 12/26/06	COMMON STOCK 39,675	\$14.50

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
STOCK OPTIONS	39,675	I	STOCK OPTION PLAN

[FN]  
 Acquisition of shares pursuant to the Recognition and Retention Plan for Outside Directors, Officers and Employees of Dime Community Bancorp, Inc. Acquisition of shares pursuant to the Dime Community Bancorp, Inc. 1996 Stock Option Plan for Outside Directors, Officers and Employees. 7,935 shares become exercisable on December 26, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001, respectively.

/s/ MICHAEL P. DEVINE August 7, 1997  
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 \*\*Signature of Reporting Person Date  
 By: Michael P. Devine, as attorney-in-fact  
 For: Joseph H. Farrell

\*\*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 provided is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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