



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

Explanation of Responses:

Vesting of a portion of the 15,870 shares acquired on February 1, 1997 pursuant to the Recognition and Retention Plan for Outside Directors, Officers and Employees of Dime Community Bancshares, Inc.

/s/ LOUIS V. VARONE	August 9, 2001
**Signature of Reporting Person By: Louis V. Varone	Date

\*\*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.

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.