

Tunnessen James E
 Form 4
 August 07, 2012

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF 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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 Tunnessen James E

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O FIESTA RESTAURANT GROUP, INC., 968 JAMES STREET

(Street)

SYRACUSE, NY 13203

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

Fiesta Restaurant Group, Inc. [FRGI]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)

08/03/2012

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

EVP - Pollo Tropical

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)

___X___ Form filed by One Reporting Person
 ___ 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 Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| | | | | Code | V | Amount | | |
| Common Stock, \$0.01 par value | 08/03/2012 | | A | 5,000 | A (1) | \$ 0 (1) | 82,572 | D |

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Owned Beneficially (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|----------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Tunnessen James E C/O FIESTA RESTAURANT GROUP, INC. 968 JAMES STREET SYRACUSE, NY 13203 | | | EVP - Pollo Tropical | |

Signatures

/s/ James E. Tunnessen 08/07/2012

 **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) The Shares were granted to the Reporting Person pursuant to the Issuer's 2012 Stock Incentive Plan and subject to restrictions on transfer. The stock award reported herein shall vest (and the restrictions shall lapse) as follows: (i) one-fourth (1/4) of the Shares reported herein shall vest (and the restrictions shall lapse) on August 3, 2013 and (ii) an additional one-fourth (1/4) of the Shares reported herein shall vest (and the restrictions shall lapse) on each of August 3, 2014, August 3, 2015 and August 3, 2016, provided that the Reporting Person has continuously remained a director of the Issuer. Any unvested shares underlying the stock award reported herein will be immediately forfeited upon the Reporting Person ceasing to be a director. The stock award reported herein is not transferable unless vested.
- 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.