

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>FREYDBERG RONALD A</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O MFA FINANCIAL, INC.</u> <u>350 PARK AVENUE, 20TH FLOOR</u> (Street) <u>NEW YORK NY 10022</u> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>MFA FINANCIAL, INC. [MFA]</u> 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>12/31/2012</u> 4. If Amendment, Date of 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) <u>Executive Vice President</u> 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
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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, par value \$0.01 per share	12/31/2012		M		78,125 ⁽¹⁾	A	\$0	512,138	D	
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	12/31/2012		F		35,993 ⁽²⁾	D	\$8.11	476,145	D	
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	12/31/2012		F		5,428 ⁽³⁾	D	\$8.11	470,717	D	

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	Amount or Number of Shares				
PHANTOM STOCK	(4)	12/31/2012		M			78,125	12/31/2012	12/31/2012	COMMON STOCK	78,125	(4)	0	D	

Explanation of Responses:

1. SHARES ACQUIRED PURSUANT TO THE SETTLEMENT OF RESTRICTED STOCK UNITS (I.E. PHANTOM STOCK) GRANTED TO THE REPORTING PERSON ON OCTOBER 26, 2007 WHICH VESTED IN FULL ON DECEMBER 31, 2010.
2. THE REPORTED DISPOSITION REPRESENTS THE SURRENDER OF SHARES TO SATISFY TAX OBLIGATIONS ARISING FROM THE VESTING AND SETTLEMENT OF RESTRICTED STOCK UNITS (I.E. PHANTOM STOCK).
3. THE REPORTED DISPOSITION REPRESENTS THE SURRENDER OF SHARES TO SATISFY TAX OBLIGATIONS ARISING FROM THE VESTING OF RESTRICTED STOCK.
4. EACH SHARE OF PHANTOM STOCK WAS THE ECONOMIC EQUIVALENT OF ONE SHARE OF MFA COMMON STOCK. THE REPORTING PERSON SETTLED THEIR SHARES OF PHANTOM STOCK FOR SHARES OF MFA COMMON STOCK.

Remarks:/s/Ronald A. Freydborg01/02/2013

** 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.