

AMERICAN EXPRESS CO  
Form 4  
January 28, 2011

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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

**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 \*  
PARENT LOUISE M

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3 WORLD FINANCIAL  
CENTER, 200 VESEY ST,  
AMERICAN EXPRESS TOWER

(Street)

NEW YORK, NY 10285

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
AMERICAN EXPRESS CO [AXP]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
01/26/2011

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
EVP, General Counsel

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)<br>Code V Amount Price                                 |   |  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 01/26/2011                           |  | A <sup>(1)</sup>               | V 2,050 A \$ 44.46  | 246,455   | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 01/26/2011                           |  | F <sup>(2)</sup>               | 878 D \$ 44.46  | 245,577   | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 83 <sup>(3)</sup>   | I  | By 401(k) Plan  |

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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)       | \$ 44.54   | 01/27/2011                           |  | A                              | 20,603  | 01/27/2012 <sup>(4)</sup> 01/27/2021                     | Common Stock  | 20,603                     |

## Reporting Owners

### Reporting Owner Name / Address

### Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

PARENT LOUISE M  
3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER  
200 VESEY ST, AMERICAN EXPRESS TOWER  
NEW YORK, NY 10285

EVP, General Counsel

## Signatures

/s/ Michael G. Kuchs,  
attorney-in-fact

01/28/2011

\*\*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) Shares acquired pursuant to the vesting of Restricted Stock Units (i.e., "performance units") granted to the reporting person on January 26, 2010.
- (2) The reported disposition represents the surrender of shares to satisfy tax obligations arising from the vesting of Restricted Stock Units.
- (3) Shares held in reporting person's account under the Company's Retirement Savings Plan. This plan uses unit accounting, and the number of shares that a participant is deemed to hold varies with the unit price of the Company pooled stock fund.
- (4) These options become exercisable in four equal annual installments beginning on date shown as "Date Exercisable."

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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