

GABRIEL JAMES A

Form 4

January 21, 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 *
GABRIEL JAMES A

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading
 Symbol
**COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM
 INC [CBU]**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
 Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
01/19/2011

☒ Director ☐ 10% Owner
☐ Officer (give title below) ☐ Other (specify below)

P.O. BOX 449

(Street)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
 Applicable Line)
☒ Form filed by One Reporting Person
☐ Form filed by More than One Reporting
 Person

OVID, NY 14521

(City) (State) (Zip)

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 (D) Price			

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

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SEC 1474
 (9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)
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(Instr. 3)	Price of Derivative Security	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)							
			Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Stock Option	\$ 27.36	01/19/2011	A		3,850		01/19/2011	01/19/2021	Common Stock	3,850	
Phantom Stock (Stock Balance Plan)	<u>(1)</u>	12/31/2010	J	V	602.39		<u>(1)</u>	<u>(1)</u>	Common Stock	602.39	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
GABRIEL JAMES A P.O. BOX 449 OVID, NY 14521	X			

Signatures

Donna J. Drengel, as attorney-in-fact, pursuant to a power of attorney for James A. Gabriel

01/21/2011

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) These units were acquired during the 2010 calendar year pursuant to the Stock Balance Plan's dividend reinvestment feature. Each phantom stock unit is the economic equivalent of one share of Community Bank System, Inc. common stock. The phantom stock units relating to the Stock Balance Plan may be settled upon the later of the reporting person's attainment of age 55 or termination of service on Community Bank System, Inc.'s Board of Directors.

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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