

Dance Michael T
 Form 4
 May 20, 2010

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 *
 Dance Michael T

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 ESSEX PROPERTY TRUST INC
 [ESS]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

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

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Executive V.P./ CFO

C/O ESSEX PROPERTY TRUST,
 INC., 925 EAST MEADOW DRIVE

(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

PALO ALTO, CA 94303

(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 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) | Code | V | Amount | (D) | Price |

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

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 control number.

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 (9-02)

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

| 1. Title of Derivative | 2. Conversion | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if | 4. Transaction | 5. Number of Derivative | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities | 8. P |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---|--|------|
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---|--|------|

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| Security (Instr. 3) | or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | any (Month/Day/Year) | Code (Instr. 8) | Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 3 and 4) | Sec (Ins) | |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------|-----------------|---|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Series Z-1 Incentive Units | (1) | 05/18/2010 | J(1) | | 11,000 | (1) (1) | Series Z-1 Incentive Units | 11,000 \$ |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Dance Michael T C/O ESSEX PROPERTY TRUST, INC. 925 EAST MEADOW DRIVE PALO ALTO, CA 94303 | | | Executive V.P./ CFO | |

Signatures

/s/ Michael T.
Dance 05/20/2010
 **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).
 Represents the grant of Series Z-1 Incentive Units pursuant to the Essex Portfolio, L.P. Long Term Incentive Plan issued in May 2010. On January 1, 2011 there will be a 20% conversion ratchet if the FFO target of \$4.75 is achieved. Subsequent vesting will be tied to the
 - (1) percentage increase in FFO with a minimum of 0% and a maximum of 14%. The 2010 Z-1 Units will be convertible into OP units at the earliest of 1) a change in control, 2) after the entire 2010 grant reaches a 100% conversion percentage, 3) on January 1, 2026 (no additional vesting to occur after 15 years).
 - (2) A capital contribution of \$1.00 per series Z-1 Incentive Units.

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.