

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

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

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>Tunnessen James E</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O CARROLS RESTAURANT GROUP, INC.</u> <u>968 JAMES STREET</u> (Street) <u>SYRACUSE</u> <u>NY</u> <u>13203</u> (City) (State) (Zip) | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>CARROLS RESTAURANT GROUP, INC.</u> [<u>TAST</u>] | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Executive VP- Pollo Tropical</u> | |
| | | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>12/20/2006</u> | | | |
| | | | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|------------|-------|---|--|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |

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 | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | | | | | |
| Options (right to buy) | \$13 | 12/20/2006 | | A | | | | (1) 12/13/2013 | Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share 9,600 | \$0 | 9,600 | D | |
| Options (right to buy) | \$15.6 | 12/20/2006 | | A | | | | (1) 12/13/2013 | Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share 9,600 | \$0 | 9,600 | D | |

Explanation of Responses:

1. The Reporting Person's options were granted pursuant to the Issuer's 2006 Stock Incentive Plan and will vest and become exercisable over a period of five years, with one-fifth (1/5) of such options becoming exercisable on December 13, 2007, and an additional one-sixtieth (1/60) of such options vesting and becoming exercisable on the first day of each month after December 13, 2007.

/s/ James E. Tunnessen 12/20/2006
** 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.