

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 *<br><b>NOBLE DAVID J</b><br><br>(Last) (First) (Middle)<br><b>5000 WESTOWN PARKWAY, SUITE 440</b><br><br>(Street)<br><b>WEST DES MOINES IA 50266</b><br><br>(City) (State) (Zip) |  |  | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><b>AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO [ AEL ]</b> |  | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)<br><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner<br><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)<br><br><b>Chairman</b> |  |
|   |  |  | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br><b>05/08/2009</b>                                    |  |  |  |
|   |  |  | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)   |  | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)<br><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person<br><br>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                         | (A) (D)  | Date Exercisable Expiration Date                         | Title Amount or Number of Shares  |  |  |   |  |
| Options - Right to Buy                     | \$7  | 05/08/2009                           |  | A                              | 40,000   | 05/08/2012 05/08/2019                                    | Common Stock 40,000   | \$0  | 40,000   | D   |  |

Explanation of Responses:

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of Attorney. 06/16/2009

\*\* 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.