

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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>PEARLMAN EMANUEL R</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>350 EAST 79TH STREET</u> (Street) <u>NEW YORK NY 10075</u> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>EMPIRE RESORTS INC [NYNY]</u>	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Executive Chairman</u>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>03/13/2018</u>	
4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)		

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			
Common Stock, \$.01 par value per share	03/13/2018		A		25,000	A	\$0.00 ⁽¹⁾	180,859	D	

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			

Explanation of Responses:

1. Mr. Pearlman was granted 25,000 restricted stock units ("RSUs") under the Empire Resorts, Inc. 2015 Equity Incentive Plan, as amended (the "Plan"), which RSUs vest annually in three equal installments, with one third vesting on March 13, 2019, one third vesting on March 13, 2020 and one third vesting on March 13, 2021; provided that the RSUs shall vest immediately: (i) upon a Change in Control, (ii) if Mr. Pearlman is terminated as Executive Chairman for any reason other than for Cause, or (iii) if Mr. Pearlman is removed from the Board of Directors by the shareholders other than for cause or he is not re-nominated by Kien Huat Realty III Limited to stand for election to the Board of Directors. Subject to Mr. Pearlman's continued employment with the Company, the shares of common stock deliverable upon vesting of the RSUs shall be delivered on March 13, 2023. All capitalized but undefined terms have the meanings ascribed thereto by the Plan.

Remarks:

/s/ Nanette L. Horner, by 03/15/2018
Power of Attorney

** 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.

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