

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0104
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1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * <u>JOHNSON TIMOTHY A</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>300 PHILLIPI ROAD</u> (Street) <u>COLUMBUS OH 43228</u> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>02/03/2004</u>	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>BIG LOTS INC</u> [<u>BLI</u>] 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <div>Director10% Owner</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below)Other (specify below)</div> <div><u>VP, Strategic Plan/Investor Re</u></div>	5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person</div> <div>Form filed by More than One Reporting Person</div>
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Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
401(k) Holdings	1,682 ⁽¹⁾	D	

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
Stock Purchase Option	08/21/2001 ⁽²⁾	08/21/2010	Common Stock	5,000	14.06	D	
Stock Purchase Option	03/05/2002 ⁽²⁾	03/05/2011	Common Stock	3,500	11.74	D	
Stock Purchase Option	02/25/2003 ⁽²⁾	02/25/2012	Common Stock	2,500	11.98	D	
Stock Purchase Option	02/24/2004 ⁽²⁾	02/24/2013	Common Stock	3,500	10.85	D	
Stock Purchase Option	02/02/2005 ⁽²⁾	02/02/2014	Common Stock	20,000	14.28	D	

Explanation of Responses:

1. Interest in securities held in the Company's Savings Plan ("401(k)").
2. Dates in this column reflect the first of five annual vesting dates upon which 20% of the Stock Purchase Option becomes exercisable.

Remarks:

Charles W. Haubiel II, attorney in fact for
Timothy A. Johnson
** Signature of Reporting Person

02/05/2004
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 5 (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.

SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

THE UNDERSIGNED, Timothy A. Johnson, presently residing at 5526 Long Cove Court, Westerville, Ohio 43082, does hereby appoint Albert J. Bell, Charles W. Haubiel and _____ as my attorneys-in-fact, who are promulgated from time-to-time under either of such Acts, or the rules of any securities exchange.

This Special Power of Attorney is limited to the specific acts herein described and is made effective the date last below written, and shall continue in full force and effect until the date of termination hereof.

/s/ Timothy A. Johnson

TIMOTHY A. JOHNSON

STATE OF OHIO)

) ss

COUNTY OF FRANKLIN)

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary Public in and for said county and state, did personally appear on this 4th day of February, 2004, the above-signed individual known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

/s/ Leshell L. Duncan

NOTARY PUBLIC

[SEAL]

My Commission expires: 12-21-2008