

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

<b>1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *</b> <u>FRANCIS MICHAEL</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O XCEL BRANDS, INC.,</u> <u>475 10TH AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR</u>  (Street) <u>NEW YORK NY 10018</u>  (City) (State) (Zip)	<b>2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol</b> <u>XCel Brands, Inc. [ XELB ]</u>	<b>5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer</b> (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
	<b>3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)</b> <u>03/31/2017</u>	
	<b>4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)</b>	
<b>6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)</b> <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			
Common Stock	03/31/2017		A		8,000 <sup>(1)</sup>	A	\$0	91,000	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
Stock Option	\$2.7	03/31/2017		A		25,000		(2)	03/31/2022	Common Stock	25,000	\$0	25,000	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

- Represents shares of restricted stock awarded pursuant to a restricted stock award agreement, which vests as to 50% of the shares on each of March 31, 2018 and 2019, provided that the reporting person may extend the vesting date as to all or a portion of the shares, on one or more occasions, in six month increments, in his sole discretion.
- The option vests as to 50% of the shares on each of March 31, 2018 and 2019

/s/ Michael R. Francis                      04/03/2017

\*\* 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.**